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Subject: Online Form Submittal: City Council Written Communication
Date: Monday, June 22, 2026 10:59:00 PM

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City Council Written Communication

Individuals can complete this form to submit written comments to the City Council for a particular agenda item or for general comments within the City Council`s subject matter jurisdiction. Please submit a separate form for each agenda item. Only one written comment per meeting for general public comments.

Please note that while communications will be provided to all Council Members and be part of the official record, they may not be read out loud as part of the meeting.

The City does not allow video files. The public may submit printed copies of their presentation/communications. The City recommends that individuals submit 9 hard copies to the City Clerk for dissemination to City Council and staff.

Written communications are received 24 hours before a regular meeting and 3 hours before a special meeting.

City Council meetings are held on the the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of every month at 6:30 p.m.

Monterey Park Municipal Code Section 2.04 et seq. This is a public document and subject to disclosure.

Council Meeting Date	6/23/2026
Please check one:	Agenda Item
Agenda Item No.	5.A
Please check one:	For
First Name	Kelley

Last Name	Lee
Street Number	1440
Street Name	Abajo
Street Type	Drive
Apt #	*Field not completed.*
City	Monterey Park
State	CA
Zip	91754
Phone Number	*Field not completed.*
Email Address	kelkim12@gmail.com
Representing: (self, name of organization, or other party)	Self
Written Communication	To the Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council, I am writing to submit a public comment regarding Agenda Item 5.A Declaration of Emergency: Los Palos Incident. I would like to strongly urge the City Council to consider taking a critical related safety action by enacting an immediate emergency ban on all fireworks usage for this upcoming 4th of July holiday. The ongoing fire has already caused hazardous smoke and particulate pollution to drift across our City, creating a dangerous baseline of poor air quality. Permitting fireworks will drastically worsen this situation. According to the South Coast AQMD's August/September 2025 newsletter, the 4th of July holiday consistently ranks among the worst air quality days of the year nationwide. In the South Coast Air Basin, the average PM2.5 levels ranked as the sixth highest levels for the 4th of July in the past decade which they attribute largely to commercial and residential firework usage. The environmental and human toll of firework pollution has been well-documented. In 2025, researchers at the California State University, Fullerton published in a journal that the materials used in fireworks contain harmful heavy metals. When these fireworks explode, they release toxic gases and particles that enter our soils and waterways, and can be absorbed through lung tissue and enter one's bloodstream. Furthermore, the American Lung Association notes that particulate pollution levels

increased by an average of 42% on the 4th of July. The elderly, children, and individuals with lung or heart disease bear the brunt of this impact.

I deeply love celebrating our nation and honoring its history, but I firmly believe this celebration should not come at the expense of our community's health and environment. As a mother of two small children, I am doing my part to ensure a healthier future for them. Although I have such fond memories of doing and watching fireworks, our current environmental reality requires us to pivot towards safer and modern alternatives such as drone or light show. We can still proudly display our love for this county at the City's official celebration without forcing our most vulnerable residents to breathe in hazardous air. I believe gathering together as a community for a single shared event is far more meaningful as it truly brings neighbors together to celebrate as one.

Therefore, I urge the City Council to consider an emergency ban on all fireworks for this year's holiday. Furthermore, I ask the City to look toward the future and consider enacting a permanent ban on all consumer fireworks. In doing so, Monterey Park would join the City of San Gabriel, City of Alhambra, and City of South Pasadena and numerous other surrounding cities that have already eliminated fireworks. I am proud to be a Monterey Park resident, and if we were able to become the first city in the United States to permanently ban data centers, surely we can do this in order to preserve the long-term health and safety of all our residents.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and dedication to keeping Monterey Park safe and healthy.

Respectfully,
Kelley Lee

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