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N e w s R e l e a s e

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ILLEGAL FIREWORKS ENFORCEMENT NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY

Although the sale and use of fireworks are legal in neighboring parishes, Sheriff Greg Champagne reminds all St. Charles Parish residents that possessing or discharging fireworks in St. Charles Parish without a permit is illegal. So many times we hear on the local news of unfortunate fireworks related incidents that have take someone's health, life, or property. Fireworks are dangerous, and can quickly turn a joyful occasion into a tragic one.

The St. Charles Parish Council outlawed the use of fireworks in Ordinance 92-10-23. St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office Deputies will be enforcing this ordinance over the New Year's Holiday.

"We will be citing violators and responding to complaints as well as seizing fireworks," said Sheriff Champagne. Additional deputies will be deployed during the New Year's Holiday weekend to beef up enforcement of this activity. The St. Charles Parish Council earlier this year considered and rejected a proposal to legalize fireworks in St. Charles Parish. "It was made clear at that time that a majority of the parish council and the parish president want this law to be enforced and that is what we plan to do," said the sheriff. "We won't catch everyone, especially as the midnight hour approached, but we will be citing violators".

Also, deputies will respond to specific complaints. 'If the complaint is anonymous, deputies can and will issue a citation if they are able to positively identify who is discharging the fireworks,' the Sheriff said. "We can also issue a summons if the complainant is willing to sign a complaint form as a witness to the discharge of fireworks and can identify the responsible person."

The Sheriff's Department will have increased personnel working Firework assignment during the Holidays.

Under the parish ordinance, anyone found guilty of violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall be fined not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100) or be imprisoned thirty (30) days in jail, or both.