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## **N e w s      R e l e a s e**

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### **Sheriff's Office urges respect and responsibility in connection with the now legal limited Discharge of Fireworks for December 31 and January 1.**

The St. Charles Parish Council passed an ordinance this past June allowing the LIMITED discharge of fireworks in St. Charles Parish on specific dates during specific hours.

The changes in the law allow residents to use fireworks as allowed by the State of Louisiana (Class C fireworks) on July 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., July 4 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., December 31 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. on January 1, and January 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. with the following restrictions:

No fireworks can be discharged within one thousand (1,000) feet of a gas station or industrial facility.

No person shall explode or ignite fireworks within one thousand feet of any church, hospital, asylum, school, public building, or fireworks retail location.

No person shall ignite or discharge fireworks in a motor vehicle or throw fireworks from a motor vehicle.

No person shall place an ignited article of fireworks in or throw an ignited article of fireworks at a motor vehicle.

The sale of fireworks is still prohibited within the boundaries of St. Charles Parish.

The St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office has already begun to receive complaints regarding the discharge of fireworks prior to the date and time allowed by the parish council. We have issued some citations as a result and will continue to do so. Along with the right to use fireworks comes the responsibility as well to respect the law and the safety and rights of neighbors. Many of our citizens successfully lobbied the parish council for this legislative change in the law. Failure to fully abide by all laws could very easily result in the law being changed back to a complete prohibition. Please act responsibly. We also urge those of you who choose to discharge fireworks on New Year's Eve to clean up the mess you leave behind.