

Bernie Labrucherie

While this would be a 'good start' it is WAY TOO incomplete. PFAS (PFOS) in the water might be a pollution issue; however, there are MANY more to 'combat' to make the River a better water source. FIREWORKS displayed over the water in Couer d'Alene for one; WHICH DRAINS OUT TO THE Spokane River. Then there are the ones in Spokane, over or near the water. EACH fireworks explosion demolishes the outer wrappings (paper, plastic, & cardboard) into microscopic & macroscopic bits. EACH bit has the chemicals for the colors & the munition for the explosions still on EACH & EVERY PIECE! So how about PLASTICS; which also are microscopic & macroscopic, as well as just plain litter. BAN all FIREWORKS! BAN all PLASTICS. And you have still just 'scratched the surface' of the problems with (stupid) humans littering, polluting & along with absolutely no fore-thought of a 'future'.

Since your Office has publicly 'come out' to say you want to fight 'pollution' then the following is for your consideration.

It saddens me to have to write to you regarding just how poor a choice blowing off fireworks really is. I am saddened because I had believed that the intelligence level might be a bit higher, with those who are elected to serve, and to do what is best for any City, County, State, Country and its populace.

When watching the fireworks display, consider all the ramifications. Consider all which I here place in front of you, below.

Although fireworks are a staple for many July 4 celebrations and now include New Year's Eve and other celebrations, we, as a community, must consider ALL the ramifications of 'fireworks'.

THE environment, for one, and keeping it clean; trying to clean it up for our future generations. I am sure that 'we' need to do this starting at a federal level; however, continuing with State and Local 'Officials' needing to do the 'right' thing.

Now IF a healthy environment really was a consideration of an intelligent society, ALL fireworks would be BANNED immediately. They are the source of three prominent polluters:

- 1) Smoke / air pollution,
- 2) Paper & left over munitions on that paper which are demolished into minute fragments, floating on the air and (eventually) get into our water system.
- 3) Then there is the NOISE pollution.

When this latter is stated, most people go straight to the domestic animal, as well they should since shelters all around the world report a HUGE spike in animals run 'amuck' from fear of those explosions. In an article, on KREM 2 news, Kelley Collins states: "More pets are also lost on July 4 than any other time of the year." I know this as I have experienced it first-hand and know of others who have, as well.

However, and most disturbing is the fact a large majority of 'people' do not even consider the wildlife, which also run and try to hide in fear, but have nowhere to go and no 'human' to help them. Remember that they do exist in our fringe, surrounding this city.

And to further the issue of noise pollution is the FACT that people who DO suffer PTSD, especially our veterans who have returned from horrendous conditions, quite a few IN horrendous condition themselves, shudder in fear from those 'explosions'; the same explosions as the ones they have tried to protect themselves from since their 'tour' of duties. Their best option is (more) drugs; does that make sense, does that sound like a qualified solution? Does that sound like an intelligent, humanic society?

Air pollution:

This last July 4th, not only was the haze of wildfires in the sky horrendous, many SELFISH individuals added the stench of fireworks to THAT haze. Take a serious and GOOD look at all the smoke from fireworks in ANY city the next time you see it on TV or in person. Now MULTIPLY

that by the NUMBER OF CITIES where SELFISH individuals felt the NEED to blow off fireworks along with the 'displays' by local governments and State and Federal governments, too. What do you call someone who HAS to blow off munitions, or those who GLEE when they go off? PYROMANIAC! Do you realize that through the decades we have been raising a society of PYROMANIACS? Arsonists. (and considerably selfish, inconsiderate people)

Paper Pollution:

When you take that serious look at the SMOKE POLLUTION; think about ALL the PAPER that those munitions were wrapped in. Where does that all go? Multiply THAT by ALL the fireworks in ALL the cities blowing off fireworks. And yes, I understand that this is considered illegal for the 'civilian population'. However, since it is NOT enforced, or cannot be 'well' enforced, it will continue. Where we live it IS illegal; however, there is NO enforcement of the general populace activity; there are just too many and not near enough enforcers.

Are you environmentally concerned? You should be for more reasons than just fireworks; however, since fireworks ARE used for many occasions other than the 4th of July - add that all up.

From everything I saw from my position in my hometown, I would have to estimate that about 1/3 to 1/2 of the 'people' in here blew off fireworks (illegally). Anyone who spews off about the environment MUST acknowledge that fireworks are one of the worst polluters; air, land, and noise. Many were blown off prior to, during and WELL after 'the midnight hour'. How nice it is at 2, 3 in the morning, trying to sleep only to have your neighbors blowing off LOUD skyrockets and some even have very low, 'bomb' like explosions. Does anyone think that someone who may be a domestic terrorist would use those to build their own bomb?

Another consideration is the fact that a number of fires, domestic and wild, occur from those Neanderthals who attempt to use them and the same who send themselves to emergency rooms because of ineptness, of which your taxes and mine pay for some of those morons. I found fireworks in my yard, very close to my home, from a neighbor's 'display'.

Many prominent people have stated that GREED is a killer of humans; however, the late Stephen Hawking said it best, "pollution coupled with human greed and stupidity were the biggest threats to humanity." Near the time of his death, Stephen Hawking remained convinced that the human race would require a "Planet B" if the species hoped to continue its existence.

You KNOW that we cannot and will not get to any other planet where human existence can survive; in time to save humans. We ARE as good as extinct unless we ALL, dramatically, change our ways. This matters not much to me as I will be lucky to have 10 more years; however, my children and grandchildren must be thought about.

'People', and I use THAT term loosely, who will take good money and choose to 'blow it up' or 'burn it' (as in taking a Benjamin to light a cigar) are ineptly foolish when there are children and elderly suffering from HUNGER and homelessness (in this 'supposedly' great country) not to mention other adults who have 'hit' hard times for one of many, various, reasons. (and this, too, is WORLD wide, as you already know)

We could be considerate and realize not everyone hears fireworks and goes, isn't that fun.

To be considerate; what a concept for 'people' who blow off fireworks, as they exude selfishness. They do NOT think of ANYONE but themselves, and that IS self-evident. Inconsiderate, selfish, unlawful, uncaring IDIOTS; and there are SO MANY. Those are the ones Steven Hawking was talking about.

Most all of those I mentioned were blown off at midnight; however, a large number kept going on well into the morning.

IF you consider that a similar 'display' can be provided by using colorful LEDs and once purchased would cost MUCH less and leave NO pollution. Consider that option. Most communities have the area(s) for it and the ability to do it and SHOW the rest of the world how YOU have 'done it right!' Also consider how much has been spent in the past. Had ALL that money been put into 'light shows', year after year, you would have a HUGE light show, worthy of 'fireworks'.

When watching the fireworks display on New Year's Eve and the 4th of July, think about ALL the pollution and waste of taxpayer money.

Watch the smoke from those fireworks and think about how much pollution there is; smoke, the visible pollution, paper, likely only perceived by the fact you (now) know that paper was on those fireworks, and then the noise, which can be heard from miles away.

For ANYONE to WANT fireworks when the entire truth is placed in front of them, then they truly are Neanderthal and SELFISH.

While you are thinking about this, think too, how much money every city has spent since the year 2000's firework display. Add up how much that is. You really should try to make a guesstimate.

IF, every city had spent that on other things, they might be an even better city.

Consider a light display. Most cities have the area, the buildings, for a prominent light show. One which can be added to every year, instead of fireworks. Consider becoming the 'Person' which is looked upon as the leader for the city of the future.

Step forward to be the example of what is right, what is the proper thing to do. Any excuse is unacceptable. To allow anything like this to continue into our future is unacceptable. You will be dooming the future to our children, grandchildren and their children.

And I believe you already know this. Quit making excuses; none are valid anymore.

You know I am correct

New Year's Eve Fireworks Return to Riverfront Park

Family-friendly 9 p.m. fireworks show presented by Coca Cola

Parks & Recreation: 311 or 509.755.2489 (Media: Fianna, 435.1866)

Thursday, December 23, 2021 at 10:44 a.m.

SPOKANE – The tradition of a [fireworks show on New Year's Eve](#) returns to Riverfront Park this year. Join us at 9 p.m. for a family-friendly show time, and arrive early for holiday-themed activities in the park all day long.

City of Spokane Parks & Recreation and presenting sponsor Coca Cola are producing the show. Fireworks will be set off near the clock tower, and the show will last approximately 10 minutes.

“We are happy to see fireworks return to the heart of our community at Riverfront Park this year,” said Garrett Jones, director of Parks & Recreation. “The drive-in style neighborhood shows worked so well last year, as a way to bring cheer to our community under COVID guidelines. But it’s special to have the chance to gather downtown again to celebrate the New Year in Riverfront together as one Spokane.”

To contact [Senator Patty Murray](#) or [Senator Maria Cantwell](#)

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