

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
City of Las Vegas, New Mexico, Office of the Mayor

**EXECUTIVE ORDER 2011-4**

**EMERGENCY FIREWORKS USE, ENFORCEMENT AND LIABILITY**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Las Vegas is currently facing a Fire Hazard Emergency because of the drought, the lack of water and the fires which are out of control throughout New Mexico; and

**WHEREAS**, the New Mexico State Statues do not allow local Municipalities to do a total ban on fireworks; and

**WHEREAS**, the financial cost and danger to life posed by all fireworks outweighs any benefit that fireworks may bring; and

**WHEREAS**, the current weather conditions that exist within and around the City of Las Vegas, New Mexico, in the form of severe drought, high winds and hot temperatures and nearby fires; and

**WHEREAS**, this year, areas such as Tecolote, Raton, Ruidoso, Santa Fe, western New Mexico, the Rio Grande bosque and Los Alamos have experienced fires which have destroyed homes, threatened lives and tainted City water sheds; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of any fireworks is a threat to the health, safety and welfare of the community, because the risk of fire is so great; and

**WHEREAS**, use of some fireworks may be legal, **IT IS IMPERATIVE** that parents and children know of the danger and that fires and injuries to persons are easily caused, and

**THEREFORE**, any fire or injury or damage to property caused by the use of legal and/or illegal fireworks will be considered negligence and responsible party/parties will be strictly liable for the actions, and the City will prosecute those at fault in the civil and criminal courts and seek the maximum penalties allowed by law including fines and jail time if the facts so require; and

**THEREFORE**, the City will also hold parents responsible for the acts of their children; and

**WHEREAS**, by the power vested in the Mayor and other City Officials to protect its citizens and community during emergencies, this Mayor declares that a fire hazard emergency exists and that the City should and will do all that is necessary to protect our citizens.

This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until such time it is rescinded.

June 29, 2011



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Alfonso E. Ortiz, Jr., Mayor