

# AFTER ACTION REPORT



JULY 4, 2025

## **FREEDOM FESTIVAL:**

The 2025 Freedom Festival was held in conjunction with Beaumont Nights on Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024. This event was free to the public and included live entertainment, vendors, and a drone show. Beaumont Nights was located along Beaumont Ave., between 6<sup>th</sup> Street and 8<sup>th</sup> Street. The drones for the Drone Show were deployed from Stewart Park with a viewing area at the Palm Innovation Academy field. There were approximately 2,000 in attendance, between the two venues, throughout the day.

The Beaumont Police Department staffed this event with a total of (9) Police Officers, including one Police Sergeant (supervisor) from 4:30 pm to 11 pm. Their primary responsibility was to provide safety at the event, as well as traffic control for street closures. During the event, police officers provided security inside the venues. Staffing was comprised of overtime personnel.

During this event there were no significant incidents at either venue.

## **FIREWORKS ENFORCEMENT:**

During recent years, the City of Beaumont has experienced an increase in illegal fireworks during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Since 2022, the City of Beaumont took proactive measures and enhanced our local municipal code 9.41.020, increasing the imposed fines to the following:

- \$1,000 for the 1<sup>st</sup> violation
- \$2,500 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> violation
- \$5,000 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and all subsequent violations

The Beaumont Police Department supplemented patrol operations with overtime personnel dedicated to the enforcement of illegal fireworks. In conjunction with the Freedom Festival, this effort was staffed with a total of (10) police officers, including one Police Sergeant (supervisor/drone operator) from 6:00 pm to midnight.

The personnel were subdivided into four pairs. The two officer units were driving marked police vehicles. Two drone operators were strategically placed in the city. Officers responded to calls for service related to fireworks and directed to areas fireworks were being ignited.

A total of nine violators were cited (three cited in 2024). One small firework was confiscated, due to the subject that were cited had ignited the fireworks that were visible by officers. There was a large brushfire, approximately two acres in size, adjacent to the

Amazon warehouse on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. The fire was extinguished within approximately 45 minutes, and no structures were threatened/damaged. There was a small fire in the 1100 block of Orange Ave., possibly started by fireworks, but the owner of the property did not answer. The fire was quickly put out by neighbors.

At approximately 11:00 pm, the firework related calls and activity slowed down, becoming very infrequent. Due to the calls not justifying further overtime costs and the need to supplement patrol, officers were released at approximately midnight.

**TOTALS:**

- **911 calls for Service = 175 calls related to fireworks (57 firework calls in 2024)**
- **Citations Issued = 9**

**FREEDOM FESTIVAL STAFFING:**

- Friday, July 4, 2025, 4:30 pm – 11:00 pm:
  - (1) Sergeant – Supervisor
  - (1) Corporal
  - (1) Corporal and (1) Officer – Bike Patrol
  - (6) Officers
  - Total Overtime Hours = 57.75

Total Freedom Festival Cost = \$5,217.26

**FIREWORKS ENFORCEMENT DETAIL STAFFING:**

- Friday, July 4, 2025, 6:00 pm – midnight:
  - (1) Police Sergeant – Supervisor
  - (7) Police Officers
  - (1) Public Safety Dispatcher
  - Total Overtime Hours = 66.5

Total Freedom Festival Cost = \$5,368.23

Total Cost for Freedom Festival

**\$5,217.26**

Total Cost for Fireworks Enforcement                      **\$5,368.23**

Combined total:    **\$10,585.50**

**\*These totals do not account for time spent drafting plans, set up or attending meetings specific to this event. Overtime cost estimates utilize the City's actual overtime rate and may not reflect total costs to the City.**

**Equipment Used:**

- Marked patrol vehicles
- Polaris
- Pepperball
- 40mm launcher
- Pedal Assist Bicycles
- Personnel Duty Equipment
- Personal Protective Gear
- Unmanned Aerial System (UAS)

**CONDITIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2026:**

**FREEDOM FESTIVAL:**

1. The staffing level was sufficient, due to two separate locations needing to be covered. The Palm Innovation Academy viewing area fills in approximately one hour prior to the drone show.
2. Community Services was provided with delayed information from the Drone Show vendor, requesting the 800 blocks of Orange Ave. and Maple Ave. clear from spectators. This was related to the "fall out zone" of the drone being within this area. Citizens were parked in this area and had set up chairs. It was difficult to accommodate the request on short notice. In the future this request should be evaluated.
3. I recommend there be no parking in the 800 block of Orange Ave and Maple Ave. Also, close Orange Ave. and Maple Ave. at 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Prior to the drone show, several vehicles attempted to drive south from 9<sup>th</sup> Street, and 8<sup>th</sup> Street was closed.

Due to there being cars parked on the east and west curblines of both streets, vehicles could not easily turn around to drive back north.

4. 8<sup>th</sup> Street from Beaumont Ave. to Palm Ave. should have been posted no parking 72-hours ahead of the event. Vehicles parked on 8<sup>th</sup> Street attempted to leave at the conclusion of the Drone Show, but could not due to citizens walking in the street.
5. It is recommended that Code Compliance work the event, due to unlicensed food vendors attempting to set up in the area, ice cream trucks and pushcart vendors walking through Market Night.
6. Obtain a list of licensed/approved food vendors from the Planning Department, the day prior to the event.

#### **FIREWORK ENFORCEMENT:**

1. The four teams of two officers, with two drone operators was an improvement from 2023. There were 175 firework calls for service, versus 57 for 2023. There were 9 citations issued this year, versus 3 citations in 2023.
2. Begin a firework education campaign in June in reference to safety concerns and fires. Along with the education, we will provide information about the Beaumont Municipal Code related to fireworks and the potential to receive up to a \$5,000 citation.