

New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

12 July, 2020

His Honor the Mayor  
John F. Mitchell

While we are very appreciative of the telephone updates on the New Bedford's progress in the fight against the Corona Virus, there is another serious problem within our city that is totally being ignored by you, the City Council and the Police Department.

For over two and a half months, we, the residents of the West End, have been subjected to nightly bombardments of illegal fireworks, making evenings a nightmare of loud noise and disturbance, frightening children and newborns, traumatizing war veterans, and driving pets and the people insane. It is bad enough that we are subject to the limitations imposed by the pandemic, and the injustices about which people are protesting, without the added nerveshattering noise to which we are subjected every night by the felonious nuisance of loud explosions ruining our peaceful enjoyment of our homes. This particular evening, the bombardments have been especially loud, one so loud and close to my house that it literally shook from the concussion.

Many of us have called the police to report the illegal use of fireworks only to be told that the police have not been able to locate the perpetrators. Even when we have signaled and pinpointing the location of some of these selfindulgent idiots, and identified their location, the police still do nothing.

One prime area where some of these fireworks are taking place are in the area west of Cottage Street in between Morgan, Elm and Kempton Streets. Remnants of exploded fireworks are frequently seen in the parking lot of the Wamsutta Club as well as in the parking lot of Suprenant & Beneski. . Also one neighbor found remnants of explosives on Arnold Street. A few police cruisers patrolling these areas between 9 and 11pm in the evening, would undoubtedly limit this annoying, volatile, and disgusting situation.

Things are tense enough with the restrictions imposed by the pandemic, the racial tension, and the general state of chaos in the Trumpian era, without the constant explosions and gunfire heard night after night. Is the peaceful enjoyment of our homes to be disrupted for the rest of the summer?

Mayor Mitchell, PLEASE TAKE PITY ON US AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS, before some violent neighborhood confrontations happen, fires are started or people hurt.

On behalf of myself and my sleep-deprived neighbors,

  
Gérald T. Croteau

CC: The New Bedford Police Department  
The New Bedford City Council.  
The New Bedford Office of Human Relations