



## City of Middletown

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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August 17, 2021

For Immediate Release

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### THE CITY OF MIDDLETOWN ANNUAL FIREWORKS FESTIVAL CANCELED

Middletown, CT – The City of Middletown’s annual fireworks festival, scheduled for Saturday, September 4, 2021, has been canceled due to the uptick in Covid-19 cases in Middletown and throughout Connecticut. The annual fireworks festival, which would have taken place along the banks of the Connecticut River at Harbor Park and the front lawn of the City’s Municipal Building, is a family-friendly event that has drawn large crowds to Middletown during past years. The festival typically offers music, entertainment, and numerous food vendors. After careful consideration, and in consultation with public health officials, it was determined that the safest course of action would be to cancel the event this year.

Middletown’s annual fireworks festival is scheduled around the Fourth of July holiday. The 2021 fireworks were delayed until September out of an abundance of caution. However, Middletown and Middlesex County are currently considered a red zone with high transmissions rates. Officials have advised that, based on the current rate of community spread and the large number of children ineligible for vaccinations, the event cannot safely move forward.

Mayor Florsheim commented, “As much as I would love to host the fireworks this year, and as sad as many of us are to cancel the event entirely, the safety of the community is my highest priority. I understand these are extremely challenging times for many, and we were looking forward to ways to celebrate as a community. I do not take this decision lightly. I hope we are all able to do what we can to mitigate the spread of the virus, so that we can look forward to brighter days ahead. I hope everyone continues to enjoy a safe summer.”

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