



February 21, 2019

Dear Chairman Kassir,

For the past 35 years the Cape Story by the Sea (CSBTS) Civic Association has coordinated the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks on the Bay event which takes place on Cape Henry Beach and is viewed by residents from the Lesner Bridge to Fort Story. Unfortunately due to increasing State Fire Marshall regulations and difficulty finding a vendor/shooter that can support the demanding site set up requirements, there are no plans for a show this year and the 2018 show was the last to be coordinated by CSBTS.

This show has become a tradition for over 5000+ residents, 100s of tourists in Bayfront hotels, 100s of vacationers at First Landing State Park and Soldiers stationed at Fort Story. Even though it is small in comparison to Oceanfront and Mt. Trashmore displays, it will be greatly missed.

On behalf of Cape Story by the Sea Civic Association, the event coordinator, I have been instructed to present the following formal request as approved via a unanimous general meeting vote on February 11, 2019.

***CSBTS Civic Association formally requests the City of Virginia Beach to take over coordination and execution of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks on the Bay event located along the Cape Henry Beach in the Bayfront area. We suggest that this show become a barge shot show and incorporated as part of the annual Oceanfront entertainment provided by Integrated Management Group.***

The Cape Story by the Sea Civic Association would also like for the Bayfront Advisory Commission (BAC) to support this request and to help pursue a 2019 implementation. BAC facilitated meetings with Integrated Management Group, City Staff and City Council are welcomed as well as other methods deemed helpful by BAC members. The CSBTS Civic Association will have officers available to attend meetings and support all efforts.

Thank you for considering this request to help continue this wonderful local patriotic tradition.

Sincerely,

Todd Solomon – 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks on the Bay event chair for the past 20 years  
[todd@sdcc.info](mailto:todd@sdcc.info) ; 757-667-8533 cell

## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Fireworks on the Bay Information Sheet

The following background information is being included to help answer possible questions related to this request.

### Basic Details:

- Show Costs: Total cost = \$15,000. \$12,000 fireworks/\$2,500 fundraising/\$500 permits & security.
- Launch Site - First Landing State Park from beach over the Bay. Trucks that can drive on sand are required for set up.
- Permits – Virginia State Fire Marshall, Virginia DCR, Coast Guard Marine
- Viewing Area – Lesner Bridge to Fort Story, North of Shore Drive along Cape Henry Beach.
- Shell Size – 2.5 inch diameter shells
- Fundraising – Bulk mailer to 4500 residents, Business donations and Civic Organization support.

**Why now? How did we get here?** – The Virginia State Fire Marshall regulations have reduced the maximum shell size allowed at the launch site from 5 inch to 2.5 inch over the past three years. This has made viewing near the Lesner Bridge impossible. Decreased viewing range has resulted in reduced donations and in turn a smaller show. Vendors already having difficulty supporting the event due to the adverse beach set up will not take on small shows where they can't make a profit. Combine all of this and it leads to the eventual demise of this event.

**Why not shoot the show from a barge?** – Barge rental costs for individuals run about \$10,000. Adding this cost to the total show cost results in a new total of \$25,000 for the same size beach shot show. Historically when the largest shells were 5 inches, the average donation amount totaled \$16,000. So the show had been operating pretty much break even for the past 20 years. The additional \$8,000-\$9,000 to put it on a barge would not receive the necessary funding support.