



# LETTER FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE – Issue 7

07/01/2021

Residents of the City of Clever,

The school year has concluded and we find ourselves in the middle of Summer, which can pass by quickly. I wanted to reach out with a couple of topics revolving around Independence Day; vehicle operation and fireworks.

Sadly, many people think driving impaired is not a huge deal. We've seen it all, and we can spot a drunk driver on the road. A DUI will follow you throughout your life, so this is a gamble that is simply not worth taking. Under no circumstances is it ever acceptable to get behind the wheel of a vehicle after you've been drinking. Doing so endangers you, your passengers, and everyone that shares the road with you. We recommend celebrating this great historical time with a plan. The City of Clever Police Department and NHTSA are working together to urge drivers to designate a sober driver before heading out. If you plan on drinking, plan on not driving. Here are some sobering statistics:

- In 2019, 515 people died in motor vehicle crashes over the 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday period. 38% of those fatalities occurred in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes.
- Nighttime hours are especially dangerous: Over the 2019 July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday period, of those people who died in alcohol-impaired motor vehicle traffic crashes, almost 4 out of 5 of them occurred in nighttime crashes.
- Approximately one-third of all traffic crash fatalities in the United States involve drunk drivers with blood alcohol concentrations at or above .08.
- Although it's illegal to drive when impaired by alcohol, in 2019, one person was killed every 52 minutes in a drunk driving crash on our nation's roads.
- Of the traffic fatalities in 2019 among children 14 and younger, 19% occurred in alcohol-impaired-driving crashes.

This 4<sup>th</sup> of July, commit to only driving sober. Don't lose your independence on Independence Day, and don't be a deadly risk to yourself and other innocent people. Remember to Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over. For further information on impaired driving, visit [www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving](http://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/drunk-driving).

In reference to celebrations involving fireworks, the following is verbiage for the City of Clever Ordinance:

## **Section 210.2210. Discharge of Fireworks Prohibited**

A. It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, display for sale, offer to sell or discharge any firecracker, bomb, Roman candle, rocket or other dangerous, combustible or explosive material or fireworks within the corporate limits of the City; provided however, that such fireworks may be discharged within the City of Clever, Missouri, on the fourth (4th) day of July of each year.

B. Fireworks Display — Exceptions. The City may, at the discretion of the Board of Aldermen, provide for and allow a fireworks display which would be open and available to the public on other dates.

Feel free to reach out to the City of Clever Police Department, as we are here for you at 210 South Clarke, Clever, or through email at [policechief@clevermo.com](mailto:policechief@clevermo.com). If you have urgent concerns and need immediate attention/service: 911 for an emergency, 417-582-1030 for Dispatch to request an Officer, or 417-743-5109 for non-emergency business at the City of Clever Police Department.

Thank you,

**JEFFREY D LOFTON**  
**CHIEF OF POLICE**  
**CITY OF CLEVER POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
210 SOUTH CLARKE  
CLEVER MO 65631  
PHONE: 417-743-5109  
FAX: 417-743-2470  
[policechief@clevermo.com](mailto:policechief@clevermo.com)



RESPONSIBILITY – ACCOUNTABILITY – PROFESSIONALISM