



**For Immediate Release**  
**Contact: William J. Aiello**  
**(716) 376-5615**

### **Wishes for a Safe and Happy Independence Day**

**July 1, 2020—Olean**—William J. Aiello, Mayor of the City of Olean, would like to wish all residents a very happy and safe Fourth of July weekend.

“It is a shame that Covid-19 disrupted our Fourth of July fireworks celebration. Restrictions on crowd size as well as the inability to fund raise during the lockdown forced Olean’s Professional Fire Fighters to cancel the annual display,” Mayor Aiello said. Hopefully by next year the threat of the virus will be behind us and the fireworks tradition will be back on track. In the meantime I would like to remind residents that the use of most fireworks is illegal in New York State.”

Included in the illegal description are consumer fireworks that are aerial in performance and are commonly referred to as sky rockets, bottle rockets, missile type rockets, helicopters, aerial spinners, roman candles, mines, shell devices, aerial shell kits, reloadables and audible ground devices which are commonly referred to as firecrackers and chasers, as well as metal wire handheld sparklers.

“As we close in on the Fourth of July, I want to urge residents to refrain from using fireworks. They can cause injury, sometimes very serious. In addition the sound of fireworks can disrupt a number of households. I have personally received calls from a number of local families, including those with young children and dogs. I have had heard from veterans suffering from PTSD and other residents who are awoken or kept awake by the persistent and irritating blasts of fireworks,” Mayor Aiello said. “I request that those who have fireworks to please consider your neighbors and do not discharge them in the City; fireworks are unsettling and dangerous—and against the law.”

“That being said, it looks like the weather is going to cooperate and it is going to be a great weekend to celebrate our nation’s independence,” Mayor Aiello said. “Please enjoy your family reunions, picnics or whatever else you have planned for the day. And please be safe; Covid-19 is still a threat and we should continue to practice the steps described by the Center for Disease Control to stop the spread of the virus.

###