

MOTION

Over the past decade, an average of 19,500 fireworks-related fires have been reported annually to fire departments nationwide. Fireworks have caused an estimated \$105 million in property damage each year, resulting in approximately 9,100 injuries annually. While fatalities are less common, fireworks-related incidents result in the deaths of an average of five people annually, often children.

The California Health and Safety Code, Section 12700, states that “any person that violates any provision of the State Fireworks laws or Regulations is guilty of a misdemeanor” being “punishable by a fine of not less than \$500, but not to exceed \$1,000 by imprisonment in the county jail for up to one year, or both”. Under the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 57.5608, possessing or discharging fireworks is classified as dangerous or illegal. This includes fireworks that are not certified as safe for public use and those that can cause injury or damage to property, including “safe and sane” varieties, within the City of Los Angeles. While “safe and sane” fireworks are less likely to explode or fly, they still pose significant risks, particularly to children.

Fireworks are inherently dangerous explosive devices, and every year, both children and adults suffer injuries and burns from their misuse. The City of Los Angeles should consider examining and potentially reinforcing local ordinances and advocating for more stringent state law provisions. In light of the recent Palisades, Eaton, and Hurst fires, the January 2025 windstorm, and other related fire incidents, protecting our communities from potential fire hazards, including those posed by illegal fireworks, must be an immediate priority.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney, in consultation with the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) and Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA), be requested to report in 30 days with pathways to strengthen provisions within the City ordinances and state laws governing fireworks, integrating ways that the City of Los Angeles can work to reduce the public safety risks associated with illegal fireworks and provide stronger deterrents against their use and sale. This report should specifically look to address the following provisions and the ways to increase enforcement:

- Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Sections applicable to fireworks and explosives:
 - Increased penalties for the possession or use of illegal fireworks.
 - Introduce graduated fines or harsher consequences for repeat offenders.
 - Allow for civil fines against property owners where illegal fireworks are found to be used, sold, or stored.
- California Health and Safety Code Sections applicable to fireworks and explosives:
 - Stronger enforcement of California state restrictions on the sale, possession, and use of fireworks.
 - Advocate for increased penalties under state law, such as felony charges for large-scale possession or sale.


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- Mandate collaboration with county, state, and federal agencies, such as the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, for investigations and interdictions of illegal fireworks imports to combat illicit fireworks smuggling or trafficking.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Attorney, in consultation with the LAFD and CLA, be requested to report in 30 days on proposing the creation of restricted zones where even permitted firework shows may be banned entirely, such as near hospitals, schools, or highly populated residential areas. This should include strengthening permitting processes for the sale and public use of legal fireworks and ensuring only certified vendors are allowed to distribute them.

I FURTHER MOVE that the LAFD, in consultation with the CLA and City Administrative Officer (CAO), be directed to report in 30 days with a framework and required resources to implement enhanced public awareness campaigns to raise awareness about the dangers of illegal fireworks and the legal consequences.

I FURTHER MOVE that the LAFD and Police Department (LAPD), in consultation with the CAO, be directed to report in 30 days on additional ways along with required resources for the LAFD and LAPD to further collaborate through the use of joint operations or task forces for targeted enforcement to deter illegal fireworks sales and use.

PRESENTED BY:



TIM McOSKER

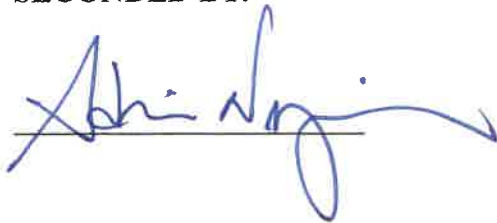
Councilmember, 15th District



JOHN LEE

Councilmember, 12th District

SECONDED BY:



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