

MOTION

PLUM
~~PUBLIC SAFETY~~

In an abundance of caution after the fatal December 2nd, 2016 "Ghost Ship" Fire in an Oakland, California warehouse, the Department of Building and Safety and Los Angeles Fire Department stopped approving any temporary special event permits in hangars at our airports and warehouse spaces at the Port. Denying the community the opportunity to utilize these hangars and warehouses takes away a one-of-a-kind experience to enjoy these spaces. Furthermore, the unique conditions of the "Ghost Ship" Fire that led to multiple fatalities do not exist at the airport hangars or the Port warehouses ("Ghost Ship" did not have fire sprinklers or smoke detectors; pathways and exits were obstructed).

While ensuring public safety is of paramount importance, the departments recommended that the events take place outside of the permitted building areas under tents. A recent non-profit fundraising event was forced to take place under tents on airport property in the rain. The dangers that presented themselves in that situation with potential slip & falls due to the wet cement, electric cords & wires running through wet spaces with no fire suppression systems in the tent space were clearly more alarming than any potential danger from hosting the event in an approved facility.


The administrative procedure(s) and rule(s) under which the Fire Department and the Department of Building and Safety operate in these situations are not clear and do not appear to have been adopted by Council action.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Fire Department and the Department of Building and Safety be directed to report with recommendations to establish a system to allow hangar space at LAX and VNY as well as suitable event space at the Harbor, to be reviewed on a case by case basis and with safety requirements as to what would allow these spaces to be utilized for special events.

WE FURTHER MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst, with the assistance of the City Attorney, the Los Angeles Fire Department, Department of Building and Safety, be directed to report with recommended changes to state law, and the Los Angeles Municipal Code, that would authorize the Los Angeles Fire Department and Department of Building and Safety to adopt alternative safety standards for temporary special events that occur in warehouses and hangars owned by the City of Los Angeles.

PRESENTED BY:


NURY MARTINEZ
Councilwoman, 6th District


JOE BUSCAINO
Councilman, 15th District

SECONDED BY:





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DEC 11 2018

