

MOTION

~~BUDGET & FINANCE~~

PUBLIC WORKS

Ocean Front Walk is a treasured public resource that attracts visitors from all over the region and the world. It is also a busy and congested place with residents, businesses, and visitors all coexisting in a narrow strip of coastal land. For this reason, Ocean Front Walk has many special rules designed to protect public safety and maintain the boardwalk's unique character.

Ocean Front Walk is reserved for the exclusive use of pedestrians; bicycles and other motorized devices are banned. Nevertheless, bicycle rentals have long been a popular attraction for visitors to enjoy on the Marvin Braude Beach Bike Path located near Ocean Front Walk. In recent years, vendors have begun offering rentals of other devices, such as electric scooters and Class 3 e-bikes, which are not legal to ride on the beach bike path or Ocean Front Walk. Use of electric scooters, Class 3 e-bikes and other motorized devices creates a public safety hazard for pedestrians on Ocean Front Walk and other users on the Bike Path. The City has, with considerable effort, successfully geofenced shared mobility devices permitted under LADOT's dockless mobility program from riding in restricted areas. However, these private rentals of similar devices are unregulated and lack GPS capability for geofencing.

More needs to be done to ensure that tourists and other visitors are aware of rules prohibiting certain devices from being ridden on Ocean Front Walk and the beach bike path. The greatest responsibility should fall on the businesses that rent such devices on or near Ocean Front Walk to notify their customers at the time of rental decision. Additionally, the City should prohibit certain business practices that imply the banned devices are legal to ride on the beach.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request the City Attorney to prepare and present an ordinance to require businesses located in the Venice neighborhood that rent motorized scooters, electric personal assistive mobility devices, e-bikes, or similar devices that are prohibited from either Ocean Front Walk and/or the Marvin Braude Beach Bike Path to comply with the following requirements:

- Require businesses to notify customers prior to rental, both verbally and via prominently displayed in-store signage, of the legal limitations on the use of the device being rented on either Ocean Front Walk and/or the beach bike path.
- Require businesses to include notice in the rental agreement, and require specific customer acknowledgement by separate signature or initial, of all limitations on the use of the device.

The following additional restrictions shall apply to businesses located within 500 feet of Ocean Front Walk:

- Ban the business from displaying outside of the premises any device that cannot be ridden legally on Ocean Front Walk or the beach bike path unless the device has a notice alerting potential renters of the restrictions on the use of the device.
- Require an employee of the business to transfer custody of the restricted device to a customer at least 100 yards from Ocean Front Walk or the beach bike path.

PRESENTED BY:



MIKE BONIN
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:



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