MOTION

Under state law the import, manufacture, use, and sale of "dangerous fireworks" is prohibited, unless the fireworks are obtained and used by an individual with a Special Display License. Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 57.5608.1.2 states that it is unlawful for any person to use, give, possess, sell or discharge any fireworks in the City of Los Angeles, including "safe and sane" varieties.

Despite this, the use of fireworks of all types is a major problem in the City, and the use of fireworks is particularly prevalent during the month leading up to Independence Day, as well as in the month after the holiday. Around this time, fireworks of all types are detonated at all hours of the night, disturbing residents and posing a public safety risk. While the Police Department does respond to calls related to illegal fireworks, often dispatching patrol vehicles to areas where fireworks use has been reported, the problem continues and few citations are issued.

Recently, the Council adopted a report by the Chief Legislative Analyst in response to a Motion (O'Farrell – Ryu, Council File No. 17-1421) that included a number of recommendations related to public outreach and education efforts to reduce illegal fireworks use. However, new and enhanced enforcement may also be needed to curtail the use of fireworks within the City.

I THEREFORE MOVE that Police Department report on enhanced enforcement strategies - including the establishment of a Task Force - to curb the use, sale, possession and discharge of fireworks within the City of Los Angeles, with an emphasis on reducing illegal fireworks usage in the month leading up to Independence Day and the month after the holiday.

PRESENTED BY

JOSE AUIZAR

Councilmember, 14th District

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