

## MOTION

Each year around the Independence Day and New Year's Eve holidays, the City of Los Angeles experiences a significant increase in reports of illegal fireworks being set off, especially in areas of northeast Los Angeles. These fireworks can cause significant disruption to people's daily lives, by interrupting sleep, increasing air pollution, traumatizing wildlife, and causing pets to run away or panic.

In many neighborhoods, residents have to deal with this issue for weeks, as illegal usage of fireworks begins in many places during June and continues through the summer. In addition to quality-of-life issues, illegal fireworks pose a public safety threat. M80s and other products classified as dangerous explosives are sold as fireworks. Each year in southern California, illegal fireworks also cause serious injuries, including traumatic amputations of fingers and hands, as well as fires. In a region prone to wildfire, one errant bottle rocket in the hills surrounding the City could result in lives lost and houses destroyed.

All fireworks are illegal in the City of Los Angeles, and many of the more dangerous types are illegal under state law. However their use continues, and, if anything, has become more widespread. Both the Fire and Police Departments are aware of this issue, and work each year to educate the public about the dangers of illegal fireworks and to enforce City laws.

The Council would benefit from a report outlining the scope of this problem, describing what the City does now to address this issue, and what can be done to curtail illegal fireworks usage in the City. Additionally, the report should include examples of what other strategies other jurisdictions dealing with illegal fireworks use to address this problem.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Police Department (LAPD) and Fire Department (LAFD), City Attorney and the Office of the Chief Legislative Analyst establish an Illegal Fireworks Task Force to report on issues related to illegal fireworks and steps that could be taken to curtail their use within the City. The report should include, but not be limited to:

- Issues hindering effective illegal fireworks enforcement;
- Quantitative data on the number of calls for service related to fireworks and their geographic location;
- Education and outreach strategies;
- Enforcement strategies;
- Legislative and/or administrative action(s) at the Federal, State or Local level; and
- Examples of successful strategies from other jurisdictions

PRESENTED BY

  
MITCH O'FARRELL  
Councilmember, 13<sup>th</sup> District

DEC 13 2017

SECONDED BY

