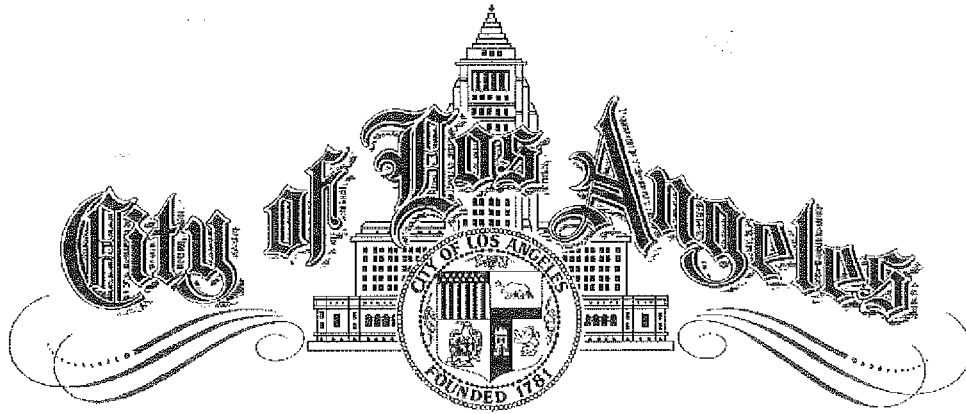


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**CARMEN A. TRUTANICH**  
City Attorney

REPORT NO. R 1 2 - 0 2 0 9

JUL 0 3 2012

**REPORT RE:**

**ALTERNATIVE DRAFT ORDINANCE ADDING SECTION 56.15.1 TO THE LOS ANGELES MUNICIPAL CODE TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF SKATEBOARDS ON CITY ROADWAYS TO STOP THE DANGEROUS PRACTICE OF "BOMBING"**

The Honorable City Council  
of the City of Los Angeles  
Room 395, City Hall  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Council File No. 12-0217

Honorable Members:

This Office previously transmitted a draft ordinance that would add Section 56.15.1 to the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to prohibit the use of skateboards on City roadways (City Attorney Report No. 12-0195). The enclosed draft ordinance, approved as to form and legality, would regulate, rather than prohibit, the use of skateboards on public streets, sidewalks, and other public property, and may be adopted as an alternative to the draft previously transmitted, as you decide. Presently, skateboards may be used on sidewalks if done in a manner that is not in a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property. (LAMC section 56.15.)

California Vehicle Code Section 21967 allows a local authority to adopt an ordinance prohibiting or restricting the use of skateboards on highways, sidewalks, or roadways. Many jurisdictions, such as Burbank, Glendale, Santa Barbara, and San Diego prohibit the use of skateboards on public roadways, and on sidewalks in designated areas of their cities. The County of Los Angeles prohibits the use of

skateboards on streets, roads and highways which have a grade in excess of three percent, and imposes a speed limit of 10 miles per hour.


This draft ordinance imposes restrictions on the use of skateboards on public streets, sidewalks, and other public property in the City and is intended to address the public safety concerns set forth in the Council motion on this matter.

Pursuant to Council Rule 38, this draft ordinance has been sent to the LAPD for its review, with direction to the Department to present any comments or concerns to the Council or its Committees when the matter is heard.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Assistant City Attorney Carlos De La Guerra at (213) 978-8380. He or another member of this Office will be present when you consider this matter to answer any questions you may have.

Very truly yours,

CARMEN A. TRUTANICH, City Attorney

By 

PEDRO B. ECHEVERRIA  
Chief Assistant City Attorney

PBE:CDLG:pg  
Transmittal

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

An ordinance adding Section 56.15.1 to Article 6 of Chapter V of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to restrict the use of skateboards on City roadways and to stop the dangerous practice of "bombing."

**WHEREAS**, skateboarders have been fatally injured while engaging in "bombing," a practice whereby skateboarders ride down City roadways at excessive speeds, sometimes obstructing traffic, and failing to yield at stop signs;

**WHEREAS**, bombing is a popular activity on steep hills because skateboarders can travel for several miles with little or no effort, and can reach speeds in excess of 40 miles per hour;

**WHEREAS**, bombing not only poses a significant danger to those engaging in this activity, it also endangers the lives and property of others who use City streets;

**WHEREAS**, to ensure that skateboard use on sidewalks is done safely, Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 56.15 prohibits the use of skateboards on City sidewalks in a manner that is in a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property; and

**WHEREAS**, California Vehicle Code Section 21967 allows a local authority to adopt an ordinance prohibiting or restricting the use of skateboards on highways, sidewalks, or roadways.

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Section 56.15.1 is added to the Los Angeles Municipal Code, to read as follows:

**SEC. 56.15.1. USE OF SKATEBOARDS.**

(a) **"Skateboard" defined.** As used in this chapter, a skateboard is any board or other flat object which has wheels attached to it by any means whatsoever and which is intended to be propelled by pushing, pulling, body movement, or gravity and to which there is not affixed any device or mechanism for steering.

(b) **Persons riding skateboards not deemed pedestrians.** Persons riding on skateboards on public roadways, public sidewalks, public parking lots and other public property, while in motion, are not considered pedestrians for purposes of traffic rules and regulations.

(c) **Skateboarding prohibited at specified locations.** The City Council may, by ordinance, specify certain public roadways, public sidewalks, public parking lots and other public property, or portions thereof, on which skateboarding shall be prohibited.

(d) **Skateboarding on public property.** Persons riding on skateboards on public roadways, public sidewalks, public parking lots and other public property shall comply with the following requirements and restrictions:

1. **Skateboarding in the upright position.** Persons riding on skateboards shall do so only in the upright, standing position. Using, pushing, propelling or riding on a skateboard in a sitting, prone, kneeling or lying position is prohibited.

2. **Traffic signs.** Persons riding on skateboards on public roadways shall obey all traffic signs and markings, including stop signs and posted speed limits.

3. **Yielding to traffic in same direction.** Persons riding on skateboards on public roadways shall ride close to the far-right edge of the roadway, and shall yield to vehicles approaching from the rear by moving to the right curb or shoulder of the roadway.

4. **Uncontrolled intersections.** When approaching an uncontrolled intersection, persons riding on skateboards on public roadways or public sidewalks shall yield to vehicles that are so near as to present a hazard and shall not cross the intersection at a speed in excess of ten (10) miles per hour.

5. **Manner of operation.** No person shall operate a skateboard recklessly or in such a manner or at such a speed as to cause or threaten to cause injury to himself or herself or to others, to create an obstruction or to present a hazard to the free use of public property by pedestrians or motorists.

6. **Attaching to or towing by vehicle.** A person operating a skateboard shall not attach the same or himself or herself to any motor vehicle on the roadway. In addition, a person shall not knowingly drive a motor vehicle that is towing a person riding upon a skateboard.

(e) **Penalty for violations.** It shall be unlawful for any person to violate or fail to comply with the provisions of this section. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of an infraction and shall be subject to fines as established by the City Council.

Sec. 2. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

I hereby certify that this ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of Los Angeles, at its meeting of \_\_\_\_\_.

JUNE LAGMAY, City Clerk

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

Approved as to Form and Legality

CARMEN A. TRUTANICH, City Attorney

By   
\_\_\_\_\_  
CARLOS DE LA GUERRA  
Assistant City Attorney

Date 7/3/12

File No. CF 12-0217