

12-0217

MOTION

FEB 10 2012

On January 28, 2012 a 15-year-old skateboarder was fatally injured while dangerously engaging in "bombing," a practice whereby skateboarders sail down city streets at excessive speeds, sometimes obstructing traffic, and failing to yield at stop signs. Another young person was killed last November from a similar accident. This activity is fairly popular in San Pedro because of its steep hills and terrain. With one kick, skateboarders are able to travel up to a couple of miles without peddling and have been seen traveling upwards of 40 miles per hour. Any activity carried out at this speed, without proper protection, is extremely dangerous.

The Los Angeles Police Department's Harbor Division has been conducting a "hot spot" task force and issuing citations for illegal and unsafe practices, but they are limited in what they can legally enforce.

For example, LAMC 56.15 includes references to bicycles, but should be amended to include skateboarding and safety requirements with the goal of reducing serious injury and fatal accidents correlated with "bombing." Bombing should be defined as skateboarding in a reckless manner, at excessive speeds, while impeding traffic, and failing to obey traffic laws.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to prepare and present an ordinance amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code so that the unsafe skateboarding activity referred to as "bombing" is prohibited on city streets.

Presented by 
JOE BUSCAINO
Councilmember, 15th District

Seconded by 

ORIGINAL


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