

CARMEN A. TRUTANICH
City Attorney

REPORT NO. R 1 2 - 0 1 9 5

JUN 29 2012

REPORT RE:

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 has prepared and now transmits for your consideration the enclosed draft ordinance, approved as to form and legality. This ordinance would add Section 56.15.1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to prohibit the use of skateboards on City roadways. 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. However, based upon our discussions with the police department, the county's speed limit approach is difficult, if not impossible to enforce because it would require the use of radar or laser equipment. Moreover, street grade surveys would be necessary to determine street grades.

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 available 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 of Article 6 of Chapter V of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to prohibit 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 PROHIBITED.

(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 or the forces of gravity and to which there is not affixed any device or mechanism for steering.

(b) Prohibited on Roadways. No person may ride or propel a skateboard upon or across any roadway. Violation of this section is an infraction.

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 6-29-12

File No. 12-0217