

## COMMUNICATION

**TO: LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCIL**

**File No. 12-0217**

**FROM: COUNCILMEMBER MITCHELL ENGLANDER, CHAIR  
COUNCILMEMBER JOE BUSCAINO, MEMBER  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR AND MEMBER, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE relative to prohibiting the unsafe skateboarding activity referred to as "bombing" on city streets.

Recommendations for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Buscaino – Englander):

REQUEST that the City Attorney:

1. Prepare an ordinance amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to prohibit the unsafe skateboarding activity referred to as "bombing" on city streets, including additional provisions to require skateboarders to:
  - a. Stay on the right half of the street and to yield to vehicles approaching from the rear, and to pedestrians.
  - b. Stop at stops signs and at uncontrolled intersections, yielding to vehicles and pedestrians.
  - c. Travel at speeds no more than 25 miles per hour.
2. Report back to the Public Safety Committee with an analysis of laws enacted by other municipalities to prohibit unsafe skateboarding activity.

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted. Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Analyst has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

### SUMMARY

On February 10, 2012, Council considered accompanying Motion (Buscaino – Englander) relative to prohibiting the unsafe skateboarding activity referred to as "bombing" on city streets. Motion states that 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.

Motion movers go on to state that the 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 not to skateboarding. Motion movers believe that the LAMC 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. Council referred Motion to the Public Safety Committee for consideration.

At the Public Safety Committee meeting held April 20, 2012, the Committee Chair and member discussed this matter with representatives of the Police Department and the City Attorney. Councilmember Buscaino stated that the Police and members of the community seek stronger regulations to prohibit unsafe skateboarding activity such as bombing. The Councilmember does not want to prohibit skateboarding itself, just reckless skateboarding activities. The LAMC, as currently written, is not equipped to enable the Police to restrict the activity.

The Committee Chair and members recommended that Council request that the City Attorney prepare the ordinance necessary to amend the LAMC to prohibit "bombing," and to also include additional provisions requiring that skateboarders stay on the right half of the street and to yield to vehicles approaching from the rear, and to pedestrians. It was further recommended that skateboarders be required to stop at stops signs and at uncontrolled intersections, yielding to vehicles and pedestrians, and to travel at speeds no more than 25 miles per hour. Finally, it was also recommended that the City Attorney research what other municipalities are doing to prohibit unsafe skateboarding activity.

Respectfully submitted,

**- NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS -**

MITCH ENGLANDER, CHAIR  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

JOE BUSCAINO, MEMBER  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
ENGLANDER:	YES
PERRY:	ABSENT
BUSCAINO:	YES
KREKORIAN:	ABSENT
ZINE:	ABSENT

JAW

[12-0217](#)\_rpt\_ps\_4-20-2012