

13-1204-S1

MOTION

Electronic smoking devices, also known as electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes, have recently been made available to consumers. These devices resemble traditional cigarettes, pipes, or cigars and mimic the act of smoking by having users inhale a vapor cloud which often contains nicotine; organic compounds such as benzene and toluene; heavy metals such as nickel and arsenic; cancer-causing compounds derived from tobacco; and, formaldehyde.

While it has been suggested that electronic smoking devices are safer than traditional cigarettes, these vapors are a source of ultrafine particles which contain nicotine of which even small amounts can have a detrimental effect on developing fetuses and newborn babies. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health has confirmed that e-cigarettes pose potential dangers for users as well as for non-users who passively inhale the vapors and urges amending local policies to prohibit e-cigarette use in existing smoke-free areas.

The City of Los Angeles has a long history of promoting and implementing tobacco-free laws and programs to de-normalize smoking and protect the health of visitors and residents, including youth. The prohibition of electronic smoking devices in areas where tobacco smoking is prohibited would protect youth from harmful health effects and exposure to the use of these products in places such as public parks, playgrounds, beaches, libraries. In addition, it will protect the health of the approximately 655,494 children who attend schools within the Los Angeles Unified School District by restricting access to these devices.

On December 4, 2013, pursuant to Motion (Koretz – O’Farrell), the Council will consider a draft Ordinance to include e-cigarettes in the City’s existing Ordinances which govern the retail sale of cigarettes (C.F. 13-1204) and would require a vendor who sells e-cigarettes to obtain a tobacco permit and to physically hand the product to potential buyers. The draft Ordinance, however, is specific to retail sales of electronic smoking devices and does not address the use of these devices in outdoor dining areas, City parks, and beaches.

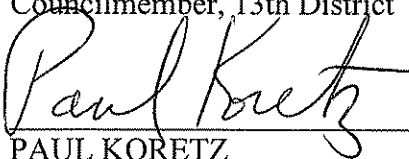
It is imperative that the City expand current efforts to regulate the sale of e-cigarettes at retail establishments to include restrictions on the use of these products. To further protect the health of visitors and City residents of all ages, the Council should request the City Attorney to prepare and present an Ordinance that would prohibit the use of electronic smoking devices where smoking is prohibited by law.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council request the City Attorney to prepare and present an Ordinance that would prohibit the use of electronic smoking devices where smoking is prohibited by law.

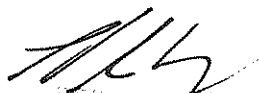
PRESENTED BY:



MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District



PAUL KORETZ
Councilmember, 5th District



DEC - 4 2013

SECONDED BY:

