

MOTION

Tourism is an important part of the economic and cultural fabric of the City of Los Angeles (City). In 2015 alone, a record 45.5 million people visited the City from across the globe. In 2014, direct visitor spending accounted for an estimated \$19.6 billion, an all-time high, according to the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board (LATCB).

One of the major components of the tourism industry is sightseeing buses, which range in size from large coaches with room for 50+ passengers to smaller vans that accommodate approximately a dozen people at a time. Over the years, there have been ongoing reported incidents related to sightseeing buses, some of which have recently been highlighted in local media reports. Some of these reported issues include: illegal modification of vehicles, removal of safety belts, failure to obey traffic laws, loud noises in residential areas, falsifying tour information, aggressive marketing, illegal sales on public rights-of-way and general lack of respect for the immediate surroundings of the City.

These operating practices create myriad public safety issues and disturb the quality of life of Angelenos. They are also a burden to local government offices and enforcement agencies, and they diminish the world-class reputation that Los Angeles strives to uphold in a global economy.

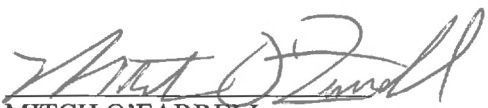
While it is the City's responsibility to provide for public safety within its boundaries, the current regulatory and enforcement scheme pertaining to sightseeing buses places the bulk of the public safety authority under State and/or Federal jurisdiction, which hinders the City's ability to take comprehensive action to protect the safety and quality of life of its own citizens.

In order to better address public safety and quality of life issues stemming from sightseeing buses, the City should seek to establish greater regulatory authority over sightseeing buses, including, if needed, changes in state and federal laws and regulations.

I THEREFORE MOVE, that the Department of Transportation, in consultation with the City Attorney and with the assistance of the City Administrative Officer, the Chief Legislative Analyst, the Police Department and the Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board, be directed to report with recommendations for establishing a City regulatory framework for sightseeing bus operations in the City. The report should include the following:


- recommendations that allow the City to safeguard public and passenger safety;
- recommendations for minimizing nuisance and unauthorized activities;
- recommendations for any necessary State and/or Federal regulatory and legislative changes;
- "best practices" in sightseeing bus regulations employed in other cities;
- recommendations to address other issues as further described in the text of this Motion

PRESENTED BY:


MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District

SECONDED BY:



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ORIGINAL