

**TO THE COUNCIL OF THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES**

File No. 09-2895

Your PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

reports as follows:

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to prohibiting the harassment of bicyclists in the city of Los Angeles.

Recommendation for Council actions, as initiated by Motion (Rosendahl – Reyes):

REQUEST the City Attorney, in conjunction with the Department of Transportation, to report relative to actions the City can take to prohibit the harassment of bicyclists in the city of Los Angeles, and to recommend legislation or administrative changes that require action by the State of California to address this matter.

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 December 1, 2009, Council considered Motion (Rosendahl – Reyes) relative to prohibiting the harassment of bicyclists in the city of Los Angeles. Motion states that the City is working to improve the quality of bicycling in the city and encourage more people to travel by bicycle. Unfortunately, as more people use bicycles, there has been an increase in the number of clashes between cyclists and motorists. Bicyclists report that they have been bumped off the road, screamed at by drivers, and had objects thrown at them. Occasionally, these situations have resulted in serious verbal altercations and physical assaults.

Motion makers believe that as efforts are made to promote cycling, the City must take steps to stop the harassment of bicyclists. They note that several cities and states are addressing this issue by implementing ordinances that make harassing a bicyclist a criminal offense. It is important for the City of Los Angeles to do the same. Such a law would discourage this type of behavior toward cyclists, as well as provide another tool to prosecute offending individuals. Motion requests that the City Attorney prepare an ordinance to prohibit the harassment of bicyclists in the city of Los Angeles. Council referred Motion to the Transportation and Public Safety Committees for consideration.

At its meeting held January 11, 2010, the Public Safety Committee discussed this matter with representatives of the Department of Transportation and the City Attorney. The City Attorney representative stated that the State of California has jurisdiction of the rules of the road. Proposals to address bicycle safety, such as mandating minimum distance requirements between cyclists and motorists, need to be addressed by the State. While acknowledging the serious safety concerns faced by cyclists on the streets of the city of Los Angeles, Committee members expressed concerns about how a local ordinance could be enforced.

During the public comment period, members of the community expressed support for a City ordinance to improve safety for cyclists on city roads. Speakers spoke of experiences of

cyclists threatened and harassed while riding. One speaker noted that precedent exists for local action; a city in Missouri adopted an ordinance to enhance cycling safety.

The Public Safety Committee recommended that Council request the City Attorney, in conjunction with the Department of Transportation, to report relative to actions the City can take to prohibit the harassment of bicyclists in the city of Los Angeles, and to recommend legislation or administrative changes that require action by the State of California to address this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

- NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS -

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
SMITH:	YES
CARDENAS:	YES
PERRY:	ABSENT
REYES:	ABSENT
ZINE:	YES

JAW
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