

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE REPORT relative to requesting an ordinance to require that all BB and pellet-firing air guns be bright colors so as to differentiate them from actual firearms.

Recommendation for Council action, as initiated by Motion (Zine – Koretz – Garcetti – Smith):

REQUEST the City Attorney prepare an ordinance to require all BB and pellet-firing air guns manufactured, sold, and/or possessed in the City of Los Angeles to be bright colors so as to differentiate them from actual firearms, pursuant to Senate Bill 1315 (De Leon).

Fiscal Impact Statement: None submitted by the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). Neither the City Administrative Officer nor the Chief Legislative Officer has completed a financial analysis of this report.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY

On June 7, 2011, Council considered Motion (Zine – Koretz – Garcetti – Smith) relative to requiring all BB and pellet-firing air guns sold in the City of Los Angeles to be bright colors so as to differentiate them from firearms. Motion states that LAPD had two officer involved shootings in 2010 during which the suspects used a BB device or Airsoft pistol, which are imitation firearms that resemble a real firearm. Motion movers believe that these incidents would have been avoided if the imitation firearms did not have the same appearance and color of actual firearms. LAPD has recommended that the City Attorney draft an ordinance to require all imitation firearms, as defined in Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 45.01, sold in the City must be a bright color so that law enforcement will know they are imitations. Motion recommends that Council request the City Attorney to draft the effectuating ordinance. Council referred Motion to the Public Safety Committee for consideration.

In a report to the Board of Police Commissioners dated March 29, 2013 (attached to the Council file), LAPD states that the requested new law could prevent future officer-involved shootings associated with BB guns and imitation firearms. LAPD goes on to recommend that the new ordinance prohibit the possession, sale, and manufacture of BB guns and imitation firearms that are similar in size and appearance to actual firearms. On April 2, 2013, the Board approved LAPD's request for the City Attorney to draft the necessary ordinance.

At the Public Safety Committee meeting held April 26, 2013, the Public Safety Committee discussed this matter with representatives of LAPD. The Department representative stated that the differentiating color would be required for the entire surface of the imitation gun, not just the tip. The Committee recommended that Council request the City Attorney to prepare the ordinance requested by LAPD, as recommended by the Board of Police Commissioners and Motion.

Respectfully Submitted,

MEMBER VOTE

ENGLANDER: YES

PERRY: ABSENT

BUSCAINO: YES
KREKORIAN: YES
ZINE: YES

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-