

ORDINANCE NO. 182389

An ordinance amending Section 56.15.1 of Article 6 of Chapter V of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to clarify its application for enforcement, investigation and reporting purposes.

**WHEREAS**, skateboarders have been fatally injured while engaging in “bombing,” a practice whereby skateboarders ride down City roadways at excessive speeds, sometimes obstructing traffic and failing to yield at stop signs; and

**WHEREAS**, bombing is a popular activity on steep hills because skateboarders can travel for several miles with little or no effort, and can reach speeds in excess of 40 miles per hour; and

**WHEREAS**, bombing not only poses a significant danger to those engaging in this activity, it also endangers the lives and property of others who use City streets; and

**WHEREAS**, to ensure that skateboard use on sidewalks is done safely, Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 56.15 prohibits the use of skateboards on City sidewalks in a manner that is in a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property; and

**WHEREAS**, California Vehicle Code Section 21967 allows a local authority to adopt an ordinance prohibiting or restricting the use of skateboards on highways, sidewalks, or roadways; and

**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to amend LAMC Section 56.15.1 to clarify its application for enforcement, collision investigation and reporting requirements, and ensure consistency with other provisions of law.

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES  
DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

Section 1. Section 56.15.1 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code is amended to read as follows:

**SEC. 56.15.1. USE OF SKATEBOARDS.**

(a) **“Skateboard” defined.** As used in this chapter, a skateboard is any board or other flat object which has wheels attached to it by any means whatsoever and which is intended to be propelled by pushing, pulling, body movement, or gravity and to which there is not affixed any device or mechanism for steering.

(b) **Skateboarding prohibited at specified locations.** The City Council may, by ordinance, specify certain public roadways, public sidewalks, public parking lots and other public property, or portions thereof, on which skateboarding shall be prohibited.

(c) **Skateboarding on public property.** Persons riding on skateboards on public roadways, public sidewalks, public parking lots and other public property shall comply with the following requirements and restrictions:

1. **Skateboarding in the upright position.** Persons riding on skateboards shall do so only in the upright, standing position. Using, pushing, propelling or riding on a skateboard in a sitting, prone, kneeling or lying position is prohibited.

2. **Traffic controls.** Persons riding on skateboards on public roadways shall obey all speed limits, stop signs, signal lights, and other traffic controls that govern right-of-way.

3. **Yielding to traffic in same direction.** Persons riding on skateboards on public roadways shall ride close to the far-right edge of the roadway, and shall yield to vehicles approaching from the rear by moving to the right curb or shoulder of the roadway.

4. **Uncontrolled intersections.** When approaching an uncontrolled intersection, persons riding on skateboards on public roadways or public sidewalks shall yield to vehicles that are so near as to present a hazard and shall not cross the intersection at a speed in excess of ten (10) miles per hour.

5. **Manner of operation.** No person shall operate a skateboard recklessly or in such a manner or at such a speed as to cause or threaten to cause injury to himself or herself or to others, to create an obstruction or to present a hazard to the free use of public property by other pedestrians or motorists.


6. **Attaching to or towing by vehicle.** A person operating a skateboard shall not attach the same or himself or herself to any motor vehicle on the roadway. In addition, a person shall not knowingly drive a motor vehicle that is towing a person riding upon a skateboard.

(d) **Penalty for violations.** It shall be unlawful for any person to violate or fail to comply with the provisions of this section. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be guilty of an infraction and shall be subject to fines as established by the City Council.

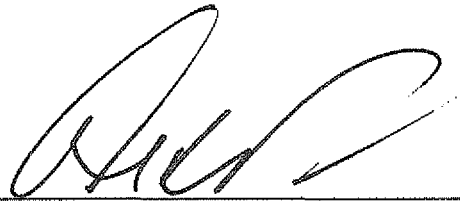
Sec. 2. The City Clerk shall certify to the passage of this ordinance and have it published in accordance with Council policy, either in a daily newspaper circulated in the City of Los Angeles or by posting for ten days in three public places in the City of Los Angeles: one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; and one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

I hereby certify that this ordinance was passed by the Council of the City of Los Angeles, at its meeting of JAN 22 2013.

JUNE LAGMAY, City Clerk

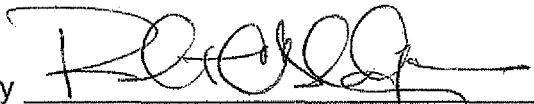
By   
Deputy

Approved FEB 01 2013

  
Mayor

Approved as to Form and Legality

CARMEN A. TRUTANICH, City Attorney

By   
CARLOS DE LA GUERRA  
Assistant City Attorney

Date 1/2/13

File No. CF 12-0217

## DECLARATION OF POSTING ORDINANCE

I, MARIA VIZCARRA, state as follows: I am, and was at all times hereinafter mentioned, a resident of the State of California, over the age of eighteen years, and a Deputy City Clerk of the City of Los Angeles, California.

**Ordinance No. 182389 – Amending Section 56.15.1 of Article 6 of Chapter V of the Los Angeles Municipal Code to clarify its application for enforcement, investigation and reporting purposes**

- a copy of which is hereto attached, was finally adopted by the Los Angeles City Council on **January 22, 2013**, and under the direction of said City Council and the City Clerk, pursuant to Section 251 of the Charter of the City of Los Angeles and Ordinance No. 172959, on **February 5, 2013** I posted a true copy of said ordinance at each of the three public places located in the City of Los Angeles, California, as follows: 1) one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall; 2) one copy on the bulletin board located at the Main Street entrance to the Los Angeles City Hall East; 3) one copy on the bulletin board located at the Temple Street entrance to the Los Angeles County Hall of Records.

Copies of said ordinance were posted conspicuously beginning on **February 5, 2013** and will be continuously posted for ten or more days.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Signed this **5th** day of **February, 2013** at Los Angeles, California.

  
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Maria Vizcarra, Deputy City Clerk

Ordinance Effective Date: **March 17, 2013**

Council File No. **12-0217**