

MOTION

Butane gas, which is often used as lighter fluid and fuel for camp stoves, has more recently become popular with manufacturers of Butane Honey Oil (BHO), a potent form of cannabis oil. Butane is used to draw THC, the psychoactive component of marijuana, out of marijuana cuttings through a chemical reaction. This process results in a highly concentrated form of cannabis, with THC levels far higher than found in natural marijuana.

However, butane gas is highly volatile, and can explode when exposed to a heat source. Over recent years, individuals manufacturing BHO have caused numerous fires and explosions, and hospitals have noticed an uptick in burn patients with injuries related to explosions caused by manufacturing BHO. Further, a significant number of BHO labs discovered by police agencies in California are only found because they have exploded. In recognition of this, California passed legislation in 2015 making the manufacturing of BHO a felony, on par with the manufacture of methamphetamines.

However butane is incredibly easy to purchase in Los Angeles. This stands in stark contrast with the purchase of other consumer products that have legitimate uses in limited quantities, such as pseudoephedrine, cough syrup, and spray paint. In recognition of the harms associated with free access to these products, the state and many cities have enacted controls designed to limit the illegal uses of these items. The City should enact similar restrictions on the sale of butane, such as requiring identification to purchase butane, limiting the amount that can be purchased at one time, and requiring merchants to keep it locked up or otherwise inaccessible to customers.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney, with the assistance of the Police Department (LAPD), be requested to draft an ordinance that would restrict the sale of butane, specifically to require an individual to present identification when purchasing the product, limiting the amount of butane that an individual could purchase at one time, and requiring that vendors either lock up butane or place it in a location inaccessible to customers.

PRESENTED BY


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