

MOTION

On Saturday, May 16, 2020 an explosion and structure fire in Little Tokyo injured 12 firefighters. It was reported that butane canisters were found in the one-story warehouse facility operated by Smoke Tokes, a distributor and wholesaler supplier of smoking and vaping products.

The cause of the incident is currently under investigation by the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD), Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). While this incident is still under investigation, it is clear that the improper use and storage of combustible chemicals, especially butane - a highly flammable solvent that can be used to produce oil for cannabis products - remains an issue in the City of Los Angeles.

Though federal and state regulations govern the proper storage and use of highly flammable materials, the severe threat to public safety posed by volatile chemical fires merits a review of the City's regulations and enforcement practices.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the LAFD, in coordination with the LAPD, City Attorney and the Department of Building and Safety, be instructed to analyze the City's current investigative and enforcement practices as it pertains to the storage, use, and sale of combustible chemicals, and provide recommendations to enhance public safety and prevent volatile chemical explosions and fires in the City of Los Angeles.

I FURTHER MOVE that the LAFD be instructed to report to the Public Safety Committee with an after action report following the conclusion of the investigation.

PRESENTED BY: _____
MONICA RODRIGUEZ (verbal)
Councilwoman, 7thDistrict

SECONDED BY: _____
JOE BUSCAINO (verbal)
Councilmember, 15th District