

MOTION


BUDGET & FINANCE

On Saturday May 16, 2020, a massive fire broke out in a smoke shop located on the edge of Little Tokyo. As Firefighters battled the blaze, volatile chemicals stored at the site exploded, seriously injuring eleven firefighters and causing a massive fireball. Luckily, none of the firefighters were killed, though a number suffered serious burns. While a cause of the fire has not been identified yet, there are indicators that the explosion was caused by the illegal storage of butane and other chemicals used in the manufacture of cannabis concentrates like butane honey oil.

The Fire Department has indicated that it will begin inspecting cannabis and smoke shops in the wake of this fire, in order to ensure something like this does not happen again. Unfortunately, the Mayor's Proposed Budget reduces the resources for illegal cannabis inspections at a time when the need for them could not be clearer, as four positions authorized and funded in 2019-20 are not continued in 2020-21. These positions should be restored in order to ensure the Fire Department has the resources it needs to inspect illegal cannabis businesses.

I THEREFORE MOVE that four resolution authority positions in the Fire Department for illegal cannabis enforcement, consisting of two Fire Inspector IIs and two Fire Inspector Is, which were deleted in the Mayor's 2020-21 Proposed Budget, be restored without funding.

PRESENTED BY:

  
BOB BLUMENFIELD  
Councilmember, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

SECONDED BY:

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PAUL KORETZ (verbal)  
Councilmember, 5th District

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