

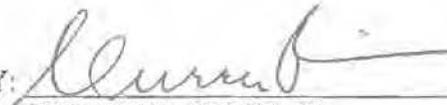
MOTION

On the night of May 5, 2020, a fire erupted in the Central Alameda neighborhood. The fire began at a yard used for storing wooden pallets and forced the evacuation of residents who lived nearby. Over 100 firefighters were deployed to control the blaze, which destroyed surrounding power lines, causing the explosion of several transformers. Five years prior in the same neighborhood, a fire had broken out at a different pallet yard when 20-foot-tall towers of wooden pallets stacked on top of each other caught fire. Despite these two significant and news-breaking fires, many other fires in South Los Angeles have also been caused due to hazardous conditions as many pallet yards continue to pile wooden pallets into massive towers in violation of City codes.

Additionally, many of these pallet yards are creating nuisances and disturbances for the residents who live near them as companies illegally store stacks of pallets in streets and sidewalks, blocking sidewalk access and reducing available parking despite the complaints and frustration of their neighbors.

It is imperative that the City take action for the health and safety of our residents and to ensure that the City's public right-of-way remains accessible and protected. The City needs to more aggressively enforce its existing codes to prevent pallet companies from unsafely storing wooden pallets and amend existing codes if necessary, especially when these pallet yards neighbor residential areas. Our Public Works bureaus and City departments should be instructed to work jointly to develop a report to Council on the current status of enforcement; and include any recommendations deemed necessary to further protect our residents, and our streets and sidewalks systems, from the illegal and hazardous storage of wooden pallets in the public right-of-way and on private property.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Street Services, Bureau of Sanitation, Department of Building and Safety, and any other departments, as needed, be instructed to report to the Council with recommendations to mitigate public safety and right-of-way accessibility issues originating from the illegal storage of wooden pallets, including recommendations for any necessary code changes, public signage, and any other enhanced enforcement capabilities.

PRESENTED BY: 
CURREN D. PRICE, JR.
Councilmember, 9th District

SECONDED BY: 

AUG 11 2020

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