

MOTION

According to the Office of the Surgeon General, e-cigarettes or “vape pens” have been in the U.S. marketplace since 2007, and vaping has become the most common way to consume tobacco or cannabis among youth in the U.S. since 2014. The variety and volume of e-cigarette products on the market, many of which are predominantly used for the purpose of consuming cannabis products, have also increased steadily since that time.

Many cannabis retailers and manufacturers offer products in a variety of flavors, using chemicals that mimic the flavors of fruit or candy, which have broad appeal to children. They often also engage in packaging and marketing strategies that make these products more appealing to youth.

There is no regular or systematic testing regime in place to assess the safety of these products and their additives. The result has been tragic and lethal in several cases. As recently as September 17, 2019, another person died as a result of serious lung disease linked to vaping.

Under state and local law, testing laboratories are licensed to test both cannabis and cannabis products, and according to the Department of Cannabis Regulation, there are 15 such facilities acting on temporary approvals. Those testing facilities however, appear to focus on the purity of individual cannabis plants, not product safety of additives or delivery devices.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council INSTRUCT the Department of Cannabis Regulation to report on the activities of testing laboratories within Los Angeles and elsewhere in California as they relate to cannabis product safety and public health, and make recommendations for steps that the Council should take to compel the cannabis industry to remove all known threats to public health from cannabis vaping products.

I FURTHER MOVE that, in response to the public health threat posed by vaping products and the rapid onset of lethal lung disease caused by vaping, the Council REQUEST that the City Attorney draft an ordinance that will prohibit the sale of all cannabis products and associated accessories used for vaping within the City of Los Angeles for one year, and to require renewal of that prohibition each year unless and until the Council affirmatively finds that particular cannabis vaping products have been determined safe for consumer use.

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