

# PUBLIC SAFETY

## MOTION

Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) Section 55.07 prohibits individuals from carrying or possessing specified items while attending or participating in any public demonstration, rally, protest, picket line or public assembly. These prohibitions are designed to ensure that individuals engaging in peaceful expressive public activity, and law enforcement personnel dedicated to protecting such activity, are able to do so without suffering injury. Items prohibited at these events include pipes, baseball bats, aerosol sprays and weapons, among other items. These types of items have been used in the past by individuals to attack other demonstrators and police officers at protests and have no place at peaceful demonstrations.

There have been numerous demonstrations over recent months across the City, the vast majority of which have been peaceful. However, there have been incidents of violence between demonstrators and counter demonstrators, as well as acts of violence targeting police officers. Of particular concern is the increase in the use of laser pointers by demonstrators in an attempt to cause eye damage. Since January 2020, there have been eleven incidents reported in the City where an individual was targeted with a laser pointer. Eight of these incidents targeted law enforcement, and three were targeted at other demonstrators.

Laser pointers and other devices can cause severe retinal damage when shined into an individual's eyes. The Food and Drug Administration has expressed concern about the increasing availability of laser pointer devices, in particular those with green, blue or violet light, as those can cause significant damage. Further, these devices can often be modified in ways to make them more harmful. Due to the harms that can be caused by these devices, laser pointers should be prohibited at demonstrations under LAMC Section 55.07.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to prepare and present an ordinance which would amend Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 55.07 to prohibit an individual from possessing or carrying a laser pointer, laser style device of any color, milliwatt output level, intensity class level or any visibility level, including infrared or nonvisible, while attending or participating in any demonstration, rally, protest, picket line or other public assembly.

PRESENTED BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
MONICA RODRIGUEZ (verbal)  
Councilwoman, 7<sup>th</sup>District

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