PUBLIC SAFETY

MOTION

In the last five years, electric scooters and bicycles have become ubiquitous on City streets, providing alternative mobility options and allowing for convenient multimodal transportation. In this relatively short period of time, however, a number of safety concerns relating to these devices have required additional regulation.

On March 11, 2023, a structure fire in Venice Beach grew exponentially faster due to the presence of lithium-ion batteries (LIBs). The intensity of the fire allowed it to spread to two adjacent businesses and resulted in the death of a business owner's pet. Similar incidents resulting from faulty or overheated LIBs have occurred across the country. These incidents are even more alarming with consideration to the self-sustaining nature of LIB fires.

In New York, fires resulting from LIB explosions became the third leading cause of fires in the city, prompting New York to take several measures including a fire risk education campaign for LIB powered mobility devices, limiting the sale of LIB powered mobility devices that do not meet safety standards, ensuring the use of UL 1642 certified batteries, and prohibiting the sale of LIBs repurposed from used batteries.

The City of Los Angeles must respond to this risk with an equally robust approach, balancing the importance of the mobility options provided by these devices and safeguarding the safety and welfare of City residents. The City must also act with urgency to secure the safety of workers who utilize these mobility devices on a daily basis as part of their occupation.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) be instructed to report on calls for service related to lithium-ion battery fires; recommendations for safety reforms including but not limited to storage and building fire code, battery safety requirements; and implementation of a public awareness campaign to educate the public on lithium-ion battery safety.

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Attorney, in coordination with other relevant departments, be requested to report on options to prohibit the sale, lease, or rental of mobility devices and their corresponding batteries that fail to meet appropriate safety standards, including the UL 1642 certification.

PRESENTED BY: Traci Park
TRACI PARK
Councilmember, 11th District

SECONDED BY:

MAR 2 4 2023

PK

ABG