

February 26, 2026

Councilmember John Lee, Chair
Public Safety Committee
200 N. Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: City Attorney Report on a Nitrous Oxide Ban, Council File 24-1220

Honorable Public Safety Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the City Attorney report analyzing the City's authority to regulate nitrous oxide sales. After careful review, I hereby request that the Committee consider adopting the following recommendations:

Request the City Attorney to draft and prepare an ordinance amending the Los Angeles Municipal Code to:

- **Prohibit tobacco and cannabis retailers from selling, offering for sale, distributing, or exposing for sale nitrous oxide products, whether flavored or non-flavored;**
- **Provide exemptions for legitimate medical, food service, automotive, and industrial uses; and**
- **Exempt pre-packaged retail food products in which nitrous oxide is used solely as a propellant (such as whipped cream products).**

The misuse of nitrous oxide as an inhalant poses documented public health risks, including oxygen deprivation and associated neurological and cardiovascular harm. Beyond the immediate threat to public safety, the rampant discard of spent canisters has become a persistent source of visual blight on our streets and in our parks, actively undermining our community beautification efforts. Given the increasing availability of recreationally marketed nitrous oxide products in smoke shops, this targeted retail restriction would proactively curb access in outlets unrelated to legitimate business purposes. Crucially, by providing clear exemptions, we ensure that the economic vitality of our lawful medical, culinary, and industrial small businesses remains protected.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your continued dedication to identifying policy solutions that keep our communities safe, clean, and thriving.

If you have any questions regarding my position, please contact my Senior Legislative Deputy, Osvaldo Ramirez, at (213) 473-7006 or osvaldo.ramirez@lacity.org.

Sincerely,



IMELDA PADILLA
Councilmember, Sixth District



CITY HALL 200 N. Spring St. Ste 470, Los Angeles, CA 90012

VAN NUYS 14410 Sylvan St. Ste 215, Van Nuys, CA 91401

SUN VALLEY 9300 Laurel Canyon Blvd, Second Floor, Sun Valley, CA 91331

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