

MOTION

The role of technology has made life for consumers way more efficient, convenient and affordable. One of the major technological improvements is the proliferation of lithium-ion batteries in many personal devices. However, these batteries when not recycled or disposed of properly can have public safety and operational risks. In particular, the improper disposal of these batteries and even, nicotine/vape pen cartridges, can have chemical reactions that start fires if these items are surrounded by other combustible materials; and are commonly referred to as 'thermal runaway' events if the event happens within a compaction trash truck.

The City Council requires a report from the Bureau of Sanitation to review operations and the compliance policies in place to protect the public and workers from improperly disposed lithium batteries and vape pen cartridges and their potential dangers. The report should provide information of the current state of disposal and recycling process and the number of trash fire incidents. The report should provide a review of the public awareness program that outlines the proper disposal of batteries and vape pen cartridges. It should also include any recommendations to update city ordinances to improve the program or compliance.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Sanitation be instructed to report on the status and provide an assessment of the lithium-ion battery and vape pen disposal and recycling program with the intent of keeping them from being improperly disposed in collection vehicles or processing facilities in order to protect sanitation workers and ensure public safety.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Bureau of Sanitation be instructed to report on an expanded citywide public awareness campaign including the protocols of proper battery disposal; the number of incidents citywide related to truck fires due to improper battery and vape pen disposal; the accessible drop off points for the proper recycling or disposal citywide by Council Districts; and a budget estimate to properly implement and expand the disposal and recycling program.

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