

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, and laser pointers, among other items. These types of items have been used in the past by individuals to attack other demonstrators and police officers and have no place at peaceful demonstrations.

There have been numerous demonstrations over the past year 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 strobe lights by demonstrators to disorient and temporarily blind police officers. Most recently, strobe lights were used against police officers in this manner during demonstrations in Echo Park and Hollywood Division.

The use of strobe lights can be extremely harmful as the lights can disorient and/or temporarily blind both police officers and protesters. Additionally, intermittent light patterns created by strobe lights may cause seizures in persons that are susceptible to photosensitive epilepsy, impacting police officers and demonstrators alike.

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 strobe light or stroboscopic lamp of any light source, color, frequency, intensity, or lumens, while attending or participating in any demonstration, rally, protest, picket line or other public assembly.

PRESENTED BY:


MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

SECONDED BY:



JUL 28 2021



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