



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS
455 N. Rexford Drive
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
4th Floor Conference Room A

Beverly Hills City Council / Health and Safety Commission Liaison

SPECIAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Thursday, November 30, 2017
4:30 PM

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

Date / Time: November 30, 2017 / 4:30 PM

IN ATTENDANCE: Mayor Lili Bosse, Vice Mayor Julian Gold, Chair Daniel Nazarian, Vice Chair Myra Demeter, City Manager Mahdi Aluzri, Senior Management Analyst Logan Phillippo

Montgomery Messex, Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, Primo Castro, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, John "J.J." Jenkins, The Vapor Spot, Stefan Didak, NOT Blowing Smoke, John Yi, American Lung Association, Jaime Rojas, National Association of Tobacco Outlets, Sandra Yamuni, National Association of Tobacco Outlets, Mark Avetissian, The V Spot LLC, Garrett Mann, E-Cig Vault LLC, Jason Lopez, E-Cig Vault LLC, Christina Westerberg, Cathy Baker, Ruben Gonzalez

1) PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public were given the opportunity to directly address the Committee on any item not listed on the agenda.

Speakers: None.

2) Flavored Tobacco Products

Senior Management Analyst Logan Phillippo provided a brief introduction on the topic and the purpose of the meeting.

Montgomery Messex, a representative from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, indicated the Health Department's support of policies that limit flavored tobacco products and presented on the dangers of tobacco products and indicated that flavored tobacco products target youth and minority groups.

Mayor Bosse inquired about the goal of the Liaison Meeting.

Chair Nazarian gave a brief overview of the Commission's work on past no-smoking regulations and expressed interest in learning more about the topic.

Vice Chair Demeter discussed that through past work on the City's Smoke-Free Multi-Unit Housing Ordinance, the Beverly Hills community has shown support for no-smoking policies and that she would like input from the Council Liaisons.

Mayor Bosse asked for members of the public to comment on the topic.

Several members of the public took turns providing comments.

Those that expressed opposition to policies that restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products indicated several concerns. For example, some stated that selling tobacco products to children is prohibited and that consumers of legal age often provide tobacco products to youth. Some challenged the information presented by the Health Department. Some cited concerns over reduced sales of products and the subsequent impacts to their retail businesses. One individual stated restricting the sale of flavored tobacco products would give a small industry to big tobacco. One individual retailer stated that the 18-31 age category is the smallest user group, that the 40+ age group is the highest user group and that the 60+ age group is the second highest user group.

Those that expressed support of policies that restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products mentioned health impacts and the high costs associated with tobacco-related health conditions. One individual stated that e-cigarettes are not cessation devices, that flavored products make it easier to consume and harder to let go, and that other California local governments such as Manhattan Beach and San Francisco have already enacted laws that restrict the sale of flavored tobacco products. One individual stated that the City should continue to promote healthy policies.

Vice Mayor Gold indicated support of policies that restrict flavored tobacco product sales and stated that the full Council should discuss the item soon. Vice Mayor Gold played a brief video of an old smoking advertisement that stated which cigarette brand doctors prefer to smoke the most. Vice Mayor Gold followed up by indicating that past sentiments toward tobacco use now seem outdated and that our policies should be forward thinking.

Mayor Bosse indicated that recently adopted no-smoking regulations represented the Beverly Hills community and stated that the Council should hear the item after the Health and Safety Commission has had time to discuss the issue and hear from every side for a balanced conversation.

The Health and Safety Commission Liaisons concurred that the next steps would include further study of the topic at future Health and Safety Commission meetings.

ADJOURNMENT

Date / Time:

November 30, 2017 / 5:43 PM