

PRESS RELEASE

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Greig Smith Council District 12



LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN GREIG SMITH

Councilman Smith Motion Would Prohibit Throwing Guns or Ammunition in the Trash

Los Angeles – Councilman Greig Smith introduced legislation on Wednesday, February 7, that would make it illegal to throw away guns or ammunition in the regular trash, closing a glaring legal loophole with serious public safety and environmental implications.

“Guns and ammunition are frequently disposed of in the trash, which is harmful for the environment, and dangerous to innocent citizens and public employees,” Councilman Smith said.

“People under investigation by police for crimes involving firearms often claim to have thrown away their guns in the trash. This will provide the Police Department a valuable investigative tool to follow the chain of possession of guns used in crimes.”

Councilman Smith’s motion would help the Police Department trace guns used in crimes, which are often purchased legally by “straw buyers,” then sold illegally to criminals or gang members.

The absence of laws governing the safe and proper disposal of firearms or ammunition emerged last year during Public Safety Committee discussions about an ordinance that would require gun owners to report lost or stolen guns within a specified period of time.

The motion would also address the danger that ammunition disposed of in the trash could cause fires, or release toxic chemicals into soil or groundwater at landfills. They could also endanger waste haulers and workers at waste facilities, and communities near waste facilities.

In addition to prohibiting the improper disposal of guns and ammunition, the motion calls for the Police Department to educate the public on how to properly and safely dispose of unwanted guns and ammunition.

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