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PRESS RELEASE

COUNCILMEMBER GREIG SMITH - DISTRICT 12

COUNCILMAN SMITH DIRECTS CITY TO GET CART SMART

San Fernando Valley -- City Councilman Greig Smith introduced legislation today that will significantly curb the abandoned shopping cart problem that has long plagued the streets, sidewalks and neighborhoods of the City of Los Angeles.

“My district office receives several calls a week about shopping carts that have been abandoned on the streets, creating a visual blight as well as an issue of public safety,” said Smith. “It’s time to crack down on store owners to make them more responsive to the communities that support them.”

The legislation requires all stores having ten or more shopping carts to retain a licensed and bonded cart retrieval company that will guarantee pickup of shopping carts within 24 hours, as a condition for business license renewal or issuance. Businesses not in compliance with this requirement will be fined \$1,000 per month, per location and business licenses will not be renewed for stores with unpaid violations.

Smith’s motion requires stores to label all of their shopping carts with the store name and number, as well as a phone number for retrieval. They must also provide signage at customer exits and in parking areas stating that unauthorized removal constitutes a misdemeanor under the Los Angeles Municipal Code.

Stores with shopping carts that have not been removed from City streets or sidewalks within 48 hours will receive a citation in an amount, to be determined, that will fully cover the cost of enforcement and removal. At the end of a one-year period, the City’s certified Neighborhood Councils will be surveyed to see if the proposed plan is effective at reducing shopping cart blight. If the problem has not been significantly reduce or eliminated, it asks the City to look at imposing a citywide program to be fee-supported by merchants providing shopping carts