

APR 25 2007

MOTION

**PUBLIC SAFETY
ARTS, PARKS,
HEALTH & AGING**

Methamphetamine abuse has emerged as a public health threat of epidemic proportions.

While use of the drug has spiked throughout Los Angeles in recent years, some communities have been particularly hard hit. A recent *Los Angeles Times* article, for example, notes the jump in meth use by gay men, and reports that gay men who had used meth in the previous year were five times more likely to test positive for HIV. The article also notes the prevalence of meth use among homeless youth, who rely on the drug to stay awake through the night and to suppress hunger.

The rise of meth abuse in Los Angeles imposes untold costs for Angelinos. On top of the human tragedy, the City must shoulder the expenses to the legal and penal systems; the social service costs for children and families impacted by meth use; and the environmental costs associated with cleaning up identified meth labs.

Prevention and suppression have emerged as twin approaches to addressing the meth epidemic. Following the passage of the Combat Methamphetamine Epidemic Act of 2005, signed into law by President George W. Bush on March 6, 2006, products containing pseudoephedrine must be kept behind the pharmacy counter, and daily sales may not exceed 3.6 grams. It is unclear what impact these additional regulations have had on meth production and use in Los Angeles in the past year.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Police Department and the City Attorney be requested to report back to the Public Safety Committee in 90 days on the number of meth-related arrests and convictions, both for use and production, over the past year; and

I FURTHER MOVE that the LAPD and City Attorney report include an analysis of whether there has been an upward or downward trend in meth-related arrests over the last five years and which communities have been most impacted by meth use; and

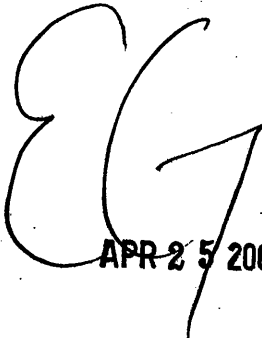
I FURTHER MOVE that the LAPD and City Attorney report include a review of current local and regional strategies for suppression of meth production and trafficking and recommendations for improved enforcement mechanisms; and

I FURTHER MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst report back to the Public Safety and Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committees on potential measures that can be taken to both prevent meth usage in Los Angeles and improve access to effective treatment options for recovering addicts.

PRESENTED BY: 

JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, District 14

SECONDED BY: 


APR 25 2007

07-1331