



**NEWS – OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT**  
**COUNCILMEMBER ALEX PADILLA**  
**7<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT**

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**PADILLA WINS APPROVAL FOR BLACK MARKET CIGARETTE PROSECUTION  
FUND**

**LOS ANGELES** – City Council President Alex Padilla won unanimous approval in the Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee today for his motion that would establish a Black Market Cigarette Prosecution Trust Fund. The funds the City has received from black market cigarette seizures – now totaling \$25,000 and increasing monthly – would be used for the investigation and prosecution of black market cigarette cases and for training LAPD vice units, patrol officers, and inspectors who specialize in tobacco-related crimes.

“Black market cigarette dealers jeopardize the health and safety of our children by making cigarettes as readily available as ice cream,” said Council President Padilla. “Moreover, the lost revenue from legal cigarette sales impacts programs for children, health services, and research. The Black Market Cigarette Prosecution Fund would ensure that tobacco enforcement measures are enhanced throughout the City of Los Angeles.”

Unknown health risks associated with black market and counterfeit cigarettes due to unknown toxins are numerous. An investigation following a recent seizure of black market cigarettes traced back the manufacturing location to a pig farm in China.

Additionally, gang-related activity related to black market cigarette sales is well documented, with one suspect recently revealing that they were paid \$200 a week to a local street gang for “selling privileges.”

The full Council will take up Padilla’s motion by the end of this month.

*The 7<sup>th</sup> Council District serves the communities of Lake View Terrace, Mission Hills, North Hills, Pacoima, Panorama City, and Sylmar.*

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