



NEWS – OFFICE OF THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
COUNCILMEMBER ALEX PADILLA
7TH DISTRICT



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PADILLA SEEKS TOBACCO LICENSE PERMIT FEE

Revenues would expand tobacco enforcement, fund health programs for youth

LOS ANGELES – Council President Alex Padilla introduced a motion today that calls upon the Los Angeles City Council to approve an annual Tobacco Retailer's Permit Fee for retailers selling tobacco products. The fee would incorporate a tiered fee structure to minimize any impact on small businesses.

"Illegal sales of tobacco products to minors are an urgent health and public safety issue that demands aggressive enforcement," said Council President Padilla. "Establishing a Tobacco Retailer's Permit Fee will provide additional resources for registration of retailers, for enforcement actions to be taken against illegal tobacco sales, and for proactive education programs to stop young people from smoking before they have become addicted to nicotine."

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), about 80% of people who have ever smoked tobacco smoked their first cigarette before the age of 18.

The United States Surgeon General has provided extensive documentation of the negative health effects of smoking, including cardiovascular and respiratory damage – leading to burdens on our public health care system.

In 2001, Padilla led the City Council to pass an ordinance outlawing self-service tobacco displays in the City of Los Angeles, along with establishing tobacco sales licenses for retailers as a key component of the City's Tobacco Enforcement Program. Additionally, in November, 2003, Padilla won approval for the establishment of a Black Market Cigarette Prosecution Fund that is 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.

Padilla is also leading the City Council's current efforts to support State legislation by Assemblymember Marco Firebaugh to outlaw smoking in automobiles when children are present.

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