



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



CITY HALL, 200 NORTH SPRING STREET, ROOM 465, LOS ANGELES, CA 90012
PHONE (213) 847-7777 FAX (213) 847-0707 WWW.LACITY.ORG/COUNCIL/CD7

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CONTACT: David Gershwin

Ph. (213) 473-5774

PADILLA SECURES FUNDING FOR BLACK MARKET CIGARETTE PROSECUTION FUND

\$32,000 in fines collected would fund City's tobacco enforcement programs

LOS ANGELES – Council President Alex Padilla won approval today for funding the City's Black Market Cigarette Prosecution Trust Fund with \$32,000 in City funds.

“Illegal sales of tobacco products and the sales of tobacco to minors are urgent health and public safety issues that demand continued, aggressive enforcement,” said Council President Padilla. “By funding the Black Market Cigarette Prosecution Trust Fund, we will have additional resources at our disposal for the registration of retailers, and we will be able to carry out more enforcement actions against illegal tobacco sales by training LAPD vice units, patrol officers, and inspectors who specialize in tobacco-related crimes.”

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. Padilla also led the City Council's current efforts to support State legislation by Assemblymember Marco Firebaugh to outlaw smoking in automobiles when children are present. And in July, 2004, Padilla proposed imposition of a fee structure for retailers' tobacco licenses.

Padilla originally won approval for the creation of the Black Market Cigarette Prosecution Trust Fund in November, 2003. Today's motion places an additional \$32,000 in the Fund so that the City may continue to investigate and prosecute black market cigarette cases.

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