



7th District News

COUNCILMEMBER ALEX PADILLA

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PADILLA PUSHES FOR CITYWIDE BAN OF SELF-SERVICE TOBACCO DISPLAYS

City Attorney to highlight tobacco licensing program

LOS ANGELES – Councilmember Alex Padilla will announce his support for a ban on self-service tobacco displays at a news conference Wednesday, April 26 at 9:30am on the City Hall South Patio, just outside City Hall East at 200 N. Main Street in downtown Los Angeles. Padilla will be joined by City Attorney James K. Hahn, who will be presenting his Tobacco Enforcement Program to license tobacco retailers. Representatives from the Los Angeles County Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Policy Coalition, a group of more than 50 community-based organizations, will also be at the news conference to discuss their efforts in restricting tobacco sales to minors.

“We must remind store clerks, customers, and the public that tobacco is a dangerous, addictive product that shouldn’t be as easy to buy as candy or gum,” said Padilla. “Self-service tobacco displays encourage shoplifting, increase the number of illegal sales to minors, and send a message to our children that tobacco isn’t dangerous. 29 million packs of cigarettes are sold to children in California each year, and one-third of new adolescent smokers will die of smoking-related diseases,” Padilla added.

Self-service displays, common in service stations and convenience stores, include packs of cigarettes placed on a shelf within easy reach of children and are accessible without the assistance of a store employee.

Last week, the California Department of Health Services reported that illegal tobacco sales to youth had risen for the first time in five years, with a 57% increase in sales to underage youth at gasoline service stations.

The motion to approve the proposed ordinance will come before the City Council on Wednesday, April 26.

The 7th Council District serves the communities of Arleta, Lake View Terrace, Mission Hills, North Hills, North Hollywood, Pacoima, Panorama City, Sun Valley, Sylmar, and Van Nuys.

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