



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: August 16, 2011
To: Honorable Mayor & City Council
From: Aaron Kunz, Deputy Director of Transportation *ak*
Subject: Request by Councilmember Gold for Discussion with the City Council Regarding the Use of Segways
Attachments: 1. Correspondence
2. Photo

INTRODUCTION

Councilmember Gold has requested that the City Council review and discuss the City's policy regarding the use of Segways on City sidewalks. Currently, Segways are allowed on City sidewalks and within the public right-of-way as permitted and defined in the California Vehicle Code.

DISCUSSION

Under the California Vehicle Code, Segways are considered "electric personal assistive mobility devices" which is defined as a "self-balancing two-wheeled device that can turn in place and designed to transport only one person at a maximum speed of 12.5 miles per hour." The California Vehicle Code (section 21282) allows the City by ordinance to regulate the operation of Segways, including prohibiting them in specified areas.

The use of Segways within the City has increased in recent years, including tours that include both business and residential areas. The tours operate both on sidewalks and within the roadway.

The City and County of San Francisco banned the use of Segways on sidewalks in November 2002. Segway tours still operate in San Francisco in bicycle lanes and on the roadway. The City of Boston banned Segways on sidewalks in June 2011. Segways are not allowed on sidewalks in New York City, the State of Colorado, Hong Kong, and the United Kingdom.

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FISCAL IMPACT

No fiscal impact anticipated.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council discuss and provide direction to staff.

 _____
David Gustavson
Approved By

Attachment 1

**DENA AND IRV SCHECHTER
708 NORTH CANON DRIVE
BEVERLY HILLS, CALIFORNIA 90210**

August 3, 2011

Councilmember Julian Gold, MD
City of Beverly Hills
455 N. Rexford Dr.
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Dear Dr. Gold:

The following is a message that we sent to the City regarding our alarm over the presence of Segueways operating on our city sidewalks:

We live and work in Beverly Hills. I often walk from my home at 708 North Canon Drive to my office at 9460 Wilshire Boulevard and back. I also walk recreationally on the weekends, often with my dog. There are currently fleets of Segueways on the sidewalks. They are usually part of the operation of a Tour Operator, "Another Side." I have been walking through the city and been literally made to step into the street or off the sidewalk to avoid the lines of people on Rodeo Drive (12 in the single block between Brighton Way and Little Santa Monica, alone). One Saturday the sidewalk was filled with tourists and there was virtually no room for any extra pedestrians when the Segueways were weaving among the walkers. A friend and neighbor of mine has had to step onto the grass or the street repeatedly while walking her dog on Elevado as she was concerned that the Segueways would appear menacing to her dog and cause him to react unpredictably. In short, the Segueways on sidewalks are a menace to pedestrian traffic and seriously imperil pedestrians. I respectfully ask the Traffic Commission to review the issue and liability of allowing these vehicles not only to operate on our sidewalks, but to be driven by any person who signs up for a tour. How does the operator verify the health, reflexes or even stability of the people it has operating these vehicles and even leading the tours? We should not wait for a tragedy to ban these vehicles from our sidewalks.

We hope that the City Council will take a hard look at advisability of allowing continued use of this dubious vehicle, which actually was involved in the fatal accident, which claimed the life of its inventor.

Thank you for your attention to this serious safety issue.

Sincerely,


Dena Schechter

C: Jeffrey Levine

Attachment 2

