



R-42

Date: December 6, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Council

From: Councilwoman Cindy Allen, Second District
Councilwoman Mary Zendejas, First District
Councilwoman Suely Saro, Sixth District

Subject: Disposable Drink Safety Kits

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Request the City Manager to identify and allocate at least \$25,000 for purchasing disposable drink safety kits and adopt a test kit distribution program similar to the program implemented by the City of West Hollywood.

DISCUSSION:

The recent TFF from November 18, 2022 discusses education efforts for local alcohol-licensed establishments regarding responsible beverage service and the feasibility of purchasing disposable test kits that detect illegal substances in beverages. This update is much appreciated as the City currently has 1,099 alcohol-licensed establishments and has seen a 14 percent increase in alcohol licenses since 2018. As the City continues to grow and attract tourists, visitors, and more residents, it is important that we are taking additional steps to ensure the safety of patrons at our alcohol-licensed establishments.

This letter requests the City Manager to identify and allocate at least \$25,000 for purchasing drink spiking test strips and adopt a test kit distribution program similar to the program implemented by the City of West Hollywood. The City of West Hollywood recently allocated approximately \$15,000 to purchase 2,500 test kits as well as collateral/educational materials. West Hollywood's first distribution event was on August 22, 2022 and focused on bars and restaurants in the City's "Rainbow District." West Hollywood plans to have several events in the coming months to continue distributing these test kits to businesses. Purchasing disposable drink safety test kits and hosting City-sponsored distribution events in Long Beach will promote a safer environment in our restaurants and bars and ensure all our patrons feel comfortable.

This matter has been reviewed by Recovery Budget Officer Dee Okam on November 28, 2022.



FISCAL IMPACT:

This recommendation requests the City Manager to identify and allocate at least \$25,000 for purchasing disposable drink safety kits and adopt a test kit distribution program similar to the City of West Hollywood. The requested action is anticipated to require a moderate level of staff hours beyond the budgeted scope of duties and is expected to have a moderate impact on existing City Council priorities. There is no local job impact associated with this item.