

THE FIRST READING OF THE ORDINANCE ADDING PROPOSED CHAPTER 7.14 TO THE FULLERTON MUNICIPAL CODE, PROHIBITING THE UNLAWFUL SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF NITROUS OXIDE IN THE CITY

Fullerton Police Department

November 18, 2025



Background

- Growing recreational misuse of Nitrous Oxide, an odorless, colorless gas commonly used as a medical anesthetic.
 - Aka: NOX, laughing gas, or whippets.
- Existing State law leaves loopholes.
- Establish local regulation to prohibit unlawful sale/distribution.
- Align Fullerton with other Orange County cities' regulations on Nitrous Oxide.



Background Data

- Steady increase of incidents associated to Nitrous Oxide from 2020-2025
- Arrests associated with Nitrous Oxide offenses increased by 328%.
- 700% increase in Nitrous Oxide involvement in traffic collisions.
- 12 DUIs and 1 suspected overdose with Nitrous Oxide.

NOS Related	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Arrests	32	48	71	146	152	137
DUI's	2	2	2	1	1	4
Traffic Collisions	2	4	7	6	11	16
Overdoses					1	



Current State Law

- Prohibition of sales to minors (CPC 381c)
- Furnishing with knowledge of intent to use recreationally (CPC 381d)
- Vendors are required to record each transaction (CPC 381e)



Examples of Nitrous Oxide for Sale





Intent of Proposed Ordinance

- Reduce public access to Nitrous Oxide for recreational abuse.
- Decrease health/safety incidents associated to recreational Nitrous Oxide use.
- Closes State law loopholes.
- More tools for local law enforcement intervention.
- Helps protect vulnerable populations.
- Violators are subject to a misdemeanor citation/arrest and up to \$1,000 civil fine.



Outreach

- If passed, the Fullerton Police Department will follow up with existing vendors to educate them on the new ordinance.
- FPD will create a social media campaign regarding the new ordinance and the risks of the recreational use of Nitrous Oxide.



Any Questions?