

# MOTION PLANNING and LAND USE MGT.

The hotel and tourism industry is of vital importance to the City of Los Angeles. However, Citywide, in the San Fernando Valley, in South Los Angeles, and in the LAPD Pacific Division, the problem of renting of hotel rooms to engage in the crime of prostitution continues. Some residential establishments, particularly motels, generate repeated calls for service and complaints of criminal activity. Some practices of these hotels/motels, such as not obtaining identification, maintaining accurate records and renting rooms by the hour, often lead to criminal activity occurring at or in the immediate vicinity of these establishments. Such practices have contributed to a variety of unlawful activities associated with the operation of these hotels/motels, particularly activities involving prostitution and soliciting.

The Zoning Administrator currently can impose conditions on nuisance properties found to consistently violate Municipal Code Section 41.49 and Penal Code Section 316. Such conditions can include the prohibition of room rentals by the hour. There is nothing in the Municipal Code that indicates that hotel rooms cannot be rented by the hour and the imposition of conditions occurs only after a problem or nuisance case has already been established. Thus, only a small number of properties chronically plagued by criminal activity are subject to an hourly rental restriction.

The Municipal Code requires the maintenance, for inspection by police officers, of registers for hotels and motels. And specifically requires that every person who owns or operates a motel shall keep a register in which shall be entered the name and address of each guest and the name and address of each member of his party, as well as the license number of the guests vehicles. Requiring identification from persons renting rooms will discourage persons who commit crimes from utilizing these rooms for the purposes of committing crimes.

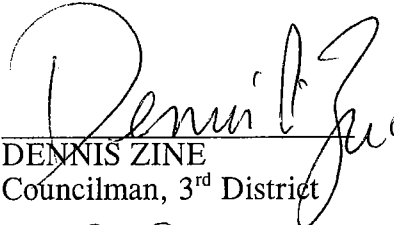
One solution to preventing hotels/motels from becoming public nuisances would be an ordinance providing that a room should not be offered, rented, or advertised by the hour, or for less than 12 hours and a room shall not be rented more than once in a 12 hour period unless the hotel provides all of the services set forth in Civil Code Section 1940 (b) (2), including the following: (A) Facilities for the safeguarding of personal property (B) Central telephone service subject (C) Maid, mail, and room services, (D) Occupancy for periods of less than seven days, (E) Food service.

Prohibiting short term rentals in the establishments that generate the most complaints and calls for service will curtail illegal activity.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney be requested to prepare and present an ordinance to regulate nuisance hotels and motels as detailed in the text of this Motion, including, as appropriate, provisions to amend Section 41.49 and repeal 47.01, of the Municipal Code and/or enacting other provisions with the following objectives: Requiring identification of guests; Maintenance of accurate and complete records; Training employees in implementation of the Code requirements; and, as to establishments that do not provide all the services set forth in Civil Code Section 1940 (b) (2) (described above): to prohibit the offering, renting or advertising of rooms by the hour or for less than 12 hours, prohibit the rental of a room more than once in a 12 hour period and prohibit guests from registering under false names and providing false identification.

JAN 18 2006

PRESENTED BY:

  
DENNIS ZINE  
Councilman, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

SECONDED BY:

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