



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Statement from Councilman Zine on Stenroos Incident

"In my entire 43-year career in law enforcement, I have never witnessed such a reckless stunt and I am appalled by the actions of this uniformed officer. He not only wasted precious city resources and inconvenienced tens of thousands of people, but he also abused the trust the public places in their police force and shamed the professional standards upheld by law enforcement agencies. To fabricate this event is unconscionable and I will be using every tool I have available to me to make sure the City is paid its due restitution. Today I introduced a motion that passed unanimously asking the Office of the City Attorney to immediately begin a civil suit against Jeffrey Stenroos, Los Angeles School Police Officer, to recover as much of the associated city costs spent in the search of a false suspect and endangering thousands of children, community members, and over 300 hundred sworn officers deployed to the area in search of the supposed shooter."

–Councilman Dennis P. Zine, Third District

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MOTION

On January 19, 2011, Los Angeles Police Department received reports of a LAUSD Officer being shot in the chest by an unknown gunman just outside El Camino High School in Woodland Hills. This reporting set in motion a series of events that cost the City thousands of dollars and man power to secure the area and make public safety a priority in that community.

The 'reported shooting prompted officials to seal off a large part of the West San Fernando Valley and place about 9,000 students on lockdown for hours. More than 350 officers swarmed through the area looking for the gunman, blocking people from entering or exiting a seven-square-mile area which stretched from the 101 Freeway north to Oxnard Street - one of the largest in recent memory. At the peak of the search, nine schools in the area were on lockdown.

Hundreds of officers from the LAPD, school police, the L. A. County Sheriff's Department, FBI, ATF, and the California Highway Patrol swarmed the area around El Camino High School throughout the afternoon. Firefighters came to the scene wearing body armor with helicopters overhead. Anxious parents gathered in the parking lot of Hale Middle School around 2 p.m. just beyond the perimeter.

On January 20, 2011 LAPD hosted a press conference unveiling a sketched picture of the 'supposed' shooter asking for help from the community to assist in any way to catch the alleged person(s) responsible for this crime which they felt represented an ongoing threat to the safety of the people.

On January 21, 2011 Councilmember Dennis Zine along with the full City Council offered a \$100,000 reward in the case of the shooting of LAUSD Officer Jeffrey Stenroos for persons to come forward with information leading to the identification, apprehension, and conviction of the person or persons responsible for this shooting.

On January 27, 2011 LAPD investigators reported that the shooting that had sparked the lockdown and the barricade of a community was a hoax, and the LAUSD officer was now under arrest. Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie Beck said detectives became suspicious about the officer's story as they investigated the case. Los Angeles School Police Department Officer Jeff Stenroos was booked on a felony charge of filing a false police report.

There needs to be an effort to recoup dollars from the individual who had no regard for the entire community. His actions wasted the time, effort, and money of first responders and caused a great deal of consternation for both children who were stuck inside, and parents, and community members who waited long hours outside of the closed off perimeter.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council determine, as provided by Section 54954.2(b) (2) of the Government Code, and pursuant to Rule 23 of the Rules of the City Council, that there is a need to take immediate action on this matter AND that the need for action came to the attention of the City subsequent to the posting of the agenda for today's Council meeting.

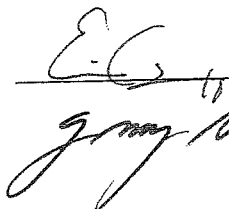
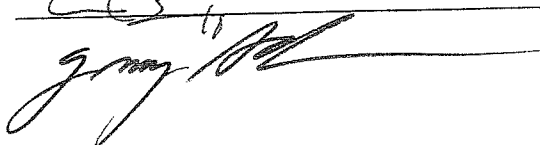
I FURTHER MOVE that the City Council request the Office of the City Attorney to immediately begin a civil suit against Jeffrey Stenroos, Los Angeles School Police Officer, to recover as much of the associated City costs spent in the search of a false suspect and endangering hundreds of children, community members, and over 300 hundred Officers deployed to the area in search of the 'reported shooter.'

PRESENTED BY:


DENNIS ZINE

Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY:

JAN 28 2011