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March 2, 2011

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## **Councilman Zine Leads Effort to Immediately Cut the Number of City Issued Cell Phones**

LOS ANGELES, March 2, 2011 – Continuing efforts to cut spending and save taxpayer dollars, Councilman Dennis P. Zine’s motion to reduce the number of City issued cell phones passed with a 10-0 vote at today’s City Council meeting.

The motion mandates a 10% cut in the number of cell phones this fiscal year and calls for immediate contract negotiations to procure cheaper rates. This same action also asks for a report back in 90 days on the savings achieved by these cuts as well as additional analysis on any penalties incurred for early contract termination in order to realize cuts beyond 10% in the next fiscal year.

“We have to start somewhere,” said Councilman Dennis P. Zine. “After reviewing the information released by the Controller concerning the number of City issued cell phones in each of the Departments, I feel compelled to begin chipping away at these numbers and get down to the bare minimum. My office currently has one of the lowest numbers of City Council issued cell phones and I am committed to making additional cuts within my own staff.”

This call for cell phone reductions comes on the heels of Governor Jerry Brown implementing a similar 50% reduction in State issued cell phones. Public safety departments will be granted exemptions from this instruction. Today, Mayor Villaraigosa issued a memo asking departments to reduce expenditures from non-salary General Fund account appropriations in order to continue to mitigate this year’s budget shortfall.

“We are all trying to do our part to address the City’s current financial situation,” added Councilman Zine. “I look forward to working in partnership with the Mayor and my colleagues to continue reducing unnecessary expenditures.”

Councilman Zine has also recently introduced motions to place additional restrictions on authorized City travel and to ask for a review of Los Angeles City Department General Manager and Assistant General Manager salaries. Councilman Zine has taken a voluntary 10% pay cut and his entire staff is currently taking unpaid furlough days.

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