



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Councilman Zine, City Leaders Aggressively Pursue
Parking Occupancy Tax Scofflaws
*\$23 million owed to the City by parking lot operators***

WHAT: As the newly appointed Chair of the Audits & Governmental Efficiency Committee, Councilman Dennis P. Zine, along with City Controller Wendy Greuel, City Attorney Carmen Trutanich, and Director of Finance Antoinette Christovale, will outline the concerted effort to identify parking tax scofflaws, collect debt owed to the City, and improve the tax collection process.

The news conference will take place in front of a parking lot operated by S.C. Prestige Parking Inc. This is a lot currently operated by S.C. Prestige Parking, but it was formerly operated by Prestige Parking, Inc. The City had a \$4.4 million judgment against Prestige Parking, Inc. for unpaid Business and Parking Occupancy Taxes. Nine of the City's top debtors currently in litigation with the City are parking lot operators.

WHEN: Tuesday, April 12th, 9:30am

WHERE: In front of S.C. Prestige Parking Lot
1027 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90017

WHO: Los Angeles City Councilman Dennis P. Zine
Los Angeles City Controller Wendy Greuel
Los Angeles City Attorney Carmen Trutanich
Director of Finance Antoinette Christovale, Office of Finance

WHY: The City is facing an approximately \$350 million deficit in the upcoming fiscal year. Meanwhile, the City has significant uncollected debt and a considerable portion of that can be attributed to parking lot operators not remitting the City's Parking Occupancy Tax. As the new Chair of the Audits & Governmental Efficiency Committee, Councilman Zine introduced a motion regarding Parking Occupancy Tax collections that will be heard in the Audits Committee on Tuesday.

The City Controller is currently undergoing a full audit on the process of how the Parking Occupancy Tax is collected and reported to the City and the City Attorney is in litigation with parking lot operators who owe approximately \$23 million dollars in uncollected tax revenue to the City. In partnership with the Office of Finance, Councilman Zine, Controller Greuel, and City Attorney Trutanich will create efficiencies in the current process and will seek restitution to maximize revenues owed to the City.

The motion will be heard Tuesday, April 12, 2011 in the Audits & Governmental Efficiency Committee at 2pm in Room 1050 of City Hall.

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