

DENNIS P. ZINE
COUNCILMAN, THIRD DISTRICT

THE ZINE LINE

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ZINE JOINS CITY ATTORNEY DELGADILLO IN FIGHTING WORKERS COMP ABUSE!



LOS ANGELES (August 20) --- In an effort to combat the burgeoning weight on taxpayers due to fraudulent workers' compensation claims by City employees, Councilman Dennis P. Zine and City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo announced the submission of two important motions in City Council.

The new ordinances will bar employees who are convicted of making a fraudulent workers' compensation claim from all current and future city employment.

"Presently, City practices can result in employees remaining on the City payroll for months after conviction of workers' compensation related fraud," said Zine, "these new ordinances will close the loopholes that allowed this sort of abuse to occur."

Stated Delgadillo "Workers' compensation fraud is a blatant theft of taxpayer dollars. Fraud also cheats honest City employees, as the City struggles to provide adequate benefits to those with legitimate injuries. "

Workers' compensation payouts budgeted for 2003-04 total \$142 million, representing a \$29 million increase over the previous fiscal year. "The City cannot afford the exorbitant costs of fraudulent claims," exclaimed Zine, who also chairs the Cities Personnel Committee, "to combat fraud, the City needs to take all the steps we can to detect and swiftly punish abuses."

Once these new ordinances go into effect employees who commit worker's compensation fraud will forfeit the privilege of employment with the City of Los Angeles.

The first motion will seek to do the following:

Direct the City Council to adopt an ordinance that automatically disqualifies all applicants for City employment who have been convicted of workers' compensation fraud.

The second motion will seek to:

Direct the City Council to adopt an ordinance that ensures that termination proceedings promptly commence and proceed to timely conclusion once there is a fraud-related conviction or other determination, based on adequate evidence that a fraud has been committed.

Added Delgadillo, "As workers' compensation costs continue to soar, we must do everything in our power to discourage and punish false claims.



Rocky Delgadillo,
City Attorney

Allowing employees to keep their jobs even after stealing money from Los Angeles taxpayers is counterproductive to the City's anti-fraud efforts."

Zine concluded "City employees who file fraudulent workers' compensation claims need to understand that they are filing their own letter of resignation."





World Trade Center & Pentagon Memorial

Tragedy struck the United States on September 11th, 2001 when terrorists struck the World Trade Center in New York City and the Pentagon in Washington, DC. Another hijacking caused an additional airplane to crash over Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

**Flights 11, 77, 93, 175
REMEMBERED**

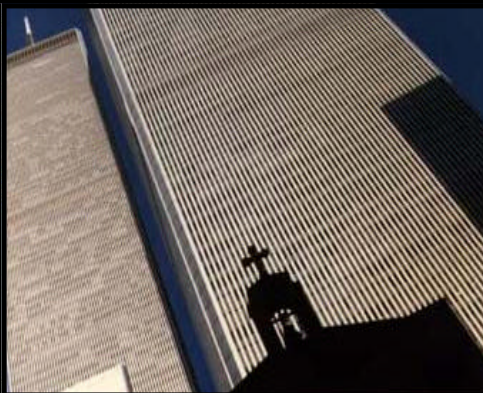


Thousands of people died or were injured that day. These events were witnessed all over the world and will forever be embedded into our memories, as will the individuals who lost their lives that fearful day.

The World Trade Center and Pentagon Memorial site remembers and honors those persons.

9-11

WE WILL NEVER FORGET!



September 11, 2001

KNX NEWSRADIO EDITORIAL - August 13, 2003

Officers Dennis P. Zine and Greig Smith— Being a cop is often a thankless job in Los Angeles. Over the past decade, the LAPD has been demoralized by scandal and leadership controversies, and weakened by resignations and early retirements. In May, Chief William Bratton firmly declared that the LAPD is at least 300 officers short of what it needs to reduce homicides, dismantle gangs and make L.A. safer. Yet there are some who would seem to care little about crippling the "Thin Blue Line" even more, using fuzzy logic and unproven allegations.

The targets of one such attack are a pair of LAPD Reserve Officers — volunteers — whose combined experience includes 46 years as regular police officers. It so happens these two are also Los Angeles City Councilmembers Dennis Zine and Greig Smith.

Earlier this month, several of their council colleagues, along with several media pundits, insisted that Zine and Smith give up working with the LAPD Reserves. Why? Because according to the critics, being both an L.A. Councilmember and a Reserve L.A. Police Officer violates California's conflict of interest laws. KNX finds this claim legally dubious, politically mean-spirited, and frankly blind to one of the most pressing needs of this city.

To begin with, the jobs of City Councilmembers and Reserve Police Officers do not overlap. Reserve officers receive only a tiny stipend of \$50 a month for uniforms and supplies and Councilmembers Zine and Smith have not voted to increase their own stipend. Should such a rarified issue ever come before the Council, Zine and Smith could simply recuse themselves.

Furthermore, the two days a month Zine and Smith each donate to the LAPD hardly interferes with their council work. In fact, KNX thinks the opposite is true. We think volunteering out in the community provides Zine and Smith with invaluable insight into the concerns of one city department that, these days, needs all the help it can get.

KNX believes those willing to provide such help at virtually no cost to the taxpayers don't deserve a political mugging. What they deserve are "**Thank You's.**"

City Hall Shouldn't Slap the Hands That Protect and Serve Angelenos

Reserve LAPD Officer Corps Plays a Vital Role. Keep Two Councilmembers on Duty.

At the end of July, two Los Angeles City Council members who are also reserve LAPD Officers got into a scuffle with a suspect at a car dealership in North Hills. Dennis Zine and Greig Smith, who between them have 40-plus years of law enforcement experience, joined with other officers to make the arrest, but they also made headlines and created a controversy at City Hall.

Now some city leaders are questioning whether they should be allowed to act as Reserve Officers while also on the City Council. Such questions should be put to rest, along with an effort to bar elected officials from the Reserve Officer corps. That effort is shortsighted and fueled by misunderstanding. The most important factor in considering these issues is the critical role now played by the LAPD's Reserve Officers in policing the city. As the department frets over the retention of experienced police and the recruitment of new cadets, its Reserve Officer program plays a vital role in filling the gaps in the thin blue line that protects Los Angeles.

There are currently 747 members in the Reserve Corps, including numerous retired LAPD officers. The program, which began in 1947, now requires Reserve Officers to complete a state-approved training program and to work a minimum of two duty shifts per month. They handle a variety of assignments in the LAPD's 18 divisions, including patrol, air support, vice and gang suppression details. This is volunteer work, though reservists do receive a small stipend, \$50 a month, for expenses related to the job.

According to LAPD figures, during fiscal year 2002-2003, Reserve Officers contributed more than 4,000 hours to the program, the equivalent of 104 full-time officers. One Reserve Officer working just two shifts a month provides over \$11,000 of police services each year.

CITY SHOULDN'T SLAP THE HANDS (Cont'd.)

The program paid out in stipends last fiscal year only \$242,000, with an overall city expenditure — including stipends— of less than \$500,000 for the entire program. This is an amazingly good return on investment. All of this makes it difficult to understand why some city leaders would propose barring anyone from participating, particularly experienced officers like Zine and Smith.

Some on the City Council contend that allowing elected officials to be in the Reserves will increase the city's liability exposure. But this is a non-issue: Whether Los Angeles officials are in the City Council chambers or in an LAPD patrol car, the city's responsibility for their actions is the same. Another concern is the potential conflict of interest created by council members serving on the Police Force and also overseeing its budget or the balance of power when a city official dons an LAPD uniform: for example, this reasoning ignores the fact that being in the Reserves would give an official a firsthand understanding of the demands and dangers of the job—just as it does for the other professionals who opt to serve as reserves.

And no matter what their full-time jobs, Reserve Officers are a part of the LAPD structure in which all members work in tandem to protect the city. If those who disagree with council members being Reserve Officers are successful, a logical next step will be to target other legislators who also fill dual roles. Teacher-legislators could be barred from the classroom, or elected officials who are real estate developers could be prevented from selling property. In these circumstances and many others, legislators rule on budgets, grants or government resources that apply to their work situations. Rather than criticizing elected officials who put their lives on the line to serve the public and who get little in return, grandstanders should get off their soapboxes and offer their energy in a city where every helping hand is needed.

Bob Baker is President of the Los Angeles Police Protective League.

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THE SAN FERNANDO SUN

Arming Residents With Information

By Irma Lemus

West Valley: L.A. City Councilman Dennis Zine wants Spanish-speaking residents to join his P.O.S.S.E.

From reporting crimes to cracking down on illegal signs posted on city streets, P.O.S.S.E. (People Organized for Safe Secure Environments) members have shown their presence in the community. The group, which was formed by L.A. City Councilman Dennis Zine's office, will now include Spanish-speaking residents from the Third District. This is the first time that Spanish speakers were recruited for the P.O.S.S.E.



Lucy Mally a P.O.S.S.E. Member from Reseda shows her Posse Handbook & Guidelines.

The Third District includes the communities of Canoga Park, Reseda, Woodland Hills, Winnetka, Tarzana and West Hills. The West San Fernando Valley communities, similar to the entire Valley, are heavily Latino and many who live in the area speak only Spanish. It is because of this that Zine's office held, for the first time, a training workshop for Spanish-speaking residents who want to join the P.O.S.S.E.

The goal of the workshop is to train residents about how to combat crime in their communities. Estela Cruz, a Canoga Park resident, said she attended Thursday's meeting at Zine's Reseda office because she was concerned about what she had seen in her neighborhood.

"It's scary. There's a homeless woman who is living on our street. She lays on an [abandoned] couch and flashes people as they walk by. My kids came up to me the other day and told me she was showing them her private parts," said Cruz. She said that she wanted to join P.O.S.S.E. because of the increasing crime and blight in her neighborhood.

"There is a lot of crime in our neighborhoods and we need to start doing something about it. We need to be part of the solution and not the problem," said Cruz, "Just last week my brother-in-law was attacked as he walked down the street. He was attacked in a part of the street where it's really dark and there are no streetlights. People have been attacked there before. Cruz said the meeting was beneficial because she was informed about what city department to call about the problems in her neighborhood.

The close to 30 residents who attended Thursday's meeting also had their picture taken. Their picture was placed on a P.O.S.S.E. identification card, said Zine aides. Yvette Whitaker, with Zine's office, said that this would allow P.O.S.S.E. members to be easily identified by police or other city employees.

At the meeting, Zine--whose attempts at speaking Spanish caused some amusement--said that it was important to educate Spanish-speaking residents on what they can do to improve their neighborhoods. "Together we can get rid of the problems in the community and improve your quality of life," said Zine to the residents who attended the meeting. Zine urged residents to be aggressive in reporting crimes in order to stop gangs from taking over.

"When we have illegal sign postings, we have sidewalks falling apart and we have 'borrachos' [drunks] on our streets it's not good for our community. You live in the community and you have seen the problems, so we want to work together to make it

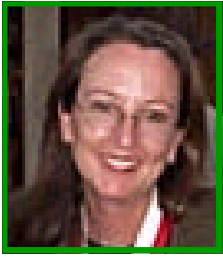
safer for everyone. In the Old West, the POSSE worked together to make life safer and that's what we are going to do here," said Zine. Representatives from many L.A. City departments also instructed residents on city laws and what departments to contact in case of a problem.

One issue that some residents did not agree with was citing people who sold food from their homes. One woman said she disagreed with the law because many immigrants sell food from their homes in order to make ends meet. City officials said that while they were sympathetic toward residents who are struggling financially, it's against city law to sell food from home.

Lidia Flores, Canoga Park resident, said she attended the meeting because as an apartment building manager she is not happy with the crime in her neighborhood. To police representatives at the meeting, Flores complained that in the past she had been identified when she provided information to police.

"I have a real problem when police say that we can give confidential information and then they tell the person they arrested where the information came from. This happened to me, I thought I was doing the right thing by giving police information. I told them it was confidential, but I forgot and gave them by address. When they arrested the person [who committed the crime] police told him where the information came from. This created a big problem for me," said Flores. Police at the meeting advised the residents that when speaking to police they should make it clear the information is confidential and residents do not want their identity known.

Despite having problems with police officers in the past, Flores said there was a need for more meetings targeted at Spanish speakers. "Anything we can do to improve our community, especially right now when there are a lot more gangs moving into our neighborhoods," she said.



By Tom Henry, Chief Planning Deputy
& Marianne King, Planning Associate



PLANNING UPDATES:

Ahmanson Ranch Update!

On August 25th, the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy along with the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority unanimously voted in favor to start negotiations with Washington Mutual to purchase all 2,773 acres of Ahmanson Ranch. There was an outpouring of public testimony in support of this move from a number of elected officials, conservationists, community members, and, of course, Councilman Zine, who would love to see Ahmanson Ranch preserved as open space. Very pleased with the results thus far Zine said, "In just two years since I was sworn in as Councilman, we have managed to take a large development project that would have devastated the West Valley to now having the opportunity to have the land remain as complete unspoiled open space."

Recent Perchlorate Testing Results

A public meeting was held on August 20th and 21st by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to provide an update to the public on recent perchlorate testing results in Simi Valley, the Santa Susana Field Lab (SSFL) which is the former Rocketdyne rocket testing site, and Ahmanson Ranch. (Please see the March Zinline for background). In short, no connection has been made to date that would confirm whether or not the SSFL is the source of off-site contamination. It was noted that current data does not show a definable plume of contamination.

Of the 66 wells tested in Simi Valley, there were 17 detections, all under 20 parts per billion (ppb). Many of the same wells tested last year that were contaminated with perchlorate, were tested again and no detections were found. This was also the case for a well at Ahmanson Ranch, which was detected at 28 ppb last year, then retested in June and July of this year and no detection was found, however, they are still waiting for one of the lab results from the July testing.

Lastly, cleanup plans are in the works for specific areas at the SSFL, like the "Building 359" area which was detected at 1,600 ppb in the groundwater and 71,290 ppb in the soil. Building 359 is an area where it is known that perchlorate was used for rocket engine testing. The SSFL is seeking to renew its surface water runoff permit from the RWQCB. The public hearing for this is tentatively scheduled for October 2, 2003.

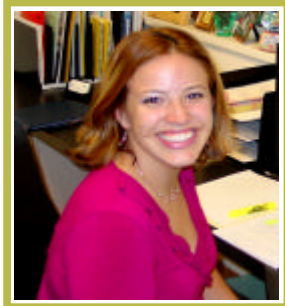
Hughes and Oso High School Proposals

The Los Angeles Unified School District Board members revisited the Hughes and Oso high school proposals at a public board meeting on August 26th. There were some last minute changes before the hearing. First, the Oso proposal was dropped from

the agenda and will not be decided on at this time. Instead, Oso is being added to what LAUSD calls their "Phase II" construction plans. Second, the Hughes proposal has changed. LAUSD is now looking to make this a 6th through 12th grade business magnet school versus 9th through 12th grade. It was also noted that the initial school reopening set for Fall 2004 has now been pushed back to Fall 2005. In the end, all LAUSD Board members, with the exception of Mr. Tokovsky, gave approval to the new Hughes proposal. This design allows LAUSD to proceed with the design phase and environmental studies that will be needed, also known as the "due diligence stage" to see if their plan is feasible. Once that process is completed, the Board will review the proposal again for project approval.

The temporary dropping of the Oso project and the reduction of high school students may be seen as partly addressing community concerns that were made at the July Woodland Hills special Neighborhood Council meeting. However any new proposals should have been brought forward to the community prior to the Board's action. Councilman Zine remains concerned that the school district is not being straight forward with the community. He once again conveyed to the School Board to not make a decision on the new Hughes proposal until the new plan has been presented to the community and community concerns are fully addressed.

FIRST P.O.S.S.E. TRAINING FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS IS A GREAT SUCCESS!



By Marisol Espinoza, Field Deputy
Serving the Communities of
Tarzana & Winnetka

On Thursday, August 14 at 6:00 pm, Councilman Dennis P. Zine displayed his bilingual skills in the first ever Spanish language POSSE training held at his District Office in Reseda. *Personas Organizandose para Entornos Sanos y Seguros* is the official name for the new group of POSSE members whose work is expanding the already successful efforts of the POSSE.

On Thursday evening, Councilman Zine welcomed the group in Spanish, informing them that we have to work together in the community, in order to clean our neighborhoods. The presentation was followed with bilingual representatives from the Depart-

ments of Building and Safety, Street Use, Parking Enforcement, Sanitation, LAPD and LAFD addressing the group, to inform them about city services, and the process on reporting problems in the area. Leonard Marquez, along with Frank Bush from the Department of Building and Safety, gave a fascinating Power Point presentation regarding the responsibilities of their department. Officer Alma Martinez from Valley Parking Enforcement, also highlighted the responsibilities of their department. Several other concerns discussed were bulky item pickups, police presence in the neighborhood, and residential neighborhood eyesores. Informational materials were available, and the participants were anxious to begin their term as POSSE members, al-

ready mentioning several problems that were in existence in their neighborhoods. Awareness of the issues, and finding the solutions to them, is the key to neighborhood beautification. This is just one more step towards a cleaner and safer environment in the Third Council District. This training was quite an informative and empowering session. The POSSE now has an additional 26 members ready to walk the streets to spot problems in their neighborhoods. If you know of a Spanish speaker who is interested in *Personas Organizandose para Entornos Sanos y Seguros*, please contact me, Marisol, at 818-756-8848.

By Sherree Adams, Field Deputy
Serving the Communities of
West Hills & Woodland Hills



Zine Honors Jack Nye

Acclaimed Pianist and Orchestra Conductor
for more than 60 years!

On Tuesday, August 19, 2003, at 10:00 a.m.,
the West Valley Jewish Community Center
had its annual variety show hosted by Richard
and Loretta Ehrig. The variety show was a
very special event as Jack Nye was honored.

Mr. Jack Nye is 82 years young and now lives
in San Diego. In the 1940's and 1950's, Jack
Nye was a pianist and orchestra conductor for
Sammy Davis Jr., Mort Sahl, Liberace, Merv
Griffin, Eddie Albert and Milton Berle, just to
name a few. He joined the Musicians' Union
in 1945 and led orchestras at famous night-
clubs, including Ciro's, the Macambo and the
Tropics in Beverly Hills. He also made many
national tours most notably as an arranger
and conductor for the renowned Hildergarde.

For more than 25 years Jack Nye played the
piano every Wednesday at the Veteran's
Hospital and every Thursday at the East
Valley Senior Center. He also played for
hundreds of shows at the Jewish Home for the
Aging, hospitals, synagogues and the West
Valley Jewish Community Center.

On Tuesday, August 26, 2003, the Woodland
Hills Neighborhood Watch held their Semi-
Annual Meeting at the new Woodland Hills
Branch Library. Special guests were
Captain James Cansler, LAPD West Valley
Area Commanding Officer, Senior Lead
Officer, Sgt. Richard Andert and myself.
We enjoyed the speakers' presentations as
well our new Neighborhood Watch meeting
location.

Our Woodland Hills Homeowners Organiza-
tion had their first meeting of the summer on
Thursday, August 28th at Kaiser Hospital at
7:30 p.m. Everyone gave their condolences
to the President Gordon Murley, with re-
spect to his wife, Josie who passed away on
June 6th. The WHHO member's donated a
beautiful carrotwood tree which is in the
Woodland Hills Branch Library's parking
lot facing Ventura Boulevard on the north-
east side of the lot. It will bloom forever and
whenever we all see it we will always say a
prayer for Gordon's Josie.

TRADER JOE'S COMING TO FALLBROOK MALL

Trader Joe's is replacing the vacant
Savons retail space
and should be open for business
in about 60 days.



By JENNIFER FORKISH, Field Deputy
Serving the Communities of
CANOGA PARK & RESEDA



OUT AND ABOUT!



Councilman Zine with Captain James Cansler, LAPD West Valley Division at National Night Out!



Councilman Zine at the Winnetka Community National Night Out at Quimby Park.

In July the communities of Reseda and Winnetka came together to celebrate National Night Out. This special community event focused on uniting community members with local law enforcement to help reduce crime. Gatherings were held at the home of Barbara Adams and Quimby Park where there were many featured speakers including Chief Bergmann, Captain Cansler, and Councilman Zine. All three discussed the vital role neighborhood watch groups play as the eyes and ears of the community. Additionally, LAPD Senior Lead Officers Janet Zumstein, Chris Crosby and Henry Gutierrez brought their respective neighborhood watch groups together for a potluck dinner that generated enthusiasm for existing and future neighborhood watch members .



Captain Cansler—LAPD-WV, guest, Officer Chris Crosby, Barbara Adams, Councilman Zine, Officer Janet Zumstein & Deputy Chief Bergmann at National Night Out held at the home of Barbara Adams.

Meet our Legislative Team



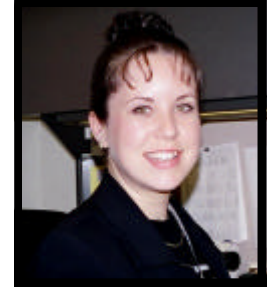
Bruce Whidden
Chief Legislative Deputy

A graduate of Cal State Northridge earning three Bachelors Degrees in History, Political Science & Journalism. He previously worked in the California State Assembly and Senate.



Brian Perry
Legislative Deputy

A graduate of Cal Poly earning a Bachelors Degree in Political Science & International Relations. He previously worked for a U.S. Congressman & consulted for the California State Senate.



Kathryn Lillo
Legislative Assistant

A graduate of Cal Poly earning a Bachelors Degree in Special Event Planning. She previously interned for Councilman Zine.

ZINE IN MOTION!

The scar of graffiti continues to spread across the bright future of the City of Los Angeles. These vile acts of vandalism costs individuals and government millions of dollars every year in destroyed property, lost business opportunities and decreased property values. The resulting visual blight robs people and their communities of dignity, hope and pride.

Further, many of the criminals who commit this vandalism steal the paint they use from local merchants resulting in a loss to business amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars annually. State and local law requires that spray paint be displayed and sold from a locked cabinet. However, this law is not always followed. In an effort to engage the public more in the fight against graffiti, an informational sign, outlining the law and informing consumers of the City's graffiti reward program, should be posted by every merchant on or near the spray paint lock-up.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council, with the concurrence of the Mayor, request the City Attorney draft an ordinance which will require all merchants selling spray paint in the City of Los Angeles to post a sign on or near their spray paint lock-up display, informing the public of the law requiring spray paint to be kept in a locked display as well as informing consumers of the City's graffiti reward program.

I FURTHER MOVE that the language of sign reflect the following thoughts: "Graffiti is a crime! Help stamp out this crime by making sure this spray paint display is locked at all times. If this display is found unlocked, please notify store management immediately or call (888) LA-4-Build to report the violation to Los Angeles Department of Building and Safety.

The City of Los Angeles offers a reward of up to \$1,000 for information resulting in the identification, apprehension and conviction of any person who commit acts of graffiti-related vandalism on public or private property within the City of Los Angeles. LAAC Section. 19.129.2"

Presented by Councilman Zine, 3rd District, seconded by Councilman LaBonge, 4th District on August 5, 2003

ZINE IN MOTION!

Worker's Compensation is a benefit put in place to protect employees and their families should injury prevent an employee from working. Over the last several years, costs associated with Workers' Compensation have spiraled out of control. A large part of the cost increase is the growing cost of medical care. Another is the alarming increase in fraud committed by employers against the employer.

Within the City of Los Angeles, workers' compensation fraud is blatant theft of taxpayer dollars. With more than \$142 million in workers' compensation pay-outs budgeted for the current fiscal year, a \$29 million increase over 2002-03, the City cannot afford to sustain the exorbitant costs of fraud. Fraud cheats honest City employees as well as the taxpayer who is paying the bill.

Termination following a fraud conviction is implied in City policies. However, the due process requirements guaranteed to every employee are not always commenced in a timely manner nor effectively carried out. Cases are on record showing that an employee who clearly committed worker's comp fraud was permitted to continue on the City payroll. The City is under no legal requirement to wait until a City employee has been convicted of workers' compensation fraud in a court of law before commencing the termination process. Indeed, the City has the right to terminate employees found in violation of City policies, regardless of whether the violation constitutes a crime proven in a court of law.

The Council should clarify and reinforce the expectation that when an investigation or other reliable information demonstrates that an employee has committed workers' compensation fraud, the general manager of the department to which the employee is then assigned should promptly deliver a notice of termination with supporting documentation. The department should thereafter diligently and swiftly pursue termination in a manner consistent with due process, Civil Service, and all other legal requirements and should ensure, as part of the process, that the employee is not eligible for future City employment.

THEREFORE I MOVE, that the City Council, with the concurrence of the Mayor, request that the City Attorney prepare an ordinance requiring all department general managers and agency heads to diligently and swiftly pursue termination procedures in a manner consistent with due process, Civil Service rules and all other legal requirements against an employee who has committed workers' compensation fraud.

I FURTHER MOVE that all necessary steps be taken to ensure, as part of the process, that the employee is not eligible for future employment with the City of Los Angeles.

IT IS FURTHER MOVED, that such an ordinance be presented to the Personnel Committee for discussion within 30 days.

Presented by Dennis P. Zine, Councilman, 3rd District on August 12, 2003

ZINE IN MOTION!

Workers' Compensation costs have soared to more than \$142 million this year, a \$29 million increase over 2002-03. The City of Los Angeles must do everything in our power to discourage and punish false claims. Worker's Compensation is a benefit put in place to protect employees and their families should injury prevent an employee from working. A large part of the cost increase is the growing cost of medical care. Another is the alarming increase in fraud committed by employers against the employer. Fraud cheats honest City employees with legitimate injuries as well as the taxpayer who is paying the bill.

Working for the City of Los Angeles is a privilege, not entitlement. Every employee in this City is ultimately accountable to the taxpayers who trust us with their precious tax dollars to provide them with important services. Persons who have been convicted of filing fraudulent workers' compensation claims have forfeited the privilege of employment with the City of Los Angeles.

The City Attorney has made it clear that local, state or federal law does not prohibit or require the disqualification of applicants for employment with a public entity because of a prior fraud conviction. However, it is clear that prior workers' compensation fraud-related conviction directly impacts an applicant's ability to be trusted with a job funded by the taxpayers and, therefore, should be grounds for disqualification.

THEREFORE I MOVE, that the City Council, with the concurrence of the Mayor, request the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance requiring that all applicants for employment who have been convicted of workers' compensation fraud be automatically disqualified from employment with the City of Los Angeles.

I FURTHER MOVE, that such an ordinance be presented to the Personnel Committee for discussion within 30 days. Presented by Dennis P. Zine, Councilman, 3rd District on August 12, 2003

ZINE IN MOTION!

Injuries on duty caused by accidents, errors, poor training and inappropriate behavior by either the employees or the supervisors, can lead to long term health problems as well as added burdens to the already stricken Worker's Compensation system.

A cursory look at the injury on duty (IOD) statistics across the various City departments indicates some discernable patterns, but clearly, detailed department by department review is needed.

To begin the review process, it seems prudent to start with what is arguably the most dangerous occupation in the City family, that of firefighter.

THEREFORE, I MOVE that the Los Angeles City Fire Department, with the cooperation of the City Personnel Department, report to the Personnel Committee within 30 days on all Injured on Duty (IOD) reports for all ranks within the Department occurring over the past 12 months.

I FURTHER MOVE that the reported shall be detailed to identify every station in the City broken down by all three shifts. Presented by Dennis P. Zine on August 13, 2003

ZINE IN MOTION!

One of the City's major fiscal concerns is workers' compensation. The current fiscal year estimates the workers' compensation cost to be \$130 million. The proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2003-04 includes \$142 million in estimated workers' compensation payments.

When an employee can no longer work because of an injury, that person's work must be spread to other members of the office to complete. Staff who suffer a work-related injury or illness, and are certified off-duty, are classified as Injured On Duty (IOD). When staff are designated IOD, they are not available for work, but they receive some portion of their salary. In addition to this fiscal burden, there is a greater strain on productivity in providing service to the public. When the vacancies due to injury are combined with vacancies due to the hiring freeze, then the productivity obstacles facing the City are magnified.

In order to tackle this problem head-on it is imperative that Council request the Personnel Department to report on how to improve workplace safety to reduce injuries, review all options to return as many IOD cases to work, in any capacity, not just in their original position, and to reduce the fiscal impact to the General Fund. Personnel should seek the assistance of the following representatives: Los Angeles Police Department, Los Angeles Fire Department, CAO, Controller, City Attorney, Los Angeles Police Protective League, United Firefighters of Los Angeles, and Council District 3. This working group will be asked to review all policy issues related to IOD cases and make recommendations for immediate and future implementation.

I THEREFORE MOVE that Council request the Personnel Department, to review and make recommendations to the Personnel Committee on improving the City's Injured On Duty (IOD) policy within 60 days with the assistance of the following: Los Angeles Police Department; Los Angeles Fire Department; CAO; Personnel Department; Controller; City Attorney; Los Angeles Police Protective League; United Firefighters of Los Angeles, and the Office of the Chair of Personnel Committee.

I FURTHER MOVE this working group should consider how to improve workplace safety that reduce injuries, review all options to return as many IOD cases to work in any capacity, not just in their original position, and to reduce the fiscal impact to the General Fund

Presented by Dennis P. Zine, Councilman, Third District

STILL WANTED
\$25,000 REWARD



The Los Angeles City Council has approved a reward for anyone who provides information leading to the arrest and conviction of this dangerous sexual assault predator.

The suspect is described as a male Latino, 5'6" to 5'9", 190-210 pounds, and 20-29 years of age. He has a chubby build and has been described as having a moustache and goatee. He is bilingual and speaks English without an accent. The suspect was seen in one incident driving a red, older model Chevrolet S-10 Blazer with a tire mounted on the rear with a black cover.

The suspect has been targeting lone females in the western Valley area since January 2001. The suspect has forced some of his victims into a vehicle and driven them to a secondary location; others were kidnapped off of the sidewalk and walked to a secluded area. In one incident the suspect entered a residence.

Anyone with information is urged to contact:

Day: Det. Antenucci or Det. Alviani

Robbery-Homicide Division, Rape Special Section, 818-756-8309

Night: Detective Information Desk, 877-LAWFULL (877-529-3855)

IDENTIFICATION THEFT AND FRAUD: 12-STEP PLAN TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM FRAUD WHILE ONLINE

1. Check the security and privacy of Web sites where you do business
2. Purchase only from companies you know and feel you can trust
3. Provide minimal information on Web site input forms (e.g. use initials rather than first name)
4. Check your browser for secure transmission of private information
5. Practice virus-defense strategies
6. Proactively monitor all statements (bank, credit card) for unauthorized transactions
7. Protect your Internet connection (dial-up, broadband)
8. Change passwords frequently and use passwords that are not easy to guess
9. Use e-mail encryption for all e-mail that contains sensitive information
10. Manage “cookies” on your computer and delete all but the ones you really need
11. Utilize mail cleansing tools to rid your in-box of spam
12. Consider an anonymous re-mailer if you wish to mask your identity

REMEMBER, THIEVES DON'T MIND DIGGING THROUGH YOUR GARBAGE FOR IDENTIFICATION DATA

How Thieves Obtain Your Personal Information:

1. Dumpster diving (at retail, restaurants, etc., for credit card receipts)
2. Stealing mail, such as bank statements or credit card offers
3. Filing a change of address form to divert your mail
4. Stealing your wallet or purse
5. Posing as an entity (such as an employer) to gain a copy of your credit report
6. Gathering personal information you enter while online
7. Posing as a legitimate entity (such as a company) to obtain personal information from you via email
8. Stealing business records to gain personal information about employees or customers
9. Physically stealing personal information from your home

If you believe you are a victim of ID Theft, immediately contact the following credit bureaus to file a **FRAUD ALERT**:

Equifax www.equifax.com 800-685-1111

Experian www.experian.com 888-397-3742

Transunion www.transunion.com 888-4213

For more info on how to prevent ID Theft, go to:

www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/alerts/idenalrt.htm

“Identity Crisis: What to do if Your Identity is Stolen”

www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/credit/idtheft.htm

“ID Theft: When Bad Things Happen To Your God Name”

www.computeruser.com/articles/2203,5,36,1,0301,03.html

Security Advisor column, “Send In the Reinforcements”

Courtesy of Southern California Computer User

2003 Neighborhood Matching Fund Grant Projects Awarded in Council District 3

ORGANIZATION	PROJECT NAME	DESCRIPTION	SITE ADDRESS
Canoga Park Elementary	Art in the Literacy Garden	Inspiration statues of children reading, tortoises to climb on and 12 more park benches will transform a lawn into a Literacy Garden in which to read a favorite book.	7438 Topanga Canyon Blvd.
Cleveland High School	Pedestrian Project/ Art Project	A pedestrian walkway/art center will provide a safe, clean avenue of access for students/parents & community members. Likewise, the site will offer an art haven during school and non-school hours.	8140 Vanalden Avenue
Hamlin Street School Student Body	Hamlin Street School Reading Garden	A reading garden area outside the library that will provide an attractive extension where people can sit and read.	22627 Hamlin Street
Landscape/ Construction Class & Building Trades	Court Yard Beautification	Install irrigation, plants, water feature, benches and tables to make area user friendly.	6200 Winnetka Avenue
Melvin Avenue School	Southwest Garden	2 Murals on building and addition of redwood workspace outdoors, install a planter with plants.	7700 Melvin Ave.
ONEgeneration	ONEgeneration Sr. Center Beautification & Expansion	Renovate center & dilapidated shuffle board court, benches & concrete pad.	18255 Victory Blvd.
Shirley Avenue Elementary School	Learning Tree Mural	30 students will plan & produce colorful mural along entry featuring happy children below a tree, ripe with learning tools. Using custom made stamps, all students will paint the leaves of the tree.	19452 Hart Street
Tarzana Community & Cultural Center	Children's Garden and Play Area	Children's outdoor recreation space and garden. A fun, safe space where children can learn about nature and read.	19130 Ventura Blvd.
Toolshed, Inc.	Reseda Elementary School Botanical Learning Zone	Re-landscape an existing patch of land to turn into an outdoor learning facility.	7265 Amigo Ave.
Woodlake Avenue PTSA	Courtyard Enhancement Project	Beautification of an area off the teachers lounge used for after school enrichment and community groups.	23231 Hatteras Street



LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY



West Valley Regional Branch Library
19036 Vanowen Street, Reseda, CA 91335



Careers in Video Game Development: Thursday, September 18, 2003—3:30 – 5:30 pm

Learn what it takes to become a digital artist and how to break into the world of game entertainment. Experts from the Academy of Game Entertainment Technology will also introduce some basics of game design.

Book Discussion – Rules of the Road: Tuesday, September 23, 2003—4:00 – 5:00

Do you enjoy talking about the books that you read? This month we will discuss Rules of the Road by Joan Bauer. Make sure to read the book ahead of time and bring the book with you to the discussion.

Careers with Animals: Thursday, October 2, 2003-3:30 - 4:30

Are you an animal lover? Would you like to work with animals as a career? Come learn about the kinds of careers with animals available to you! Presented by the Humane Society.

Scary Stories: Thursday, October 30, 2003-4:00 – 5:30

Come listen to scary stories or bring some of your own to share. Halloween costumes are welcome!


All programs are for teenagers (grades 6 and higher) and are free to attend. Programs will be held in the community room of West Valley Regional Branch Library. For more information about these or any other library programs for teens, contact Deborah Spector, Young Adult Librarian, West Valley Regional Branch Library at **818-345-9806** or at dspector@lapl.org.



311



Make One Call To City Hall

Residents may access information and any non-emergency service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The 311 call center is equipped to serve the hearing impaired and information is available in more than 150 languages.



Zine At Nine


Join Councilman Zine
At Nine on Live Call In Program

 Watch 

COUNCILMAN DENNIS P. ZINE

LIVE on Parallax Forum with Lee Kanon Alpert,
1st Thursday of every month at 9 P.M. Channel 6
On Time Warner Cable Television.
Inter-active television at its best!

Viewers can dial **818-773-0654** and speak directly to the Councilman "Live" on the air.



Let your voice be heard:



Constituent Satisfaction Survey

My goal is to improve the quality of life in our district. Please take a moment to fill out this questionnaire so that we may serve you better.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City & Zip Code: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Address of Complaint: _____

Date of complaint: _____

Nature of complaint: _____

TYPE OF COMPLAINT

_____ Abandoned Vehicles

_____ Building & Safety Violations

_____ Graffiti

_____ Illegal Dumping

_____ New Business Development

_____ Sanitation/Trash Collection

_____ Sidewalk Repairs

_____ Speeding Enforcement

_____ Street Lighting

_____ Street Resurfacing

_____ Tree Trimming

_____ (add your choice here)

Please leave your Constituent Survey Form with the Deputy staffing the booth or

Email to: zine@council.lacity.org

Fax to: (818) 756-9179

Mail to: Councilman Dennis P. Zine

Third District

19040 Vanowen Street

Reseda, CA 91335

For additional information, please call my District Office at (818) 756-8848.

Contact Us! We love the emails we receive from you and would like to hear from more.

City Hall Office:

Rayna Gabin, Chief of Staff - rgabin@council.lacity.org
Maria Aguiniga, Council Aide - maguinig@council.lacity.org
LeeAnn Braun, Council Aide– lbraun@council.lacity.org
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Kathryn Lillo, Legislative Assistant - klillo@council.lacity.org
Brian Perry, Legislative Deputy - bperry@council.lacity.org
Cindy Varela, Executive Assistant - cvarela@council.lacity.org
Bruce Whidden, Chief Legislative Deputy - bwhidden@council.lacity.org

District Office:

Michael Besem, District Director - mbesem@council.lacity.org, Issues: Business Improvement Districts,
Community Redevelopment Agency, Filming, Transportation, Economic Redevelopment
Sheree Adams, Field Deputy - sadams@council.lacity.org - Woodland Hills & West Hills
Marisol Espinoza, Field Deputy—mespinoz@council.lacity.org - Winnetka & Tarzana
Jennifer Forkish, Field Deputy-jforkish@council.lacity.org - Canoga Park & Reseda
Tom Henry, Planning Deputy - thenry@council.lacity.org
Marianne King, Associate Planning Deputy – mking@council.lacity.org
Yvette Whitaker, Editor of The Zine Line/Office Manager-ywhitake@council.lacity.org

Our Website Has Been Updated! Check It Out at: www.lacity.org/council.cd3

CITY HALL OFFICE

200 N. Spring Street, Room 450
Los Angeles, CA 90012
213-473-7003 (P)
213-485-8988 (F)
8:30 am-5:00 pm

DISTRICT OFFICE

19040 Vanowen Street
Reseda, CA 91335
818-756-8848 (P)
818-756-9179 (F)
8:00 am-6:00 pm

Committee Assignments:

Chair: Personnel Committee
Vice-Chair: Education & Neighborhoods
Member: Public Safety
Member: Rules & Elections & Intergovernmental Relations