

DENNIS P. ZINE  
COUNCILMAN, THIRD DISTRICT

# THE ZINE LINE

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Editor & Publisher: Yvette Whitaker



Over the last twelve months, the average price of regular unleaded gasoline in California has exceeded \$2.00 per gallon on several occasions. According to the American Automobile Association (AAA), the Los Angeles - Long Beach metropolitan area currently has an average retail price of \$2.19 per gallon. These temporary price increases have placed a tremendous financial burden on the City of Los Angeles and its residents. In 2002, more than \$2.4 billion worth of gasoline was sold in the city and even modest price increases can cumulatively cost motorists hundreds of millions of dollars.

Both the City of Los Angeles and Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) receive a portion of their funding from sales tax receipts, which are

applicable to gasoline sales. For transactions done within Los Angeles, the city receives 1% of the sales price and, as approved by the voters under Propositions A and C, the MTA collects an additional 1%. A side effect of this percentage-based sales tax is an unexpected increase in revenue during periods of heightened gasoline prices. I believe that both entities have a responsibility to invest this additional revenue in measures that will work to relieve residents of the financial strain caused by these elevated prices.

Many studies and investigations have been done to examine methods for reducing the high cost of gasoline. Most have suggested that reducing demand through the use of public transportation systems is among the most effective ways of immediately accomplishing this. Other promising methods, including alternative fuels and increased fuel efficiency standards, are long-term approaches that will not satiate the current situation.

In light of these studies, I have introduced legislation to create a "Commuter Gas Price Relief" program that will use the additional tax revenue generated when gasoline costs exceed \$2.00 per gallon to temporarily suspend passenger fares for public transportation systems. The proposal seeks to implement the plan on city-operated systems, including DASH and Commuter Express bus services, while urging the MTA to offer a similar plan for their bus and rail services.

With the creation of the "Commuter Gas Price Relief" program, a range of issues can be cost-effectively addressed. The plan will directly help ease the demand for gasoline, introduce more residents to the benefits of public transportation systems, reduce traffic congestion and offer environmental benefits. Even with all of these advantages, it is important to note that the new program will be self-funding and operate without any direct impact on the City's or MTA's respective budgets. By offsetting the loss of fare revenue with the heightened sales

tax collections, both entities will avoid additional strain on their growing budget deficits.

I plan to aggressively pursue the implementation of the "Commuter Gas Price Relief" program in the coming months to ensure that the residents of Los Angeles are receiving relief from the dramatic gasoline price increases. By wisely investing the unanticipated windfall in sales tax receipts from these price hikes, I believe that the city's policymakers have an opportunity to make a meaningful impact on this increasingly problematic issue.

#### Articles of Interest:

**Citizen Zine reports to Jury Duty.**

**13th Annual Emergency Preparedness Fair.**

**Zine to train LAUSD Motorcycle Officers.**

**New Mosque in CD3.**

**Zine's West Valley Traffic Summit Gets Results.**

**Vending Machine Motion.**

**FREE Port of Los Angeles Boat Tours.**



## Friday the 13th and Citizen Zine

By: Brian Perry, Legislative Deputy



Some view Friday the 13th as a day of misfortune waiting to happen.

On Friday, February 13, Dennis P. Zine reported for Jury Duty!



Councilman Dennis Zine, 3rd District displays his Juror Badge.

The need for citizen participation in the jury process is fundamental to protecting the rights of all members of society to a fair trial under the law.

In an effort to make the demands of jury duty more convenient in consideration of today's more active lifestyles, the county courts have instituted a "one day or one trial" system which allows a person to meet the requirements of jury duty without the need to appear at a courthouse. For one week, on the night before each court date, a person will call the court to verify if they are to report the next day. If the week passes without being selected to appear, your jury duty is complete for the year. If your group is selected to appear one day, you will only need to be considered for that one day and your jury duty is complete if you are not chosen to sit on a jury. For those few individuals who are chosen to appear and are selected to serve on a jury, the time that is given during the trial completes

your requirement for the year.

Councilman Zine has enjoyed a unique perspective of public service from three different angles. As a member of the Los Angeles City Council, Zine makes laws; As a retired Sgt for LAPD and current Reserve Officer, Zine enforces the law; and as a member of the jury pool, Zine administers justice under the law.

"Individuals must be willing to participate to ensure the best possible legal system", Zine declares. "I am more than happy to do my share, whatever my call to duty"

So the next time you receive a notice for jury duty, please don't think of it as something that should only happen on Friday the 13th.



### 13TH ANNUAL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FAIR APRIL 24, 2004 AT WESTFIELD SHOPPINGTOWN

The 13th Annual Emergency Preparedness Fair will be held on April 24, 2004 at Westfield Shoppingtown Topanga Plaza located at 6600 Topanga Canyon Blvd.

Participating Departments and Agencies include: Fire, Police, Emergency Preparedness, Building and Safety, Public Works, Water and Power, Disability, Housing, Community Redevelopment Agency, Aging,

Airports, Recreation and Parks, American Red Cross, County and State Agencies.

The Emergency Preparedness Fair provides important preparedness information for individuals, families, businesses and neighborhoods of Los Angeles. This is your opportunity to learn how to create a family disaster plan, put together your disaster supply kit and find out

about available services. Free sample emergency kits, limited to the first 300 households (one per household) as well as prizes and emergency preparedness literature will be given out to participants.

For additional information, please call (888) 356-4661.

**Emergency Preparedness...  
...It's an L.A. Thing**

## Zine Revs Up to Train Biker Cops

### *Councilman to get schools' force up to speed*

Los Angeles Councilman Dennis Zine, who already moonlights as a reserve Los Angeles Police Department officer, is adding another line to his resume: trainer of Los Angeles Unified School District motorcycle officers.

Zine will receive no pay for helping to train the district's eight new motorcycle officers, said Alan Kerstein, chief of the LAUSD police.

In addition to serving as a Councilman, Zine also works about 16 hours a month as a Los Angeles reserve officer, for which he is not paid.

Zine said mentoring school motorcycle police won't detract from his service on the City Council. He said he made no specific time commitments and would try to work on weekends or days when the council does not meet.

"This won't sacrifice my duties on the council," Zine said. "This is something I have time for. Some of my colleagues who have young

children may not have time to do this."

Some residents of Zine's district said the councilman has fulfilled his council duties while remaining visible in the community.

A neighborhood council member, Ed Youngblood, said he has no problem with Zine moonlighting as a motorcycle safety instructor for the school district.

"I can't say he's stretched himself too thin without knowing his schedule," Youngblood said. "I wish I had as much energy as he does."

Zine's new role at the LAUSD grew out of his friendship with Kerstein. The school police chief worked alongside Zine in the early 1970s and supervised him for a time when both were officers with the LAPD.

Kerstein said Zine is "a natural" candidate to help train the LAUSD's new squad of motorcycle officers to patrol areas near schools that have experienced traffic and safety problems.

"You've got to have the time to do that, you've got to have the special skills and you've got to have the drive," Kerstein said. "That alone probably takes out 90 percent of the people out there."

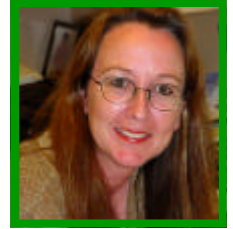
Ethics experts said Zine does not have a legal conflict of interest because the school district is not paying him and the council has no authority over the LAUSD.

Robert Stern, president of the Center for Governmental Studies in Los Angeles, said voters knew of Zine's law enforcement background when they elected him in 2001. "He's going to have the same conflict -- whether he volunteers or not -- because he's a former police officer. I don't see this as a big problem unless he's taking time out of his council duties."

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



## **PLANNING UPDATES!**

### **ZINE SHEPARDS IN NEW MOSQUE**

With tremendous work by Councilman Zine, his staff, community leaders, neighbors, and the leadership of the Islamic Center of Reseda. The South Valley Area Planning Commission unanimously approved a brand new mosque, social hall and much needed additional parking for the center located at 18206 Victory Boulevard.

The new mosque will be an architectural achievement along Victory Boulevard. The vacant lot next door will be completely paved and striped to allow for 144 parking spaces, almost double what the zoning code requires. Through the negotiation efforts of Councilman Zine, neighbors, and the center over 30 conditions of approval have been put in place to protect nearby residents. Included are limited hours of the parking area abutting single family homes, a block wall completely surrounding the parking lot with access only from Victory Boulevard, lush landscaping and patio areas, and monitors to insure members arrive and leave in a quiet and orderly fashion and keep the parking area clean.

“I am pleasantly amazed at all the different religious faiths that want to make the West San Fernando Valley their home.” Councilman Zine stated. “I embrace them as long as they fit in well with the neighborhood and are good neighbors. In these times of uncertainty it is important that we do all that we can to help people of all religious faiths to be able to embrace and enhance their spiritual needs. A spiritual community is a good community.”

For this case Councilman Zine wanted to particularly thank the efforts of the neighbors and especially community leaders: Helen Norman, Cathy Delladone, Leonard Schaffer and John Abedi.

# COMMUNITY UPDATES!



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

## Partnership Steps Up Efforts to Fight

On February 3, staff from Communities in Schools were given a tour by trained professionals at the Canoga Park Worksource Center, as part of their ongoing efforts to bring former gang members into a positive learning work environment. From this moment, individuals can come into the Worksource Center and speak to a trained Communities in Schools / Bridges staff member, about how to search for jobs and educational resources. This new partnership is groundbreaking, as it ties together community based organizations, the Community Development Department, LA Bridges, the California Employment Development Department, and the Canoga Park Worksource Center. This partnership is working together to keep violence off the streets.

The Los Angeles Bridges program is a multi-faceted component of the Community Development Department, which is part of the City of Los Angeles. LA Bridges was established in 1997 by the City of Los Angeles. The program is a partnership between Los Angeles middle school areas,

community based organizations and community residents, as well as other agencies. LA Bridges serves as a gang intervention and prevention unit, offering counseling, referrals, case management, parenting skills classes, job training and much more. This program is currently operating citywide in several gang affected areas.

There are two components to the Bridges program. Bridges I is the prevention component, which includes an after school program, that keeps kids away from the streets during after school hours, which is a critical time for youth. The plan for prevention is to keep youth from becoming involved in gang activity in the first place. In the Third Council District, John Sutter Middle School in Winnetka, serves as the center for prevention services. The program at Sutter provides families with resources, and field trips, tutoring, training, counseling, and more. Further, Bridges II is the hard core intervention component, which serves to

restore peace in gang areas. The community based provider for Bridges II in the San Fernando Valley is Communities in Schools. Blinky Rodriguez, founder of Communities in Schools, and his team go out into the streets when gang conflicts occur. They call for peace in the neighborhoods, and refer gang members to educational resources, employment resources, and training. They also hold peaceful community events, such as an annual East-West softball game and barbecue, and an Increase the Peace Rally in the San Fernando Valley.

This example of community partnership is a giant step in the right direction. Education and training are the keys to safer neighborhoods. If you are interested in finding out more about the Los Angeles Bridges program in the San Fernando Valley, please contact the Sutter Middle School LA Bridges Program (818) 772-1425 or Communities in Schools at (818) 891-9399.

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



## ONEgeneration's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

ONEgeneration's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Dinner and Silent Auction was held Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2004 and was a huge success! Over 600 guests attended the eloquent event, "Hearts Across the Valley" at the Universal Sheraton and approximately 100 auction items were sold. Los Angeles County Supervisor, Michael Antonivich, Los Angeles City Councilman, Tony Cardenas, wife of Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Barbara Yaroslavsky and former Los Angeles City Councilman Michael Feuer also attended the Gala. Councilman Dennis P. Zine and City Controller, Laura Chick conducted the live auction and sold some really fabulous items including not one, but two golden retriever puppies.

The event surpassed all expectations and ONEgeneration now plans to make "Hearts Across the Valley" an annual event. I am proud to report that more than \$225,000 was raised for this event. ONEgeneration made a special presentation to Art Linkletter (who was regrettably ill) and Dennis McCarthy from the Daily News accepted the award on his behalf. ONEgeneration also honored Councilman Dennis P. Zine, Karl and Thyra Boeckmann for the generosity they have shown to the children, families and seniors of ONEgeneration.

## Our Deepest Condolences

I would like to express my deepest sympathy for Seville Porush, Senior Director at the West Valley Jewish Community Center who passed away on Saturday, February 21, 2004. The West Valley JCC will be setting up a "Seville Porush" Memorial Fund to be used for the Senior Groups at the JCC which was so important to Seville. Councilman Zine adjourned a City Council Meeting in memory of Seville on Tuesday, February 24, 2004.



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



## ZINE'S TRAFFIC SUMMIT GETS RESULTS!

A January 2004 report issued by the Los Angeles Police Department, Valley Traffic Division listed the 20 most dangerous streets in the San Fernando Valley. In response to this report Councilman Zine called upon community activists, LAPD Officers, and the Department of Transportation for answers and solutions.

LAPD showed a great interest in attending the meeting and a willingness to work with the community. Invited guests included LAPD Deputy Chief Ronald Bergman, Commanding Officer, Valley Bureau; LAPD Captain Greg Meyer, Commanding Officer, Valley Traffic Division; LAPD Captain James Cansler, Area Commanding Officer, West Valley Community Police Station; Ken Firoozmand, District

Engineer, Department of Transportation and CHP Officer Leland Tang.

Over 50 concerned community members attended the Traffic Summit on February 18, 2004, where they voiced their concerns, and generated creative ideas. LAPD Deputy Chief Bergman, in addition to LAPD Captains Meyer and Cansler, believe that placing decoy police vehicles along major thoroughfares will have a deterrent effect.

Additionally, Councilman Zine would like vehicles that have been part of deadly accidents placed at major intersections as a reminder to passersby. "I want people to see these vehicles, and realize that the mangled car could be theirs if they choose to drive recklessly" said Zine.

Department of Transportation District Engineer, Ken Firoozmand, will work with Councilman Zine to place stop signs, additional photo radar, and smart crosswalks at strategic locations in order to slow and control traffic.

The January 2004 report issued by the Los Angeles Police Department, Valley Traffic Division listing the 20 most dangerous streets in the San Fernando Valley included 9 streets that run through the 3<sup>rd</sup> Council District. These include:

- Sherman Way
- Victory Boulevard
- Burbank Boulevard
- Roscoe Boulevard
- Vanowen Street
- De Soto Street
- Saticoy Street
- Ventura Boulevard
- Canoga Avenue

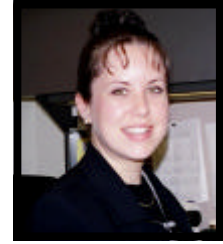
## Meet our Legislative Team



**Bruce Whidden**  
Chief Legislative Deputy



**Brian Perry**  
Legislative Deputy



**Kathryn Lillo**  
Legislative Assistant

## **LEGISLATIVE ISSUES: AGENDAS, RESOLUTIONS, MOTIONS.**

Vending machines dispensing beverages have become a familiar fixture in virtually every public building in the nation. Control of these machines within the public buildings of the City of Los Angeles is currently a patchwork of public and private organizations with proceeds going to a variety of groups and causes.

In recent years, government at all levels, as well as many major corporations, have taken steps to bring these beverage vending machines contracts under a central control within the jurisdiction of the City to both guarantee a level of product reliability and pricing as well as a source of much needed revenues.

For example, the San Diego Unified School system has entered into a contract agreement with the Coca-Cola Bottling Company whereby in exchange for selling only Coke products on its campuses for a five year period, the corporation will give the district one million dollars per-year. Universal Studios has a similar agreement with Pepsi to exclusively serve Pepsi products at both of its theme parks, generating millions of dollars of revenues.

In recent months the General Services Department has completed an inventory of beverage vending machines in all City buildings under its control. Working with the office of the Chief Legislative Analyst and the City Administrative Officer, GSD should determine the feasibility of the City entering into a long-term contractual agreement with a major bottling and or distribution company to provide beverage vending services within any City building under the control of GSD.

Currently, contracts exist between various departments, groups and organizations to provide beverage vending services within many City buildings with net proceeds going to support various causes. As the City takes steps to uniform the vending services in its buildings, it must also serve notice on these groups that these machines will need to be removed from City buildings at the conclusion of their existing contract.

**THEREFORE I MOVE**, that the Council instruct the General Services Department, in cooperation with the offices of the Chief Legislative Analyst and the City Administrative Officer, to determine the feasibility of the City entering into a contractual agreement with a major bottling company to provide vending services within all City Buildings under the control of GSD.

**I FURTHER MOVE**, that the General Services Department identify all contracts existing between any City department, group or organization to provide beverage vending services within any City building and serve notice on these groups that these machines will need to be removed from City buildings at the conclusion of their existing contract. GSD should report its finding to the Information Technology and General Services Committee within 60 days.

# FREE Port of Los Angeles Tours

## MAY 15th & 16th, 2004

The Port of Los Angeles  
425 S. Palos Verdes Street  
San Pedro, CA 90731  
(310) 732-3508

**FREE** boat tours of the Port of Los Angeles will be available to Southland residents and visitors on Saturday and Sunday, May 15 and 16, in observance of World Trade Week 2004.

The hour-long tours of the nation's busiest port will depart both days between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. from Ports O' Call Village in San Pedro and Banning's Landing in Wilmington.

Visitors are encouraged to take a free tour from both Ports O' Call and Banning's Landing to get a complete perspective of the 7,500 acre harbor. Reservations are not required for the tours, which will board on a first-come, first-served basis. Handicap access is available 24 hours a day on the Port's toll-free special events line at (800) 831-PORT; or call (310) 732-3508 during normal business hours.

World Trade Week is a national, month-long program of tours, seminars and other events to educate the public about the importance of international trade to the local economy.



### 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.

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Let your voice be heard:

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

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**Our Website Has Been Updated! Check It Out at: [www.lacity.org/council.cd3](http://www.lacity.org/council.cd3)**

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

[zine@council.lacity.org](mailto:zine@council.lacity.org)

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19040 Vanowen Street  
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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  
**EERC:** Executive Employee Relations Committee  
**NLC:** National League of Cities  
**ICA:** Independent City Association  
**LAPD:** Line Reserve Officer