

DENNIS P. ZINE
COUNCILMAN, THIRD DISTRICT

THE ZINE LINE

JULY 2004 Volume 4: Issue 1

Editor & Publisher: Yvette Whitaker

Workers Compensation Update!



As Chair of the Personnel Committee, I have introduced a variety of initiatives to tackle the escalating cost of the City's workers' compensation program. The City of Los Angeles is anticipated to spend \$155 million on workers' compensation during the upcoming fiscal year.

On April 13th, the City Council unanimously adopted two ordinances introduced by me to address fraudulent workers' compensation claims. These new laws will ensure the termination of any City employee convicted of worker's compensation fraud and prevent the hiring of any

individuals with past convictions. Both ordinances became effective May 1st and will prove to be a valuable tool in reducing fraudulent claims.

In March 2004, I developed the City of Los Angeles' comprehensive 7-point policy plan for workers' compensation reform. A coalition of Councilmembers and business leaders formed to support the plan, which ultimately garnered unanimous approval from the City Council and Mayor. With active lobbying by the City's representatives in Sacramento, nearly every proposal was incorporated into the final legislation. Annual savings of more than \$35 million to the City are expected to result after full implementation of the reform package. An updated report on the beneficial impacts of the new workers' compensation reform package will be heard in the Personnel Committee in June 2004.

I have also worked to overhaul the City's management of workers' compensation claims. By streamlining and modernizing the process for handling workers' compensation claims, the City can generate significant long-term savings with a modest initial investment. For example, the Personnel Department has been implementing a state-of-the-art document imaging system that will ensure case managers have instant access to

open claims information. Additionally, I have been carefully studying the allocation of case managers and legal staff dedicated to handling workers' compensation issues. By providing sufficient staffing, claims will be more thoroughly investigated and costs are reduced dramatically. The next hearing on these issues is scheduled for June 2004.

2001 MISSION STATEMENT!

"As your Public Servant, my Staff and I Pledge to..."

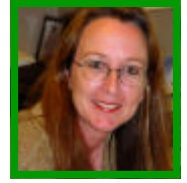
1. **Improve The Quality of Life in our District.**
2. **Maintain Public Safety.**
3. **Follow up Your Concerns in a Timely Manner.**
4. **Keep You Informed of Issues in the District.**
5. **Attend Your Meetings and Events.**
6. **Have the Communities Priorities Come First.**

DENNIS P. ZINE
Councilman, Third District





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



Santa Susana Field Lab Contamination Motion

Numerous constituents have reported to us their concern of the ongoing testing and possible migration of contamination at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory Site. This facility is located in Ventura County and it is the responsibility of state and federal agencies to make sure the site is safe for people who live and work nearby.

Nevertheless, Councilman Zine wants to make sure that everything possible is being done to protect the people of the West Valley. Below is the motion that Councilman Zine submitted, asking the City of Los Angeles' Environmental Affairs Department to attend meetings and report to local Neighborhood Councils and the City Council.

MOTION

The Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) is a 2,800 acre site located in the Simi Hills area of Ventura County, adjacent to the City of Los Angeles. SSFL has been used for a variety of purposes since 1950, including the testing of engines for missiles, spacecraft and rockets, nuclear reactor research and the development of lasers for defense and commercial applications. During these activities, a number of industrial solvents and radioactive materials were released into the soil and groundwater. In 1989, testing at the SSFL began to publicly indicate the extent of pollution at the site.

A myriad of agencies have since been assembled to manage and oversee the environmental remediation of the SSFL site, including the United States Environmental Protection Agency, the United States Department of Energy, the California Department of Health Services, the California Department of Toxic

Substances Control and the Regional Water Quality Control Board. Through the creation of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory Working Group, these entities have attempted to coordinate their efforts and the activities of the Boeing Corporation, who currently owns the property.

Despite a number of studies conducted on the SSFL property and adjacent off-site areas, significant questions remain unanswered regarding the extent and migration of its numerous pollutants. For example, recent water samples near former SSFL nuclear reactor sites indicated previously unknown radioactive contamination beyond EPA standards. These issues have been of particular concern to residents in the western San Fernando Valley who are in close proximity to the site. Recent testing in other areas surrounding SSFL, including Simi Valley, have suggested that perchlorate may have traveled beyond the SSFL property and contaminated local water supplies.

While acknowledging its limited jurisdiction in directly regulating the cleanup of the SSFL site, the City of Los Angeles should ensure it maintains an active role in overseeing the process and advocating on behalf of its impacted residents. In light of the complicated and technical nature of the testing and remediation work being completed, city staff from the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) with the required expertise should be tasked with participating in the SSFL Working Group and related activities.

By actively participating in the ongoing proceedings surrounding the

SSFL cleanup, the EAD's staff can provide informed, balanced status reports to policymakers and community stakeholders. Additionally, staff can ensure that community concerns are properly conveyed and addressed by the relevant agencies. This improved coordination and communication will certainly result in better representation of the interests of City residents in the SSFL remediation activities.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Environmental Affairs Department be instructed to immediately begin participating in all public meetings and activities relating to the environmental remediation of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment and Environmental Affairs Department, with assistance from the appropriate governmental entities and outside experts, be directed to participate in any public meetings requested by the relevant Neighborhood Councils or other community stakeholders regarding the environmental remediation of the Santa Susana Field Laboratory.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Environmental Affairs Department be instructed to commence recurring reports to the Environmental Quality and Waste Management Committee, beginning within 60 days, including a status report on the environmental remediation efforts at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory.

Presented by: Dennis P. Zine, Councilmember, 3rd District and Greig Smith, Councilmember, 12th District

COMMUNITY UPDATES!



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

Councilman Zine Teaches 2nd Graders Financial Responsibility

On Thursday, May 27, 2004, Councilman Dennis P. Zine entertained a group of second graders at Nestle Avenue Elementary School in Tarzana, by reading them a newer version of the classic tale *The Three Little Pigs*. This version, entitled *The Three Little Pigs: A Financial Fairy Tale* is designed to teach school-aged children financial responsibility. Councilman Zine asked how many of the children at Nestle Avenue received weekly allowance, and more than half of the kids raised their hands. One lucky second grader indicated that he receives five dollars allowance a day. That totals up to one hundred dollars per month. If he saves, he can create a savings.

The book, published by Nationwide Retirement Solutions, tells the story of three pigs, Spending Pig, Smart Pig and Stingy Pig and the BB Wolfe Realtor who attempts to lure the pigs into spending all their money on his property. But in the end, the Smart Pig says that one should save, spend, and share the money you earn. Nestle Avenue students each received a copy of the book, a workbook, and a piggy bank to begin their savings.

Councilman Zine, DWP, and Business Leaders Come Together for Community Breakfast

On May 27, 2004, community leaders in the Third Council District came together at the Encino-Tarzana Medical Center to

discuss opportunities for small business and economic development. This meeting was held in conjunction with Councilman Dennis Zine, the Mayor's Office of Small Business Services, and the Department of Water and Power. Over sixty community members met with each of these agencies to obtain information on how to bring business into the Third Council District. Businesses with 500 or fewer employees account for 99 percent of the tax revenue of the City. The Valley Economic Development Center was also represented at the breakfast. They were on hand to explain their function, which includes providing resources for individuals who are attempting to start businesses, and for current business owners.

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



CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON THE “WARNER CENTER TRANSIT HUB”

On Wednesday, May 26th, Councilman Dennis P. Zine and Congressman Brad Sherman along with other officials from the City of Los Angeles Department of Transportation, Westfield Promenade and Metro celebrated the ground breaking to officially begin construction of the Warner Center Transit Hub.



Councilman Zine, Gary Lee Moore, GM of Bureau of Engineering, Congressman Brad Sherman, Wayne Tanda of DOT and others at the Groundbreaking of the Warner Center Transit Hub.

The Warner Center Transit Hub will be developed on Owensmouth Avenue between Erwin and Oxnard Streets. This project will create the major public transportation center for the West San Fernando Valley. Multiple regional and local bus lines will converge to provide transit connections and opportunity to transfer to bus routes that serve a wide variety of destinations. The hub is designed to optimize bus rider safety and comfort as well as improve the function of bus operations. These goals are accomplished by providing concrete bus lanes and adding such features such as security lighting, wide sidewalks, landscaping, distinctive paving, street furniture and signage. Project construction requires that Owensmouth Avenue be closed for several months, however, LADOT and the Department of Public Works have

agreed that the street will be reopened in November in time for holiday shopping. Councilman Zine has worked closely with the retail businesses as well as the City Departments and the selected Contractor to ensure that the street closure will not impact the very busy holiday shopping season. Closing the street now, will move the project forward at a much quicker pace which is also very important to our community.

When completed, the Warner Center Transit Hub project will have gateway arches across Owensmouth Avenue at both Oxnard and Erwin streets, new transit shelters and benches, wide sidewalks, pedestrian lighting, public art, trees and a landscaped median. The project will be completed in time for the opening of the Metro Orange Line in 2005. Funds for the project came from the Federal Transit Administration, The Warner Center Mitigation Trust Fund and Proposition C Transportation Funds.

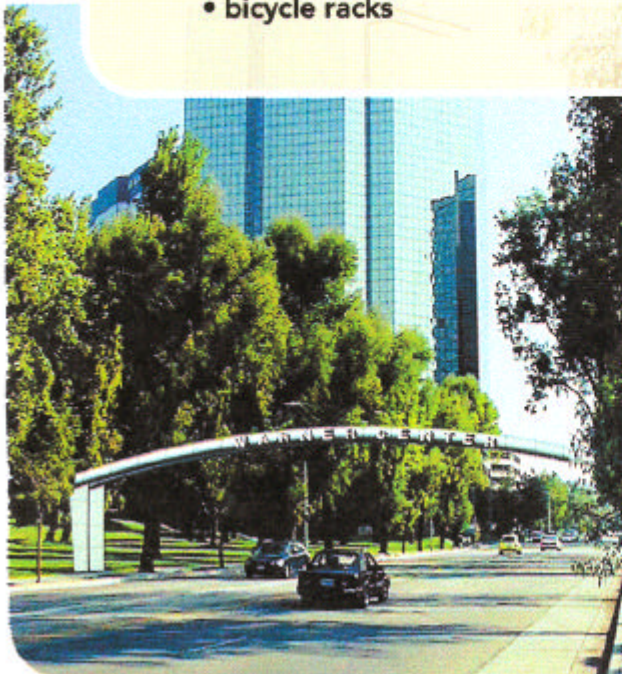
COMING SOON

WARNER CENTER TRANSIT HUB

LADOT is building a major transit hub on Owensmouth Avenue in Warner Center. It is the first of its kind in Los Angeles and will meet the needs of the community, transit users and pedestrians. The hub will accommodate transit vehicles and automobiles and be the terminal for the MetroRapid bus and the Orange Line scheduled to begin service in summer 2005 between Warner Center and the Metro Red Line station in North Hollywood. The hub will also serve local and commuter bus routes, DASH and buses from Ventura County.

Here are some of the features you will see at the new hub:

- gateway arches
- wide sidewalks
- landscaped median
- street trees
- bicycle racks
- colored, patterned intersections
- security lighting
- passenger shelters and seating
- neon art



TEMPORARY ROUTE DURING CONSTRUCTION



DASH LADOT



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



COUNCILMAN ZINE LEADS CITY LEADERS TO INTRODUCE REGULATIONS TO ADDRESS BANDIT TOWING INDUSTRY

Outraged by recent reports that Los Angeles area towing operators are extorting money from innocent motorists, Councilman Dennis P. Zine leads fellow Councilmembers, as well as representatives of the Police Commission and City Attorney's office, to announce the introduction of legislation aimed at protecting consumers from tow truck operators who prey on the public.

"There is no reason that towing operators, who are stealing from Los Angeles residents, should go unregulated. Predatory business operations, such as those practiced by rouge towing companies, will not be tolerated in this city. I will take whatever measures, at whatever level of government, to provide a safe secure towing industry for both citizens and legitimate businesses in Los Angeles " said Councilman Dennis P. Zine.

During a May 27th Council session, Councilman Zine

introduced two motions intended to bring clarity to the regulations currently governing the towing industry. The first motion asks for Federal legislation to immediately remove "intra-state" towing operations from federal law and return them to state and local authority. The ability of state and local authorities to regulate this industry was clouded with the passage of the Motor Carrier Act of 1994 and subsequent state and federal court rulings.

Additionally, Councilman Zine introduced a motion for a local ordinance to mirror the California Vehicle Code to: (1) Require tow truck operators to receive advance written authorization from property and/or business owners which lists detailed information on the vehicle to be removed; and (2) an ordinance which requires property owners or responsible business owners who enter into contracts with a private towing company, to conspicuously post the applica-

ble time limits that a vehicle may be parked in the parking lot and warning the public of the risk of towing should a vehicle remain in a private parking lot after the posted hours.

Recent media reports have shown tow truck operators endangering public safety by engaging in the theft of lawfully parked vehicles from parking lots for purposes of extortion. These criminal acts have left innumerable Los Angeles residents stranded and vulnerable on city streets and on abandoned parking lots, often late at night.

Working closely with City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, and the Los Angeles Police Commission, Councilman Zine is hopeful that this legislation will bring awareness to Los Angeles residents, and to people throughout the nation, who are innocent victims of this type of crime.

Our Legislative Team



Bruce Whidden
Chief Legislative Deputy



Brian Perry
Legislative Deputy

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES: AGENDAS, RESOLUTIONS, MOTIONS..

The position of executive director of the Board of Police Commissioners has become vacant with the retirement of the current executive director.

The Board of Police Commissioners has selected a replacement as Executive Director, but will need for the City Council to approve an exemption from the City's hiring freeze to fill the position.

The Executive Director position acts as the Commission's Chief of Staff, and in this capacity plans, organizes and directs the work of approximately 80 sworn and civilian staff engaged in the development and implementation of policies, decisions and orders of the Board, and those related to the Christopher Commission recommendations and the Consent Decree. The Executive Director is specifically responsible for monitoring the daily administration of the Executive Staff, which is comprised of several units performing a variety of functions, including the Discrimination Unit, which among other things, investigates, resolves, and monitors discrimination and sexual harassment complaints, as well as formulates preventive measures to reduce the incidence of discrimination and harassment. The Executive Director also supervises the community Policing Implementation coordinator, who is the Board's liaison to the LAPD, various community groups, Community-Police Advisory Boards, and other City agencies on matters pertaining to the implementation of community policing. Additionally, the Executive Director has line command over the Commission Investigation Division (CID), which is responsible for coordinating all investigations of persons applying for police permits, alarm permits, and the enforcement of ordinances relative to those permits. The Special Services, Advocates, and Personnel Units also fall under the supervision of the Executive Director. Those units conduct disciplinary hearings on police permits, review use of force and policy matters, and investigate employee grievances and other personnel issues. Finally, the Public Affairs Director of the Commission reports directly to the Executive Director.

The Executive Director position is essential to the efficient administration of the Police Commission (which is comprised of five part-time civilian volunteers). To ensure that the duties of this key Police Commission position are assumed fully without a lengthy disruption of service, it is imperative that the City Council approve an exemption to the hiring freeze for the filling of this position.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council approve a one-time exemption from the hiring freeze for the position of: 1 Executive Director, Police Commission (0600).

This position has been fully funded as part of the Police Department's FY 2003/04 and FY 2004/05 budget.

Presented by DENNIS P. ZINE, Councilman, 3rd District

Seconded by BERNARD C. PARKS, Councilmember, 8th District

Seconded by CINDY MISCIKOWSKI, Councilmember, 11th District

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT

THE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION EVENT AND THE ELECTRONICS & COMPUTER RECYCLING EVENT ARE BOTH COMING TO YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!

The Household Hazardous Waste Team Will be Collecting:

Motor Oil and Anti-Freeze
Aerosol Products
Household and Garden Chemicals
Pesticides and Fertilizers
Car Batteries
Pool Cleaners

The E-Waste Team Will be Collecting:

Monitors
Printers
Network Equipment
Cables
Telephones
Televisions

Cell Phones
Radios
Stercos
VCR'S
Electronic Toys

JULY 17 & 18, 2004



SATURDAY
AND SUNDAY

IN WOODLAND HILLS

JULY 17 & 18, 2004

**Los Angeles Pierce College
Parking Lot 4
6201 Winnetka Avenue
From 9a.m. - 3p.m.**



Transportation Limit

It is illegal to transport more than 15 gallons or 125 pounds of Household chemicals to a Household Hazardous Waste Event

We Do Not Accept:

BUSINESS WASTE
Ammunition
Radioactive Material
Biological Waste
Tires

Funded by a grant from the California Integrated Waste Management Board.



**For Information, Please Call:
1-800-98-TOXIC (1-800-988-6942)**

Warning: Disposing of household chemicals in your trash, storm drains or sewers damages the environment, and is AGAINST THE LAW. Illegal dumping carries a minimum fine of \$5000 per day per violation up to \$100,000 per day per violation or imprisonment (Section 25189.5, Health & Safety Code). The City of Los Angeles operates the "HAZMOBILE" drop-off program to provide for the safe and legal disposal of your unwanted household chemicals. As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and, upon request, will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services and activities.

Co-sponsored by the City of Los Angeles Bureau of Sanitation and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Works.





LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

FREE SUMMER PROGRAMS FOR TEENS

- Tuesday, July 6th, 4pm:** Teen Council Meeting – Help plan teen programs for the summer!
- Thursday, July 8th, 3pm:** *Lord of the Rings* party – Costume contest, games, prizes, and food!
- Saturday, July 17th, 10am-2pm:** LA Youth at Work – Job skills workshop – Learn resume writing, interviewing skills, and how to find and keep a job. For ages 16-24. Reservations required. Signup at the reference desk.
- Tuesday, July 27th, 3pm:** Movie Makeup Demo – Watch a makeup artist create bruises, scars, burns, and bullet holes out of makeup! Learn more about being a makeup artist!
- Tuesday Aug, 3rd, 3pm:** Feature Film - Enjoy a great feature film!
- Tuesday, Aug 17th, 2pm:** Drum Workshop—Hands-on workshop with drums from around the world!

West Valley Regional Branch Library
19036 Vanowen Street, Reseda, CA 91335
818.345.9806 - www.lapl.org

For more information about these library programs for teenagers, please contact Deborah Spector, Young Adult Librarian, at 818.345.9806 or 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:



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

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zine@council.lacity.org

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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 - Treasurer
LAPD: Line Reserve Officer
LAUSD: Reserve Motorcycle Sergeant

ALL AROUND TOWN



Councilman Zine, Gary Lee Moore GM of Bureau of Engineering, Congressman Sherman, Brad Rosenheim, Wayne Tanda of DOT, Beth Silhasek of Westfields Promenade and James Okazaki of DOT at the Ground Breaking of the Warner Center Transit Hub.



Councilman Zine talks to Cliff Ruff of the Police Protective League at an LA City Council Meeting.



Councilmembers Dennis Zine, Jan Perry and Greig Smith honor Jonathan Ames and the Emergency Air Response Unit of the Emergency Preparedness Department with GM Ellis Stanley.



Councilman Zine, Neighborhood Prosecutor Mike Pizutti and Phil Shulman of Fox Channel 11 at the LA Cityview, Channel 35 taping on the Third Council District.



LAPD Reserve Officer Zine, Mayor Hahn and Councilmember Smith showing support for the LAPD Reserve Program.



LA City Councilmembers, Tony Cardenas, Wendy Greuel, LAPD Valley Traffic 's Captain Greg Meyer, LAPD Chief Bergman, Councilmembers Dennis Zine & Jack Weiss at Valley Traffic Division's Safety Fair at Balboa Park.

DENNIS P. ZINE
COUNCILMAN, THIRD DISTRICT

ALL AROUND TOWN



Councilman Zine presents a certificate to Jill Haber and Laura Bell of Melody Acres at their Annual Block Party.



Councilman Zine presents \$20,000 check to Jackie Lamishaw, President of the Winnetka Neighborhood Council along with her husband Robert.



Councilman Zine gets a visit in Council Chambers from one of the local schools



Councilman Zine honors students from El Camino Real High School who won their 8th straight City Title in the 2004 LAUSD Academic Decathlon Championship.



Councilman Zine presents a certificate to Margaret Pontius of the Guadalupe Center along with Moheed Khan, Father Greg Cox and Rick Wilson, President of the Board.



Councilman Zine visits with Seniors of the Pacific Gardens Retirement Home to discuss a variety of issues.