

**DENNIS P. ZINE
COUNCILMAN, THIRD DISTRICT**

THE ZINE LINE

MARCH 2005 Volume 4: Issue 9

Editor & Publisher: **Yvette Whitaker**

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The Tax vs. the Facts

May ballot which would increase our sales-tax from 8.25% to 8.75%. It is true that we probably would not miss the additional two cents a hamburger would cost, or a few extra bucks on high ticket items that already cost hundreds or thousands of dollars. Some even feel it is a small price to pay for safety. I understand.

What I can't understand is ignoring the voice of our voters. Los Angeles residents' refusal to tax themselves to pay for police personnel isn't anything new. While more than 50% of Los Angeles voters supported an increased countywide sales-tax increase to hire more officers last November, it did not meet the required two-thirds

threshold for passage. Repeated attempts to re-vive this issue have historically been a huge failure met with strong public resistance. In fact, Los Angeles voters have failed to support city-only public safety sales-tax increases 5 times in the last 24 years.

It isn't that Los Angeles residents are stingy. They have financed bonds that have allowed for the construction of new libraries, police stations and fire stations. But when it comes to paying for additional City personnel they believe that the Mayor and city council are responsible for generating a budget that funds these positions. They are right.

Politicians are often accused of many things, but it isn't often enough that we are accused of being good listeners. Nothing could have been closer to the truth when the city council decided to move ahead with plans to ask voters to tax themselves to hire desperately needed public safety personnel.

On Wednesday, February 9, 2005 the Los Angeles City Council voted 10 to 5 to move forward with a plan to place a citywide sales-tax initiative on the

"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**



The Tax vs. the Facts

(Cont'd from Page 1)

All this talk about taxes forced me to reflect on the pomp and circumstance that surrounded the recent passage of the City's comprehensive business-tax reform package. Last November my colleagues and I stood up and enthusiastically promoted this legislation as an essential step in making Los Angeles a more business-friendly environment. Now that the celebration is a distant memory some are pushing a sales-tax that would have pushed for the same business owners we championed.

The City giveth, the City taketh away.

As a 37-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department, I strongly advocate for improving the lives of our officers and the residents they protect. But this is a problem for the Mayor and city council to solve during budget negotiations. It is not up to the taxpayers to dig deep into their pockets to solve a problem that requires our leadership - not theirs.

There is no doubt that tough decisions to reduce important programs, consolidate departments and services will have to be made to pay

for additional police and fire personnel. But there is no service more important for a city to provide than to guarantee the safety of its residents and business community. This why I will continue to vote against any measure that asks the voters to provide for themselves protection that their elected officials should already be providing for them.

I firmly believe that history will once again prove that residents want us to lead them, not the other way around.

KUDOS TO COUNCILMAN DENNIS P. ZINE & STAFF

Dear Honorable Councilman Zine,

We were at the City Council meeting on Wednesday, February 2nd. We applaud your taking position in favor of the small apartment owners and thank you very much for your support and understanding of our plight in trying to provide reasonable priced housing for City of Los Angeles.

Most sincerely,

Guy Veletzos

Hello Marianne,

Thank you for your help in navigating the zoning code maze. I will keep you informed of things from this end. If you hear of anything pertaining to this property, please let me know. Tell Mr. Zine, on my behalf, that you deserve a raise.

Thanks again,

Bill Hadley



**TOM HENRY,
CHIEF PLANNING
DEPUTY**

**MARIANNE KING,
ASSOCIATE PLANNING
DEPUTY**



Planning Tools & Tips for Neighborhood Councils

Perhaps the most empowering role of a Certified Neighborhood Council (CNC) is when new developments and land use requests are presented to the neighborhood council planning committees and/or before the full board. Councilman Zine wants to make sure that all neighborhood councils in his district are aware of the tools available to them to make the most informed and timely recommendations.

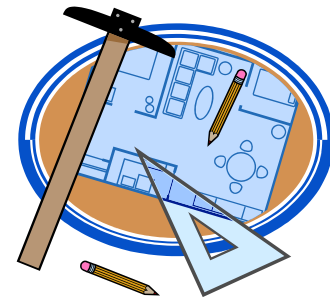
Early Notification System

(also known as CNC Reports)
- Every CNC should be receiving these reports via e-mail on a bi-monthly basis. Not all applicants contact the council office, therefore it is important that if a CNC wants to weigh in on a given request, that they contact the applicant as soon as possible after the report is sent out. This would allow enough time for the CNC to review and make a recommendation before a public hearing date is scheduled.

Councilman Zine has requested that the Planning Department include the applicant contact name and phone number on these reports. According to the Planning Department, that information will be added on the CNC report in about six weeks.

ZIMAS - Contains excellent mapping and parcel information to review planning requests. Go to <http://cityplanning.lacity.org> then click on Zoning Information - that will bring you not only to ZIMAS, but to the city's entire Planning and Zoning code book on-line. Also available under this same link is the city's General Plan, Community Plans and Specific Plans.

CNC Recommendation Letters - These letters are very important because it memorializes how the CNC feels about a given request or project.



Councilman Zine values this input highly when he takes a position on a project. If the council office does not receive a letter or it is received after the scheduled public hearing, the NC voice, after all that work, can be absent at the most important stage, the public hearing.

We thank ALL the neighborhood councils for their dedication and hard work. Keep up the good work. For any planning related matters, always feel free to contact Marianne King or Tom Henry at 818-756-8848 for assistance.



**BY MARISOL ESPINOZA, FIELD DEPUTY
SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF
CANOGA PARK, RESEDA & WINNETKA**

CRA Seeks New Owner for Reseda Theater



2005 promises to be an eventful year for Reseda due to the ongoing efforts of the Reseda community and the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA). The CRA is now the proud and official owner of the 350-seat Reseda Theater, located on Sherman Way and Reseda Blvd. The Reseda Theater, which had remained vacant since 1988, now belongs to the City of Los Angeles. The revitalization of this theater is one of the number one priorities for the CRA and Councilman Dennis P. Zine. The City is working to improve the community by focusing on the economic revitalization of the Reseda business corridor.

The Reseda Theater opened in 1948 and was designed by renowned movie-house architect S. Charles Lee, but was closed in 1988 after fifty years of operation.

The theater has been sitting vacant for more than 16 years, and has contributed to the deterioration of the area. Over the last several years, the property was not maintained, nor properly secured, turning it into a magnet for transients. After violating numerous Building and Safety codes over the years, the building was declared a public nuisance by the Building and Safety Commission in 2004. By that time, the CRA had already put in the offer to purchase the building, and the owner accepted.

The theater is 9,500 square feet, and the search is now on for an owner who will adapt the building to suit the community's needs. Earlier this year the CRA put out a request for proposals for interested parties to buy the property from the CRA, and to propose a plan for the site. On January 25th, the CRA held a non-mandatory pre-proposal conference for interested buyers to walk through the theater and to discuss the request for proposals. Currently, the CRA has put out two requests for proposals, one for adaptive reuse as a performing arts space and the other for a retail establishment. The CRA is going through the competitive process to find the best possible use for the building.

The community is working block by block to improve the area, and this is one example of Reseda moving forward in this direction. In addition to the refurbishment of the Reseda Theater, The CRA has many priorities, which include the facade and signage program, where several storefronts in the Reseda business area are getting a facelift this year. In addition, the CRA is ready to move forward on the Reseda Parking Lot Improvement Project, which would refurbish the parking lot South of Sherman Way, between Etiwanda Avenue and Lindley Avenue.

The realization of this project is one giant step in the right direction. Thanks to the efforts of the CRA and the community groups in Reseda, we will soon be able to see this area revitalized. For anyone who is interested in viewing both RFPs in their entirety, please check the CRA's website at www.crala.org





**BY GRETCHEN MARTIN, FIELD DEPUTY
SERVING THE COMMUNITY OF
WOODLAND HILLS**

Out and About in Woodland Hills

**COUNCILMAN SPEAKS
WITH CHAMBER**

Councilman Dennis P. Zine was invited as the Woodland Hills Chamber of Commerce special guest for their networking breakfast during their January meeting. Councilman Zine updated attendees on the business happenings in Warner Center, including the new Neiman Marcus coming to Topanga Plaza, and he also discussed a program at the Warner Center Apartments now being converted to condos where individuals who live or work in Warner Center can receive a discount on their purchase of a condo. Most importantly the Councilman discussed the significant positive impact the MTA Orange Line will have on the Woodland Hills business community by making it much more accessible to commuters.



MTA Transit Hub/Orangeline at Warner Center.

**COUNCILMAN ZINE
AND NEIGHBORHOOD
COUNCIL ON THE SAME
PAGE**

In keeping with his commitment to actively participate in neighborhood council meetings and activities, Councilman Zine and members of his staff attended the Woodland Hills, Warner Center Neighborhood Council meeting on Jan. 12th. Councilman Zine took time to focus on planning issues that have been of particular concern to local residents by reviewing the history of all planning cases in which the neighborhood council has made recommendations. The results indicated that - out of the 41 cases that have been reviewed by the neighborhood council- Councilman Zine has supported their position 36 times. This impressive number shows Councilman Zine's ongoing support of the Woodland Hills, Warner Center Neighborhood Council.

**NISSAN FOUNDATION
RECOGNIZED**

On behalf of Councilman Zine, I presented a certificate to the Nissan Foundation for their contri-

butions to the "New Directions in Workforce Preparation" Program at Pierce College. This program works with industry and professional organizations to educate the San Fernando Valley's workforce of tomorrow. The current areas of focus are international business, equestrian, office administration and on demand machining (shipboard repairs) along with automotive. The Nissan Foundation has generously supported the automotive program, having given a three-year grant that allows high school students to come in on week-ends for automotive classes. They have donated three high-end cars for the students to work on, and \$150,000 to the automotive department. They offer intern training grants where they pay half of the salary and the dealerships pay the other half. This allows students to examine the world of automotive repair, and allows dealerships to see how workers function in the work environment. As an added incentive, they also supply tool kits to students who complete the course as an incentive to stay in the program.



**BY NICOLE MOYE, FIELD DEPUTY
SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF
TARZANA & WEST HILLS**

**TASK FORCE TACKLES COYOTE
CONCERNS IN THIRD DISTRICT**

In response to the growing concerns of West Valley residents, Councilman Dennis P. Zine created a Coyote Task Force, which includes a panel of community members, Animal Services Commissioner Kathleen Riordan, Department of Agricultural Commissioner Jim Hartman and Troy Boswell of the City’s Department of Animal Services.

“There are commonly two different viewpoints when it comes to this issue,” said Councilman Zine. “On one hand there are concerned citizens who want to solve the problem by killing off the coyote population, but there are others who feel that these animals should be left alone. We need to come together and find a solution that will keep our children and our community safe, but that will also be balanced.”

The task force consists exclusively of Third Council District

residents who will convene over the coming months to examine possible changes to the City’s current policy regarding coyote regulation.

While the presence of a coyote in an urban area may seem unusual, these creatures are actually attracted to urban and suburban areas due to the easy accessibility to food, water, and shelter- items homeowners usually leave outside for their household pets.

In certain areas of Los Angeles coyotes have been observed on residential streets during the day. Because this is a little known fact, many pet owners are often unprepared for daytime attacks. Though rare, attacks on young children, have been reported in Los Angeles County. There are also cases of coyote attacks on children reported in metropolitan areas of Arizona, Maryland and Virginia.

As of 2001, Coyotes are not a threatened or endangered species in California. They are classified as non-game mammals by the Department of Fish and Game and as such can be taken at any time using approved methods. California Department of Fish and Game regulations prohibit the relocation of coyotes without written permission from the Department.

Councilman Zine’s advisory panel is comprised of 15 members from three communities: Tarzana, West Hills and Woodland Hills - which are the neighborhoods that have been most affected by the growing presence of coyotes in our district. It is estimated that the panel will reach a decision by the summer of 2005, at which time Councilman Zine will have a motion prepared to introduce to the City Council.





BRIAN PERRY
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE DEPUTY

TRACEY CHAVIRA
LEGISLATIVE DEPUTY



LEGISLATIVE ISSUES: AGENDAS, RESOLUTIONS, MOTIONS.

IRAQ HELMETS MOTION

In June of 2004, the Los Angeles City Council approved the donation of 2,500 body armor vests by the Los Angeles Police Department to the United States Central Command, operating in Doha, Qatar to be used by the Iraqi Police Service.

Currently, there are approximately 3,000 protective helmets that are scheduled to be destroyed as surplus equipment by the LAPD. Additionally, an undetermined number of surplus handcuffs are available.

It is believed that these items meet the standards of the United States Central Command and would be better used to assist in the efforts to establish police operations in Iraq than to be destroyed locally.

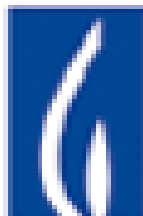
I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Police Department refrain from destroying surplus helmets and handcuffs that meet the appropriate standards and transfer them to the United States Central Command for use by the Iraqi Police Service; and

I FURTHER MOVE that the City Attorney draft the necessary documents to successfully complete this donation.

Presented by Councilman Dennis P. Zine, Third District

FREE Low-Income Energy-Saving Devices

Energy utilities regulated by the CPUC have low-income energy efficiency programs in which consumers, who qualify under the low-income discount program referred to as the CARE program, and seniors and disabled consumers, who earn slightly more than the CARE income limits, may get energy saving devices for free. Consumers can call their energy utilities for more information. Also, consumers are asking us if vendors who have approached them about the programs are legitimate. Advise your constituents that the vendor must provide the name of the utility with which it has contracted. Also, utilities keep lists of which vendors are on contract and if in doubt, consumers may call the utility before agreeing to the vendors' offers. Following are the five largest energy utilities' phone numbers for their low-income programs:



Pacific Gas & Electric - 1-800-933-9555

Southern California Edison - 1-800-736-4777

San Diego Gas and Electric - 1-800-411-7343

Sierra Pacific - 1-800-782-2506

Southern California Gas - 1-800-331-7593



LOW -INCOME & SENIOR TAX COUNSELING

Councilman Dennis P. Zine has once again offered the use of the West Valley Municipal Building to **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program** to prepare income taxes for low-income individuals & to **AARP Tax-Aide** for Senior's.

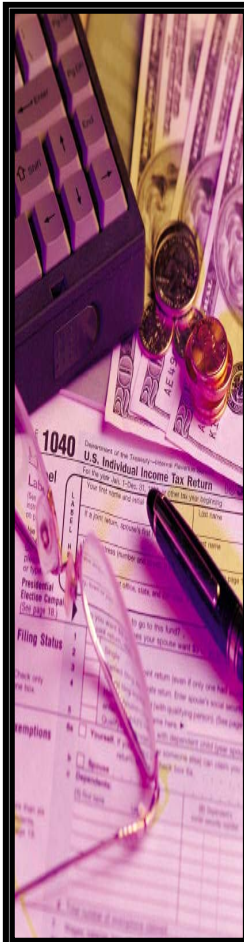
Located at 19040 Vanowen Street at the corner of Vanalden in Reseda.

**LOW INCOME: Every Tuesday from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM
(in the Conference Room)**

**SENIOR CITIZENS: Tues., Wed., & Thurs. by appointment only
(in room 129)
through April 5th**

For more information or to schedule an appointment,

Please call (818) 756-8217



\$1000 REWARD



For any individual providing information to the police which results in the apprehension and conviction of vandalism suspects.

If you or any of your employees have any information which may be helpful in ending the current assault of graffiti and vandalism in your area, I urge you to contact **LAPD at (818) 756-9891 or call my office at (818) 756-8848.**

Please know that I am reviewing every possible option and will take appropriate action to end this attack on our neighborhoods. I appreciate your help and cooperation in this matter.

Together we can keep our community safe and beautiful.

**DENNIS P. ZINE,
COUNCILMAN
Third District**

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.



Employment Opportunities

The Bureau of the Census has openings for Field Representatives in Your Area

- U.S. Citizenship required
- Hourly Salary \$12.38 per hour + mileage
- Approximately 45 hours of work monthly (specifically to work on the American Community Survey)
- Available to work days, evenings, & weekends

Department of Commerce
U.S. Census Bureau
AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
The Department of Commerce does not condone or tolerate discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, physical or mental disability, or sexual orientation.

Must have valid driver's license
Must have use of an automobile
Must have telephone line
Minimum 18 years old

For additional information: Recruiting 800-992-3530, Ext 166

Expires: 5/31/05

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

City Hall Office:

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Sheree Adams, Receptionist—sadams@council.lacity.org
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Our Website Has Been Updated! Check It Out at: 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

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
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 Dennis P. Zine and Mayor James Hahn with Rivas Zamora, Mayor of San Salvador, El Salvador our sister city and his wife.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine with Congressman Brad Sherman and Assemblymember Paul Koretz at Super Sunday.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine with Jeff Suppan, Pitcher for the St. Louis Cardinals.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine, Steve Kipper, Shelly Markman, Danny Goldstein and Jeff King at a Jewish Home for the Aging event.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine with Rose Goldwater, Gloria Mogul, LAFD Chief, Mark Jones and Joe Andrews at the Woodland Hills Community Social.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine honors Chaplain Don Vetter at a memorial service remembering the Four Chaplains and the film "Sacrifice at Sea" their story of the Dorchester that was hit by a torpedo.

ALL AROUND TOWN



Councilman Dennis P. Zine with Frank Bush , Principal Inspector of Building & Safety and LAFD Chief, Mark Jones.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine, Sean McCarthy, Richard Leyner & Lois Curran-Klein at the Woodland Hills Chamber event.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine honors Ron Butcher, City Photographer of the CLA's Office on his Retirement.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine honors Richard Garcia & Anthony Chapa in City Council.



Councilmember's Zine and Weiss showing Councilman Villaraigosa's son what LA City Council is all about.



Westfield newest expansion which will include a Neiman Marcus, Target, various restaurants, family lounge and a new playtown.