

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

THE ZINE LINE

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Editor & Publisher: **Yvette Whitaker**

Zine Addresses Pocket Bike Nuisance with Legislation



If you live in a residential area, or have recently driven through one, I am sure you have seen and heard a mini motorcycle or “pocket bike” zooming by you. Not only are they annoying, they are extremely unsafe and - most importantly - they are illegal to operate on public property.

Over the last few years countless Third District residents have contacted my office with complaints about these dangerous toys. After a years-long effort, I am pleased to announce that the city council voted unanimously to support my measure, which requires pocket bike vendors to post all relevant laws pertaining to their use at the point of purchase. Additionally, this law now requires vendors to place decals on the mini motorcycles to remind riders that they are for use on private - not public - property .

In California, pocket bikes are illegal on public streets, but they still pose a major safety hazard to riders, motorists, and pedestrians. Standing barely 20 inches tall, they weigh between 35-

60 pounds and place riders at eye level with the bumper of most oncoming vehicles making pocket bike riders all but invisible to the average motorist. Often pocket bikes are built without required safety features such as brake lights, rear reflectors, mirrors and turn signals.

Los Angeles public streets, in both commercial and residential areas, have seen a sudden increase in the number of mini-motorcycles being driven by both children and adults. With a noise level equal to that of a lawnmower, and a maximum speed of 70 miles per hour, pocket bikes are a growing concern for local residents and police.

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“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**





**TOM HENRY,
CHIEF PLANNING
DEPUTY**

**MARIANNE KING,
ASSOCIATE PLANNING
DEPUTY**



**ZINE CALLS FOR RESTRUCTURING
OF PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

In order to improve the morale and efficiency of the Los Angeles Planning Department, Councilman Dennis P. Zine is calling upon city officials to investigate the plausibility of restructuring the department.

In recent history there have been a number of audits and reports which have suggested various ways the planning department could be reconfigured. For example, a 1993 organizational review titled the "Zucker Report" detailed specific suggestions on how to reorganize roles in the Planning Department. Unfortunately many recommendations - such as those mentioned in the "Zucker Report" - were never implemented.

"Before a new Director of Planning is appointed, I want to guarantee that this

individual has all necessary information and tools at their disposal," said Zine. "Over the years, various reports and audits have sat on shelves collecting dust. Now is the time to compile them and decide what is best for the city."

City planning, zoning and land development matters are handled differently across the nation. Since there is no one municipal city planning organizational model, this motion will examine our current organization and decide if it is the most productive.

In addition to organizational factors, numerous issues ranging from budget restrictions, lack of adequate personnel, pressure from developers, citizen activists, neighborhood councils, and allegations of unfair promotional practices

have contributed to an environment of staff demoralization.

"The Planning Department employs some of the brightest and most dedicated city employees," said Zine. "As Chair of the Personnel Committee, I want to guarantee that the current model is one that maximizes both the public's need for efficiency and the employees time and talents."

This report will be presented to the Planning and Land Use Management and Personnel Committees prior to the hiring of a new Director of Planning.

A copy of the motion that was presented to the City Council on March 29th is on **Page Three**.

Zine Addresses Pocket Bike Nuisance with Legislation (Cont'd from Page One)



**Councilman Dennis P. Zine
on a Pocket Bike in Council.**

These dangerous machines may look like toys, but they are hell on wheels. My goal is to see that everyone, riders and public alike know the law. It seems only logical that the city should do what it can to regulate pocket bikes that allow residents, most often children, to ride at high speeds only inches off the ground.

The Los Angeles Police Department - along with the California Highway Patrol - have reported numerous injuries and fatalities associated with pocket bikes. Of course, enforcement of this new regulation would not be possible without the help and commitment of LAPD, Valley Traffic Division, Captain Ron Marbrey and the efforts of the CHP.

While I have addressed the public safety/public nuisance issue surrounding pocket bikes, there are always ways that I can continue to improve the Third District and the city as a whole. The pocket bike motion was a result of residence who were proactive enough to alert me to the problem.

If you have a community concern, or have an idea you think would improve our quality of life, please contact my District Director, Michael Besem, at (818) 756-8848. I and my staff are always open to hearing your thoughts and ideas.

RESTRUCTURING OF PLANNING DEPARTMENT MOTION

With the hiring of a new Director of Planning imminent, it is important our City leadership give the tools and support necessary for the new Director to take charge. The Department of City Planning is full of bright and intelligent personnel who have dedicated their professional lives to serving the City of Los Angeles. However, numerous factors ranging from budget restrictions, lack of adequate personnel, pressure from developers, citizen activists and neighborhood councils, and allegations of unfair promotional practices have contributed to an environment of staff demoralization. It should also be noted that the Planning Department is the only city department that is responsible to *nine* commissions, the Mayor, and the City Council. The City Council should provide the tools, support and guidance to help the new Director of Planning lead the department in increasing productivity, efficiency, responsiveness, innovation and improving staff morale.

With the transition in management leadership, a review of various municipal organizational models as well as previous and current personnel and performance audit recommendations would be most instructive. Such a review may highlight a variety of ideas and strategies for further consideration, including but not limited to restructuring of internal roles and functions, departmental reorganization and reform of management policies and practices.

City planning, zoning and land development matters are handled differently across the nation. There is no one municipal city planning organizational structure. In some cities, the city planning function is executed in a separate, independent department, while in others, it is consolidated with other municipal functions such as public works or building and safety. In the City of Los Angeles, the City Charter calls out specific mandates for the city planning function. What constitutes the appropriate and most effective organizational model for the second largest city in the nation is a policy question worth investigating.

In 1993, a personnel and organizational audit called the "Zucker Report" was published with specific suggestions on how to reorganize roles in the Planning Department. Unfortunately many recommendations were never implemented. Recently the Personnel Department completed an audit of the Planning Department. Currently the City Controller's Office is auditing the Planning and Public Works Departments, and plans to start an audit of the Building and Safety Department.

The various audit recommendations pertinent to the Planning Department ought to be compiled, analyzed and presented in a single document as a frame of reference for possible organizational and management reform. The new Director should have the benefit of considering these recommendations for prioritization and implementation.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the City Administrative Officer (CAO) and Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA) to prepare a report containing but not limited to the following elements:

1. An inventory of organizational structures and models amongst U. S. municipalities implementing the city planning function.
2. A review and analysis of the above-mentioned audits, reports and City Charter mandates for any recommended restructuring of city planning roles, functions or organization.
3. An assessment of the legality, advantages and disadvantages of re-organizing the city planning function with other municipal functions within a single organization versus maintaining a separate, independent organization.

I FURTHER MOVE that the CAO and CLA report back to the Planning and Land Use Management and Personnel Committees prior to the hiring of the new Director of Planning.

Presented by: DENNIS P. ZINE, Councilman, 3rd District on March 29, 2005



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

Canoga Park Celebrates St. Patty's Day

Community members came together on March 17, all in honor of an age old tradition, the Annual Historic Old Town Canoga Park Saint Patrick's Day Community March and Celebration.

Many know of this holiday, but many might not know its history. St. Patrick's Day is celebrated on March 17, because this is the anniversary of his death in the fifth century. The Irish have observed this day as a religious holiday for thousands of years. However, the first St. Patrick's Day parade took place not in Ireland, but in the United States. Irish soldiers serving in the English military marched through New York City on March 17, 1762. Along with their music, the parade helped the soldiers to reconnect with their Irish roots, as well as fellow Irishmen serving in the English army.

This year the Canoga Park community came together once again to celebrate the Irish holiday. The march, which began at the Madrid Theater on Sherman Way, headed east to Canoga Avenue, then back west along Sherman Way, and culminated at Follow Your Heart Restau-

rant. The event, which was sponsored by the Canoga Park Improvement Association, the Canoga Park Neighborhood Council, and Main Street Canoga Park, was originally created to bring people into the business area. Community members, both residents and

business owners alike, walked together to celebrate and showcase the many improvements in the area. Some of these include the elimination of graffiti, the daily maintenance and cleaning of the business corridor, the Walk of Hearts plaques and so much more.

The color green was visible all along the Sherman Way corridor that day. All of the attendees wore several shades of green. Some of the highlights of the day included tales by True Thomas the Storyteller, a juggler, *mariaichis*, a Celtic band, and the bagpipers which led the march alongside Councilman Zine and Saint Patrick himself. At the end of the day, there were also raffles for prizes and food at Follow Your Heart. We look forward to seeing this event flourish in upcoming years.

This was a great day to celebrate the amazing diversity that the Canoga Park community has to offer.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine and Daily News Reporter Dennis McCarthy at the Canoga Park St. Patrick's Day Parade.



Students from Our Lady of the Valley Catholic School attended the Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade along Sherman Way.



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

OUT AND ABOUT IN WOODLAND HILLS

Zine visits Senior Centers

Councilman Dennis P. Zine enjoyed visiting several of our Senior Centers and appreciated spending time with them to hear their concerns. Not surprisingly, their concerns were few. This is one happy group of constituents!



**Councilman Dennis P. Zine visits
ONEgeneration.**

The City of Los Angeles provides many wonderful services for our Seniors and they seem to really be enjoying them. Hot lunches are served daily at the four Senior Centers in District 3, which include: ONEgeneration in Reseda, Owensmouth Gardens in Woodland Hills, Canoga Park Senior Center in Canoga Park and Reseda East in Reseda. These meals are very nutritious and planned with Senior needs in mind.



**Councilman Dennis P. Zine visits
Jewish Home for the Aging.**

In addition to providing food, there are many daily including movies, exercise classes, Bingo, dieting classes, cards and discussion groups. Special trips are planned throughout the year which allow seniors to visit local landmarks as well as venture to out-of-town desitnations. Other services include; H.E.L.P., Disease prevention and health promotion services, ADCRC, Alzheimer’s Day Care and Resource Centers, Family Caregiver support Programs and Adult Day Support Centers, help with loneliness, nutrition and financial problems. Free Income Tax Counseling is also available from February til tax time. Councilman Zine’s office offers free busses to seniors for many of their trips, including the Follies in Palm Springs.

St. Mel’s Parish

On March 12, Nicole Moye, Field Deputy for Councilman Dennis P. Zine presented St. Mel Parish with a Resolution signed by Councilman Zine, Mayor Hahn, and all other members of the city council. The resolution congratulated St. Mel Parish on 50 years in Woodland Hills and commended them for all of the social programs they have implemented during the last half century. These programs have worked to not only improve the lives of the parishioners but for the Woodland Hills area as a whole. Among these programs are the “Justice and Peace Committee”, in which parishioners research and reach consensus on public policy issues with social justice components. This committee also collaborates with other parishes to

respond to the needs of the poor, homeless, jobless, etc., by helping them to improve their standard of living. St Mel Parish’s “St. Vincent De Paul” Society works to provide emergency services, including food, clothing, and subsistence to parishioners and others. Its primary mission is to support the needs of the less fortunate. The resolution was accepted on behalf of St. Mel by Monsignor Padraic Loftus and wished the parish continued growth and success in their mission in the coming years.

19th Annual Spelling Bee

As Councilman Zine’s representative, it was my pleasure to attend the 19th annual Los Angeles Daily News Regional Spelling Bee. This annual event is held at Taft High School and involves students from the San Fernando Valley, Santa Clarita Valley and Castaic. Both public and private schools send the winner of their individual school’s spelling bee to this regional spelling bee. Gathered together were 44 excited winners from various schools, including Pinecrest Woodland Hills and Fullbright Elementary representing District 3. It was really exciting to watch and hear them as each word presented a challenge. I was proud to present a certificate to Lisa Williams from the Daily News congratulating her for the great job she did organizing the event. Congratulations to all who participated. Councilman Zine sent his special congratulations to Christian Medina, the first place winner, who won by spelling the word “nonage simal” which ironically means the 19th degree.



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

ZINE DECLARES APRIL 4 SAFE SURRENDER WEEK

Councilman Dennis P. Zine celebrated April as “Month of the Young Child” by declaring the Week of April 4th “Safe Surrender” Week in the City of Los Angeles.

The Safe Surrender baby law was signed into law by Governor Davis in September 2000, and went into effect January 1, 2001. The purpose of the law is to protect infants from being hurt or killed because they were abandoned. The law allows a parent or legal guardian to confidentially surrender an infant, three days old or younger, to any hospital emergency room or other designated safe surrender site. As long as the baby has not been abused or neglected, the person may surrender the baby without fear of arrest or prosecution for child abandonment.

Though the Governor Davis’ Safe Surrender Law went into effect in 2001, it is due to expire as early as January 1, 2006, unless a later enacted statute extends or repeals the fast approaching date. This fact makes young mothers uncomfortable with the idea of surrendering their young at a hospital or a designated drop off location. Which was a leading factor in why many mothers are hesitant to actually take their newborns into a safe surrender location and sometimes choose more fatal alternatives. Councilman Zine was aware of this and wanted to create an innovative way of reminding scared parents of the safer alternatives that would guarantee the survival of each child.

In 2004, Councilman Zine introduced a motion to increase public awareness of safe surrender laws, which included the creation of a bumper sticker. This was done in an effort to remind the public, more specifically teen parents, that there is an alternative - a safe alternative. Newborns can be dropped off at a safe surrender location where they will be given medical attention and a fighting chance at life. On March 30, Councilman Zine was joined by Councilmember Greuel, not only to shed light to this very serious issue, but also to honor the people who work everyday to eliminate the untimely death of these innocent children.

The two people that were honored in council were Debi Faris-Cifelli and Don Knabe. Debi Faris-Cifelli founded The Garden of Angels. This garden serves as a final resting place for children who have been found dead in trash cans, dumpsters or washed up on beaches after being discarded by their parents. To date she has buried 72 children. Don Knabe, author of legislation which assembled a task force on the subject of safe surrender was the second honoree. His efforts led to the “No shame, No blame, No names” campaign. Since the campaign first began in 2002, the number of dead babies found in Los Angeles County has declined significantly.

According to Los Angeles County, 32 babies have been safely surrendered under California’s ‘Safe Arms for Newborns’ law. For more information, please visit <http://babysafela.org/data.htm>.



Councilmembers Zine & Greuel honors Debbie & Steve Cifelli for founding “The Garden of Angels” a final resting place for children who have been found dead in trash bins.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine declaring the week of April 4th “Safe Surrender Week” in the City of Los Angeles.



BRIAN PERRY
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE DEPUTY

TRACEY CHAVIRA
LEGISLATIVE DEPUTY



LEGISLATIVE ISSUES: AGENDAS, RESOLUTIONS, MOTIONS.

UNCLAIMED MONIES MOTION

In recent years, the City has made numerous efforts to increase the total number of police officers in the Los Angeles Police Department. At the same time, voters have rejected ballot measures to increase taxes to pay for police hiring, The Most recent example was Measure A - the Los Angeles County Public Safety, Emergency Response and Crime Prevention Measure, which would have increased the sales tax by ½ cent countywide. Clearly, City leaders must commit themselves to examining internal policies and operational practice so that revenue is redirected toward our public safety goals.

Currently, the City maintains a trust fund for monies seized incidental to arrests. The California Government Code provides that any money remaining unclaimed in the City Treasury for three years or more may become the property of the City after publication of a notice, provided that within the specified period of time, no verified complaint seeking to recover all or a designated part of the money is filed in a court of competent jurisdiction. Further, California Government Code Section 50053 provides that if such money becomes the property of the City, the legislative body may transfer it to the General Fund.

While it has been the general practice of the City to transfer funds to the General Fund, it is clearly appropriate that these monies be committed to the hiring of additional police officers.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council request the City Attorney to draft an Ordinance amending Los Angeles Administrative Code, Article 14, Section 5.112, “Trust Fund for Monies Seized Incidental to Arrests,” to provide that any unclaimed monies be transferred to the Police Hiring Account with the Special Fund for Efficiency Projects and Police Hiring.

PRESENTED BY: DENNIS P. ZINE, Councilman, 3rd District

UCLA Extension Launches International Trade Courses

at Pierce College in Woodland Hills

UCLA Extension is offering a course in international trade at Pierce College in Woodland Hills this spring. Global Business Skills: Planning and Negotiating Strategies meets **Saturday, 9am-12:30pm, April 2-June 11** at the Student Services Center Conference Room on the Pierce College campus. This highly interactive simulation-based course provides business managers and executives with the knowledge and skills to work in the global marketplace. Topics include understanding hospitality and protocol, establishing trust and credibility, and other cross-cultural understanding critical for success in the global marketplace.

This inaugural offering will be followed by more courses being offered at Pierce College in the summer and fall. Eventually, UCLA Extension plans to offer its entire international trade and commerce program at Pierce, in partnership with the Pierce College International Trade Center.

For complete course descriptions and online enrollment, visit www.uclaextension.edu. For more information, call (310) 794-5470 or e-mail earagon@uclaextension.edu.

SPRING CAREER FAIR 2005

The spring CAREER FAIR 2005

for L. A. Pierce College will be held

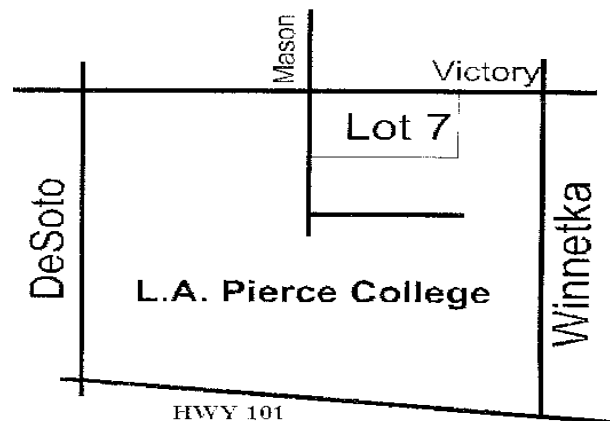
May 18, 2005 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

6201 Winnetka Avenue, Woodland Hills, CA 91371

on the Campus Mall, which is located next to Parking Lot 7

The CAREER FAIR is open to the public and more than 500 employers have been invited to participate.

For more information, contact Richard Skidmore, at (818) 719-6453 or visit the website at www.piercecollege.edu/offices/jobcenter



\$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.



THANK YOU, DANK U, MERCI, DANKE, GRAZIE, OBRIGADO, GRACIAS

Councilman Dennis Zine sent his staff to the hearing. He is against the lot split and zone change as was stated at the hearing, that he made a pledge when he was elected 4 years ago, to help preserve our neighborhood.

Councilman Dennis Zine has kept his word and has been a very strong force for our neighborhood.

Without his backing and his staff, Kathy Delle Donne and TNC, we would have had a tougher fight.

Jill

Councilman Dennis P. Zine,

I loved the integrity you showed when the tax hike was being considered for additional policeman, and how you exposed Hahn's pressure on you and your staff and subsequent displeasure at your not supporting his agenda. I watch your Council meetings as often as I can and really appreciate the efforts and contributions you have bestowed on our city. You earned my vote!

Lisa Cerda
Cochairperson
T.R.A.P.P.D.

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

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

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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, Actress, Jane Meadows and KCAL 9 Newsman Dave Clark served meals to the Homeless at the Los Angeles Mission Easter Holiday Celebration.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine with Reporter Tony Valdez on the Midday Broadcast for Fox Channel 11.



Los Angeles City Councilmembers honor Commander Paul Kim on his retirement from LAPD.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine honors Craig Levy, Jose De La Cruz, Dan Kinkelstein and other L.A. County Sheriff Officers.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine and Council President, Alex Padilla with 2 of the World Wrestling Federated Wrestlers.



Councilmembers Dennis P. Zine & Antonio Villaraigosa at the Persian Festival at Balboa Park.

ALL AROUND TOWN



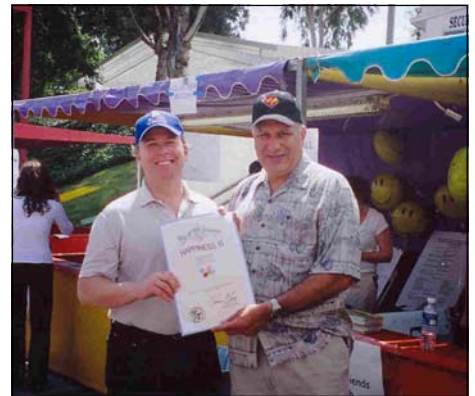
Councilmembers Zine and LaBonge honor the Korean Delegation in LA City Council.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine honors Jon Paul Cowen from Wells Fargo Bank.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine honors Angelo Patsie and his staff from the Personnel Department.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine with Rabbi Vogle of Temple Aliyah at their Purim Festival.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine and Rabbi Moskovitz at the Temple Judea Purim Carnival.



Councilman Dennis P. Zine presented congratulatory Certificates to members of the Jewish War Veterans of the USA at their Annual Luncheon.