

NEWS FROM Councilman Dennis P. Zine

Third Council District, City Hall, Room 450, Los Angeles, CA 90012

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ZINE INTRODUCES LEGISLATION TO REGULATE NUISANCE MOTELS

(Los Angeles) - Seeking to address the Citywide prostitution problem which plagues some lodging establishments, Councilman Dennis P. Zine introduced legislation on Wednesday dealing with hotel registers and rentals.

According to the Los Angeles Police Department, in the Valley, South, and West Bureaus, individuals continue to rent rooms hourly and anonymously to engage in the crime of prostitution. Zine's motion instructs the City Attorney to prepare an ordinance which would amend Section 41.49 of the Los Angeles Municipal Code, requiring hotel/owners to maintain comprehensive guest records, to train employees on checking in guests, to prohibit rentals by the hour and more than once in a 12 hour period unless the establishments provides specific services, and to prohibit guests from providing false identification.

"Under current policy, hotel/motel rentals cannot be regulated unless a nuisance case has already been established by the Zoning Administrator of the Planning Department, and it can take years for this to occur," said Zine, a 37 year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department and acting Reserve Police Officer. "We should require owners to be accountable to ensure that they are not facilitating crime in their establishments."

Previously, in 1996, the Los Angeles City Council introduced an ordinance which would prohibit the rentals of hotels by the hour, but this issue never came before Council for a vote.

This motion has been referred to the Planning and Land Use Management Committee of the City Council for review and discussion.

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