



NEWS FROM

Councilman Dennis P. Zine

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

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VANOWEN TRAGEDY PROMPTS COUNCILMAN ZINE TO ISSUE REWARD REQUEST AND LAPD RESPONSE

(Los Angeles) - Seeking to bring safety to the streets and discourage deadly street racing, Councilman Dennis P. Zine today introduced two motions to address the tragic traffic collision which took place earlier this week in the 24000 block of Vanowen Street.

The first motion, a \$25,000 reward, will encourage the public to provide information on the identity or description of the other car involved in the street race which killed 19 year old Jonathan McGinnis on Tuesday, May 16th. Insufficient leads have come forth to find the other driver who may have participated in the street race, which is illegal and aggressively enforced by Los Angeles Police Department.

The second motion is drawn from a Zine motion originally introduced September 2004 which led to the development of an awareness campaign to educate and warn youth about the consequences of illegal street racing. Illegal street racing is more popular in the San Fernando Valley due to the many long, wide, straight streets that some say resemble ready-made impromptu drag strips. In light of this recent fatal collision, a review of the educational programs in the San Fernando Valley has been requested, along with a specific request to Valley Traffic Division to detail the problems within a two mile radius of the accident site on Vanowen Street.

“In my 38 years with the Los Angeles Police Department, I saw many terrible and heartbreaking tragedies involving street racing,” said Zine, a member of the Public Safety Committee of the Los Angeles City Council. “We have to educate and bring awareness to youth in our communities that recklessness can lead to tragedy.”

The second motion has been referred to Public Safety Committee for the City Council for review and a report within 30 days.

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