



NEWS – OFFICE OF COUNCILMAN DENNIS P. ZINE

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Frustrated by Water Damage at City Hall, Councilman Zine Proposes Changes to City Contracting Policy

After City Hall's new \$900,000 roof failed to keep Councilman Dennis Zine's office dry during the recent rains, the Councilman is calling for a thorough investigation into the quality of construction for all City of Los Angeles buildings.

Leaks in the roof, which was repaired after a \$300 million retrofitting at City Hall, had Councilmember Zine's staffers scrambling to find buckets. The Councilmember was not amused. "Los Angeles has a policy of awarding contracts to the lowest bidder, but if the lowest bid results in thousands of dollars in repairs to our City facilities, then the taxpayers are paying twice. Once for the construction, and again for the repairs. This is unacceptable."

In consideration of these leaks, and previous inquiries Zine has made to Public Works regarding construction problems at Police Stations and Libraries, the Councilmember has proposed legislation to examine the awarding of City building contracts.

The City of Los Angeles is currently responsible for maintaining approximately 850 buildings. Since news of the damage at City Hall was revealed, employees at numerous City facilities have contacted Councilman Zine's office to complain of serious water damage and expressed concern over other structural defects.

"After some preliminary research, it appears that many of the same contractors and designers who built defective buildings are continually awarded City contracts simply because they offer the lowest bid. My legislation will examine the Contractor Responsibility Ordinance to make certain that contractors are responsible for their work long after the construction is complete," said Zine.

Best Roofing & Waterproofing Inc., who was contracted to repair the roof at City Hall in 2002, was also the contractor who replaced the roof at Zine's district office in Reseda less than one year ago. According to staff members at that office, they have experienced eight leaks in just the last week.

Additionally, Councilman Zine's legislation will examine disciplining contractors who are proven responsible for shoddy work on City buildings, as well as creating a link on the City web page which would allow citizens to examine the names and backgrounds of all contractors currently doing work for the City.

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