



Press Advisory

FROM

Councilman Dennis P. Zine

Third District

200 N. Spring St. Room 450, Los Angeles, CA 90012

<http://www.lacity.org/council/cd3/>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 29, 2005

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Zine to Announce City of Los Angeles “Safe Surrender Week”

LOS ANGELES - During tomorrow’s meeting of the Los Angeles City Council, Councilman Dennis P. Zine will announce the kick-off of the citywide safe surrender public awareness campaign, as well as honor two individuals who have made significant contributions to saving the lives of abandoned babies.

Over the last few months the media has covered countless stories of parents abandoning their newborn children in dumpsters and in other locations out of public viewing. Such news prompted Councilman Zine to declare the week of April 4th “Safe Surrender Week” in the City of Los Angeles.

To show the city’s commitment to this venture, tomorrow Councilman Zine will announce the city’s plan to display safe surrender posters on our sanitation trucks, DASH and commuter buses, and at bus shelters throughout the city.

In addition to unveiling the posters, Councilman Zine will present proclamations to Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe and to Debi Faris-Cifelli who runs the Garden of Angels.

Supervisor Knabe has become California’s leading advocate and expert on safe surrender laws. Not only did he spearhead the creation of the Safe Haven Task Force, he also played a leading role in implementing the establishment of a 24-hour Safe Haven Hotline as well as the designation of 157 County Fire Stations and almost all city fire stations as safe surrender sites.

Debi Faris-Cifelli is the founder of Garden of Angels, a charity that works to provide names and legal burials for abandoned newborns. Debi and her husband, Mark, paid \$27,000 for 44 small plots in Desert Lawn Cemetery in Calimesa.

At the conclusion of the Council presentation, Councilman Zine will ask the city council to support SB 116. This California State Senate bill will extend the Safe Surrender Law indefinitely. Currently, the Safe Surrender Law is scheduled to sunset in January of 2006.

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WHEN: Wednesday, March 30th, 2005
10:00 a.m.

WHERE: John Ferraro Council Chambers Room 340, City Hall
200 North Spring Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

WHO: Councilmembers Dennis P. Zine, and Wendy Greuel; Los Angeles County Supervisor, Don Knabe; Founder of Garden of Angels, Debi Faris-Cifelli; Department of Transportation, General Manager, Wayne Tanda; Viacom JCDecaux Street Furniture, Co-Managing Director, Francois Nion.

VISUALS: A poster reading, "Don't Abandoned Your Baby. No Shame. No Blame. No Names."

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