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### **Zine Calls for Restructuring of Planning Department**

Los Angeles - Seeking to improve the morale and efficiency of the Los Angeles Planning Department, today City Councilman Dennis P. Zine called 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.

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