



NEWS FROM

Councilman Dennis P. Zine

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

For Immediate Release

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ZINE WORKERS' COMPENSATION MOTIONS ADOPTED BY CITY COUNCIL

LOS ANGELES- Tuesday the Los Angeles City Council voted unanimously to approve two new City ordinances designed to attack workers' compensation fraud at its source.

Under these new provisions any persons previously convicted of workers' compensation fraud in either the public or private sectors will be automatically excluded from employment with the City of Los Angeles. The second measure requires all City general managers and agency heads to immediately terminate current City employees based on a preponderance of the evidence that the employee committed workers' compensation fraud, rather than wait for the outcome in a criminal proceeding.

"Individuals who have been convicted of workers' compensation fraud are thieves, and under no circumstances should we allow them to work for the city," said Zine. "I want the citizens of Los Angeles to know that I am not waiting for Sacramento to take action on this costly issue, my colleagues and I are doing what we can today to help save tax money."

Within the City of Los Angeles, workers' compensation fraud is blatant theft of taxpayer dollars. More than \$142 million in workers' compensation pay-outs are budgeted for the current fiscal year, a \$29 million increase over 2002-2003, and next year will see an even larger chunk of taxpayer money earmarked for workers' compensation claims.

The City cannot afford the costs of fraud when basic services are being starved for funds.

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