



# NEWS FROM

## Councilman Dennis P. Zine

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

**For Immediate Release**

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### **COUNCILMAN ZINE APPLAUDS COUNCIL SUPPORT OF EFFORT TO ASSIST NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCILS TO OBTAIN MEETING SPACE**

(LOS ANGELES) - The Los Angeles City Council today voted unanimously to obligate the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) to assist Neighborhood Councils in finding adequate office and meeting space.

Prior to Council action, Neighborhood Councils had to coordinate with the General Services Department (GSD) in order research and secure available office space. Once a location was identified, Neighborhood Councils were often forced to deal with countless City entities, including the City Attorney and GSD, in addition to DONE. This cumbersome process was a source of confusion to Neighborhood Council representatives, who were unclear on who they should turn to with questions and concerns.

As of today, DONE is obligated to ensure that Neighborhood Councils have adequate office and meeting space to conduct their business. This measure requires that DONE not only facilitate the shared utilization of City owned or leased space, but that they also coordinate the acceptance and use of donated space by private donors. Additionally, this motion transfers the administrative responsibility for short term leases (1 year or less) on behalf of certified Neighborhood Councils from GSD to DONE.

“Hopefully this will eliminate frustration expressed by Neighborhood Council Representatives” said Zine. “It is important the City Council do everything we can to increase the effectiveness of Neighborhood Councils, they should not have to struggle with City bureaucracy.”

Councilman Zine was instrumental in the creation of Neighborhood Councils while he served as a member of the Elected Charter Commission. He continues his dedication to preserving and supporting the efforts of Neighborhood Councils throughout Los Angeles as Vice Chair of the Education and Neighborhood Committees.

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