



# 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**

**May 21, 2004**

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## Coalition Announces Plan to Take On Bandit Towing Industry

*LOS ANGELES* - With several Los Angeles area towing operators suspected of extorting money from innocent motorists, Councilman Dennis P. Zine is joining with Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, and other members of the City Council, to express the City's determination to protect consumers from unscrupulous tow truck operators who are preying on the public. Toward this end, Zine will introduce two Council motions to help bring some clarity to the regulations governing the towing industry. Recent media reports have shown tow truck operators endangering public safety by engaging in the theft of lawfully parked vehicles from parking lots for purposes of extortion. These criminal acts have left innumerable Los Angeles residents stranded and vulnerable on city streets and on abandoned parking lots, often late at night.

The first motion will ask for Federal legislation to immediately remove "intra-state" towing operations from federal law and returning them to state and local authority. The ability of state and local authorities to regulate this industry was clouded with the passage of the Motor Carrier Act of 1994 and subsequent state and federal court rulings. Zine will also introduce a motion for a local ordinance to mirror the California Vehicle Code to: (1) Require tow truck operators to receive advance written authorization from property and/or business owners which lists detailed information on the vehicle to be removed; and (2) an ordinance which requires property owners or responsible business owners who enter into contracts with a private towing company, to conspicuously post the applicable time limits that a vehicle may be parked in the parking lot and warning the public of the risk of towing should a vehicle remain in a private parking lot after the posted hours.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, May 25th, 2004  
9:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Los Angeles City Hall  
City Council Memorial Media Center  
200 North Spring Street, Room 336

**WHO:** Councilmembers Dennis P. Zine, Jan Perry, and Greig Smith. Chief Deputy City Attorney, Tere Bowers; Los Angeles Police Commissioner, Alan Skobin; Owner Quicksilver Towing, Mark Heninger; President Official Police Garage Association, Gary Minzer; Community member and victim, Rod Sprott.

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