

MOTION PUBLIC SAFETY

The Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) routinely issues warrants for a wide variety of offenses, including non-violent misdemeanors. However, not every warrant is cleared in a timely manner. The subsequent backlog of these warrants places a burden not just on LAPD, but also on the individuals for whom the warrants were issued. In many cases, warrants for minor offenses such as traffic violations may go unanswered due to reasons as simple as forgetfulness. Once warrants become outstanding, however, many individuals may hesitate to come forward to law enforcement for fear of harsher penalties.

The County of Santa Clara administers an end-of-year warrant clearing program to anyone with outstanding non-violent misdemeanor warrants. In Santa Clara's program, persons that come forward to clear their warrants are spared jail time in favor of a new citation and a promise to appear in court on a set date to resolve the original infraction. This program cleared the warrants of 299 people between December 1 and December 31, 2006.

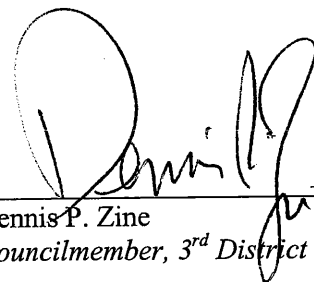
It is in the best interest of the City of Los Angeles to have non-violent misdemeanor warrants cleared in a timely fashion. In order to give additional motivation to individuals with such warrants to come forward, the City should institute a program to promote self-surrender in exchange for reduced administrative penalties.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Los Angeles Police Department and the City Attorney be requested to report to the Public Safety Committee with a proposal for a "Spring Cleaning" warrant clearing program, which would provide partial amnesty for individuals who choose to come forward to resolve their outstanding non-violent misdemeanor warrants.

I FURTHER MOVE that such a warrant clearing program explicitly exclude individuals with warrants involving domestic violence, firearms, resisting arrest, or giving false information to a law enforcement officer.

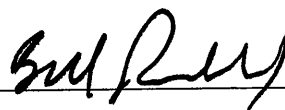
I FURTHER MOVE that the "Spring Cleaning" warrant clearing proposal call for a one-month program to take place in the Spring of 2008.

PRESENTED BY:



Dennis P. Zine  
Councilmember, 3<sup>rd</sup> District

SECONDED BY:



07-3955

WB