

MAY 22 2007

MOTION

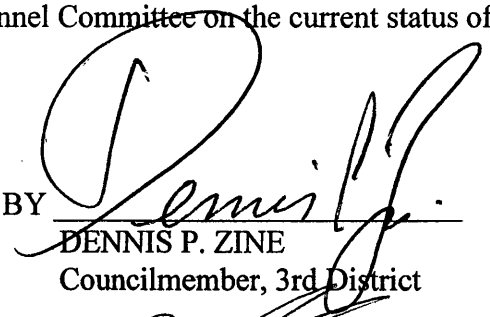
Firearms examiners are responsible for examining and classifying firearms and ammunition in the Scientific Investigations Division of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD). Firearms examiners must have the ability to recognize makes, models and characteristics of all types of firearms and ammunition. In addition, firearms examiners must have the ability to explain technical aspects of ballistics and firearms examination to non-technical people.

The LAPD currently employs three firearms examiners that are responsible for analyzing and examining firearms-related crimes. The Personnel Department reports that there has been some difficulty in hiring and retaining firearms examiners due to the specialized qualifying requirements. In addition, working conditions in crime laboratories may dissuade potential applicants from pursuing these jobs due to the challenging work environment. Firearms examiners may also be reluctant to work for the City due to the high cost of housing in Los Angeles.

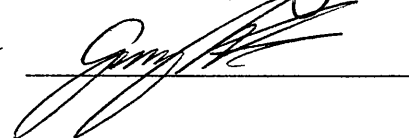
The shortage of firearms examiners may leave the City with a backlog of firearms-related cases. It is important to strengthen our resources to increase efficiencies in solving crimes. It is urgent that the City implement the necessary steps to increase the hiring and retention to levels that meet the needs of the LAPD.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Council instruct the Los Angeles Police Department and the Personnel Department to report to the Personnel Committee on the current status of firearms examiner positions.

PRESENTED BY


DENNIS P. ZINE
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY



07-1608

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