

NEWS FROM Councilman Dennis P. Zine
Third Council District, City Hall, Room 450, Los Angeles, CA 90012

For Immediate Release
January 18, 2006

Contact: Sharon Sandow
(213) 276-2107

ZINE LEGISLATION DENOUNCES REMARKS MADE BY IRANIAN PRESIDENT

(Los Angeles) - Expressing shock at remarks made by the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Los Angeles City Councilman Dennis P. Zine introduced a resolution today urging the City of Los Angeles to support Federal legislation that will condemn and denounce the comments made by Mahmoud Ahmadinejad in 2005 regarding Israel.

On October 26, 2005, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, declared publicly that " Israel must be wiped off the map," described Israel as "a disgraceful blot on the face of the Islamic world," and declared that "anybody who recognizes Israel will burn in the fire of Islamic nation's fury." In another press conference on December 8, 2005, Ahmadinejad proceeded to declare that "Some European countries insist on saying that Hitler killed millions of innocent Jews in furnaces..although we don't accept this claim."

In response to these comments, Councilman Zine, a Lebanese Catholic, who was recently elected President of the Executives of the Jewish Home for the Aging in Reseda, stated, "The City of Los Angeles should take a stand in rejecting statements which are directly a threat to individuals, which deny the Nazi Holocaust, and which are a blatant attack on supporters of Israel. We should exercise our legislative power to condemn these comments, which can serve to incite violence and ignorance amongst people."

Ahmadinejad's remarks have been widely condemned by many world leaders, including the United Nations Security Council, the Secretary General, and Members of Congress.

This resolution will be referred to the Intergovernmental Relations Committee of the City Council for review and discussion.

###