

For Immediate Release
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Contact: Sharon Sandow, Chief of Staff
(213) 473-7003

ZINE SEEKS INCREASED RELOCATION FUNDING FOR SENIORS AND DISABLED

(Los Angeles) - Older apartment buildings are being demolished to pave the way for new condominiums at a record rate. As a result, many long time residents are displaced, often finding themselves in financial hardship due to the lack of affordable housing in the City of Los Angeles. Currently, relocation assistance is only offered to tenants in a rental unit covered by the Rent Stabilization Ordinance. However, all residents, particularly the elderly and disabled, should have an opportunity to acquire relocation assistance when their unit is removed from the market by a developer seeking to construct new condominiums, many of which will not be affordable to those in who have been displaced.

In response to this hardship, Councilman Dennis P. Zine today introduced a motion to re evaluate the amount of funding provided to displaced tenants, particularly to the elderly and disabled. Funding previously provided may not be sufficient with today's rental market and lack of affordable housing.

"There is no affordable housing in many parts of the City of Los Angeles, including parts of my district," said Councilman Zine, who represents the South West San Fernando Valley. "Long time residents are being displaced by new condo developments, and unfortunately they do not have the financial means to find new housing. We must look at increasing relocation costs to soften the burden of displacement, which is becoming an epidemic."

Today's motion instructs the Los Angeles Housing Department to prepare a report within 30 days with policy recommendations and findings as to feasibility of increasing relocation assistance for all displaced tenants, with a particular attention towards the elderly and disabled individuals.

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