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Subject: **COUNCILMAN ZINE ISSUES STATEMENT REGARDING SOUTH CENTRAL FARM INCIDENT**

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COUNCILMAN ZINE ISSUES STATEMENT REGARDING SOUTH CENTRAL FARM INCIDENT

(Los Angeles) - Councilman Dennis P. Zine made the following statement today in response to the allegations made by the South Central Farmers regarding an alleged incident which took place Tuesday night:

"In my capacity as a reserve officer, I was working in the area on fugitive warrant detail on Tuesday night along with two full-time LAPD officers. Around 10pm, I expressed an interest in driving through the area known as the "South Central Farms". The farmers had long been in Council chambers, expressing their interest in having Councilmembers drive through the area, and I took the opportunity to do so per their urging.

While driving through in an unmarked police car, we were nearly struck by a white sport utility vehicle. This vehicle proceeded to tailgate our car as we drove through the area. Out of concern for our safety, we pulled our vehicle over to the curb.

The occupants of the white sport utility vehicle confronted us, asked what we were looking for, and requested our identification. We were dressed in official LAPD jackets with our badges and identified ourselves as LAPD officers. Further, I identified myself as a Los Angeles City Councilman. I provided a business card as proof to the crowd which had now assembled around us, demanding to know who we were and what we were doing in the area. After clarifying why I was in the area, we departed. No further incidents took place.

To my surprise, I was confronted the next morning in Council Chambers by angry farmers claiming I had pulled my weapon on a child during the previous night's incident. I was shocked and angered to hear these groundless accusations. On many occasions, the South Central Farmers have come to the Council Chambers and demanded that Council take action, show an interest in their plight, and come visit the farms. This was my intention - to visit the farm without fanfare - and to see firsthand where the site is located and how it is utilized. This was my first visit to the location.

Instead of appreciation for my interest, I was accused wrongfully of actions which are not only factually false but are entirely repugnant to me as a Councilman and as a retired and current LAPD officer. I am outraged at the baseless lies which are being put forth by the South Central Farmers and will be unable to support their cause given their use of harassment as a tactic to gain media attention."

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