

In addition to being the media capital of the world, Los Angeles is also a center for paparazzi. In their efforts to get the latest story, these photographers often pose a serious hazard to public safety. Paparazzi are becoming increasingly aggressive in their tactics, posing a clear danger not only to the people they are trying to photograph, but to the general public around them.

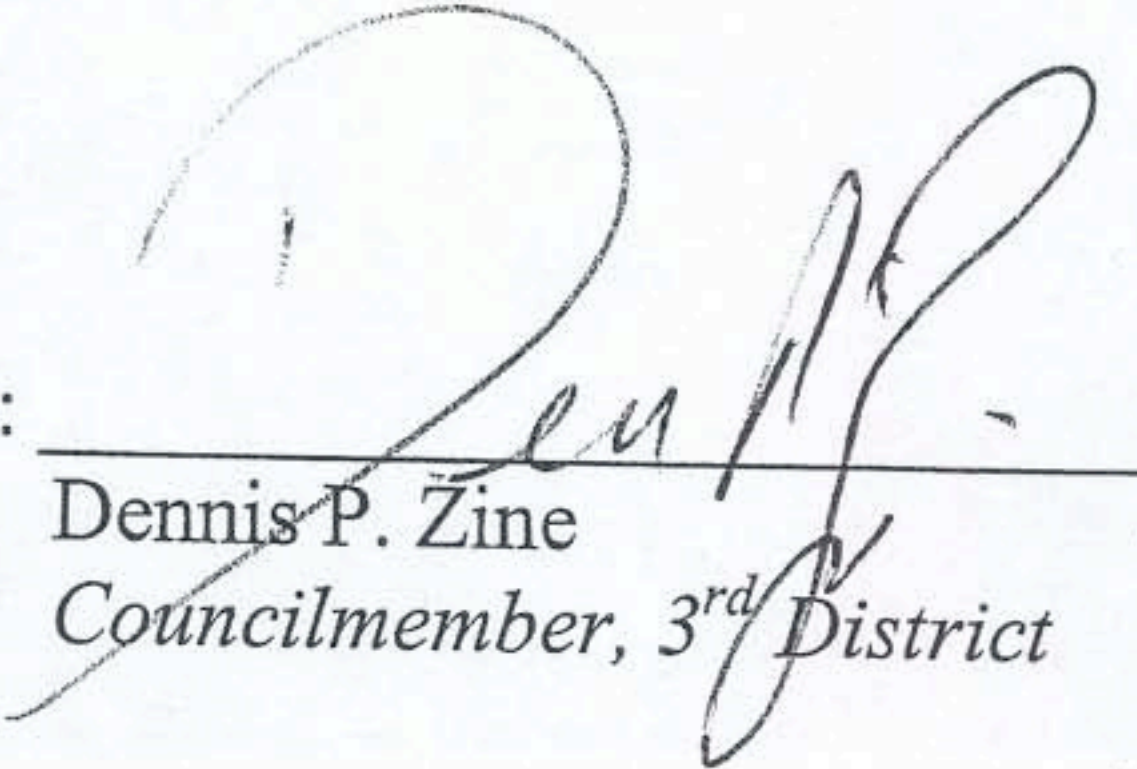
While the City of Los Angeles must respect the First Amendment rights of the press, the interests of public safety must remain paramount. Paparazzi swarms are more than a simple inconvenience to celebrities. On the contrary, these hoards of photographers many times block entrances to vital public service centers such as hospitals and courthouses. Private enterprise also suffers when paparazzi impede access to offices, shops, and restaurants.

There is a need for stricter regulation of paparazzi, including a minimum "personal safety zone" of several feet of clear space between paparazzi and the individuals they are photographing, including their vehicles. This buffer space must be large enough to allow for safe vehicle and pedestrian traffic flow. Additionally, any existing laws that address the dangerous aspects of paparazzi frenzies, such as reckless driving, must be consistently applied so there is a clear message that the law applies to everyone.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the City Attorney and the Los Angeles Police Department report to the Public Safety Committee in 30 days with proposed new restrictions on paparazzi, including a minimum personal safety zone of clear space, that would protect public safety on streets, sidewalks, access points to emergency care facilities, access to private businesses and homes, and general orderly conduct when paparazzi converge on an individual or location.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Chief Legislative Analyst report to the Public Safety Committee with a review of comparable ordinances in other jurisdictions that may apply to the circumstances described in this motion.

PRESENTED BY: _____


Dennis P. Zine
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY: _____

