

Thankz ... With a Z

■ Councilman and Club Member Dennis Zine hands out his third annual Z Awards.

Story by Bev Haro, Club Counselor
Photos by Angel Gomez, Member Services Manager

CITY COUNCIL — Councilman and Club Member Dennis Zine so appreciates government workers who are dedicated to their service that he gives out his own awards, at a big luncheon.

This year's ceremony was held April 21 at the Warner Center Marriott in Woodland Hills. Councilman Dennis Zine gives out his Z Awards to recognize the hard work that government employees do in his Third District and throughout the community. He gives the awards to people who went "above and beyond the call of duty in providing excellent service and improving the quality of our day to day lives," he wrote in the program.

Here are some details of this year's winners.

Jim Callison, LAFD

- An L.A. City Paramedic for 17 years
- Cross-trained in 1997 for Firefighter position
- During his City career has become certified CPR Instructor, Hazardous Materials Technician, Paramedic Preceptor, and Scuba Divemaster
- Married to Barbara and is father of four children



From left: Rickey Gelb, Gelb Enterprises; James Callison, LAFD Firefighter/ Paramedic; and Councilman Dennis Zine.



Don Cocek, Deputy City Attorney

- Began working in City Attorney's Office in 1986
- Responsible for a variety of cases, including: zoning and building code violations; illegally posted signs; illegal street vendors; environmental protection cases involving endangered and protected species; water pollution and oil spills; consumer protection case involving false advertising, identity theft, unlicensed contractors, auto dealers, doctors, dentists, nurses, and veterinarians; failure to pay City and state taxes; and health and fire code violations
- Prosecuted more animal abuse cases than any other prosecutor in the country
- A computer programmer, he designed and developed the case management system that runs the criminal branch of the City Attorney's office



Councilman Dennis Zine; Don Cocek, Deputy City Attorney; and Rickey Gelb.

Ofcr. Gregory Fuqua, LAPD/Valley Traffic

- Joined LAPD in 1993
- Was a patrol and foot-beat officer and was selected to work the Vice Unit
- In 2000 completed the Department's Motor School and was assigned to Valley Traffic Division's Drunken Driving Enforcement Team
- Averages more than 300 DUI arrests a year
- In 2002 made more than 400 arrests
- Also LAPD's most active drug recognition expert



From left: Councilman Dennis Zine; Officer Gregory Fuqua, LAPD; and Rickey Gelb.



Peter Kurt, Investigator, Street Service Enforcement, Public Works

- Started out as Station Officer with LAPD, Valley Jail Division
- Worked as Traffic Officer and was promoted to "acting" supervisor of the Valley Abandoned Car Detail
- In 1995 was promoted to Sr. Traffic Officer
- In 1997 was promoted to Public Works, Bureau of Street Maintenance and Street Use Inspection as an Inspector
- Now he is District Inspector assigned to West Valley and Devonshire Areas



Councilman Dennis Zine; Investigator Peter Kurt, Street Services Enforcement; and Rickey Gelb



Members of the LAFD.

Officer Norman Peters, LAPD

He serves the West Valley community as a Gang Enforcement Detail (GEC) Officer. For more than a year, he worked to develop laws that would prohibit gang members from loitering in parks and in other public places. He routinely provides expert court testimony, assists detectives in the identification of gang members, and trains other officers on the behavior of his assigned gang.



Councilman Dennis Zine; Norm Peters, LAPD; and Rickey Gelb.



Firefighter Russell Rawls, LAFD

He began his career as a firefighter for the county and joined the LAFD as a firefighter. He was certified as a Paramedic in 1990. Firefighter Rawls has been a volunteer with the LAFD's School Outreach Program, giving fire safety presentations at elementary schools and he has assisted Scouts in earning merit badges in first aid.



Rickey Gelb; Russell Rawls, LAFD Firefighter; and Councilman Dennis Zine.

Officer Leland Tang, California Highway Patrol

- Joined CHP in 1994
- Was involved in recruitment and traffic safety presentations at some local area schools
- Was named Public Affairs Officer for the West Valley Area
- Is involved in safety campaigns and created the first-ever Child Seat Safety program
- Obtained the Child Seat Safety Technician certificate in 2001
- Helped develop the Los Angeles Unified School District's Safe School Task Force



Rickey Gelb; Officer Leland Tang; and Councilman Dennis Zine.



Councilman Dennis Zine with Jan Sobel, co-chair of the Luncheon Committee.



Members of the LAPD.