



NEWS FROM

Councilman Dennis P. Zine

Third Council District, City Hall, Room 450, Los Angeles, CA 90012

For Immediate Release

March 1, 2006

Contact: Sharon Sandow

(213) 473-7003

ZINE RESPONDS TO CARDINAL MAHONEY'S COMMENTS REGARDING ANTI-IMMIGRANT SENTIMENT

(Los Angeles) - As chair of the National League of Cities Immigration Task Force, Councilman Dennis P. Zine responded today to comments by Cardinal Roger Mahoney regarding the "hysterical" anti-immigrant sentiment sweeping the nation.

In an interview on the eve of Ash Wednesday, Cardinal Mahoney urged all 288 parishes in the Los Angeles Archdiocese to fast, pray, and press for humane immigration reform. Further, he stated that he would instruct his priests to defy legislation, if approved by Congress, which would require churches and other social organizations to ask immigrants for legal documentation before providing assistance and penalize them if they refuse to do so.

"As chair of the Immigration Task Force, I agree with Cardinal Mahoney that the patchwork legislation of the past is unrealistic in moving forward with meaningful reform of the immigration policies of this country," said Zine, a Lebanese Catholic who is the president of the Jewish Home for the Aging Executives. "We need to come up with a program that works. I have met with MALDEF and many other groups concerned about immigration reform, and I urge Cardinal Mahoney to meet with me and give his input."

National League of Cities meets March 9th through 15th in Washington D.C., and recommendations will come from the Immigration Task Force during that time.

###