



## WINNETKA NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

PO Box 3692, Winnetka, CA 91306

[www.winnetkanc.com](http://www.winnetkanc.com)



President	Vice – President	Secretary	Treasurer	Sergeant at Arms
JJ Popowich	Art Sims	Mary Ann Smiley	Erick Lace	Jozef Essavi
Board Members				
Armineh Chelebian	Nina Essavi	Nalini Natarajan	Edesa Aghakha-nmoshabad	Tess Reyes-Dunn
vacant	vacant	Greg Sullivan	vacant	Stephanie Aguirre

January 19, 2009

Dennis P. Zine  
Councilmember District 3  
200 n. Spring St. Room 450  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Zine:

I am contacting you today on behalf of the Winnetka Neighborhood Council (WNC) to officially and personally ask for your assistance in restoring WNC funds illegally withheld by the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE).

The WNC has been experiencing tremendous problems with DONE for most of 2009. Bills have gone unpaid and other bills have been held up for payment by DONE with varying excuses from losing paper work submitted to excessive requests for additional documentation. Some bills are almost a year old. Some are causing multi-year community improvement projects like the Sherman Way Improvement project to be held up. Not to mention the impact the unpaid funds and lack of funds has on our ability to hold our March 2, 2010 elections.

In December of 2009 our Treasurer was informed that all WNC funds had been exhausted. We were further informed that those bills that were paid earlier this year, including a large expenditure for the our Sherman Way Median improvement project were paid with current fiscal year funds, when they should have been paid with the earmarked roll over funds we have built up.

We have received two very different excuses from DONE for why our rolled over funds were not used. Per DONE either the funds were swept by the Mayor (which we maintain cannot occur without approval from the City Council modifying the 2009-2010 FY budget) or due to DONE's own admittance of negligence, in having no record of the WNC earmarking funds for specific project uses. The latter despite the fact that we have dutifully submitted our yearly fiscal budgets clearly stating the funds were earmarked and reserved.

DONE has not processed over three years of audit and budgets that we have submitted. In addition, we have been informed that they have lost several years of annual audits that were submitted to them in the past. In short, the WNC is being punished unfairly, as are other NCs throughout the City, for DONE's internal problems.

Enclosed is a copy of a letter we recently sent to DONE General Manager Kim demanding the release of our funds. We respectfully request that you intervene on our behalf to resolve this problem as quickly as possible.

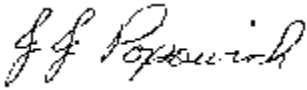
Dennis P. Zine  
January 19, 2010  
Page 2

Dennis, I really hope that you will take up this cause. The WNC has always supported your efforts to help this district. We have always appreciated all of the time and effort that you provide our Community. Like all NCs we have grown over the years and we feel that we have grown into our role as community representatives. We have spent every moment of the last five to six years working to better this community from addressing crime issues to the median project.

We are one step away from partnering with Jacobi Materials to finally finish the median project that we have worked on for all these years. We have over \$5000 in committed funds to Topanga Station that we cannot pay. Creditors like Ed Crowe have patiently waited and continued to support our efforts despite not being paid for almost a year now. What DONE is doing now is destroying all that effort and irreparably damaging the good name that the WNC has worked so hard to cultivate.

We look forward to your response and your assistance. If you have any questions, please contact me at my office, 1-626-564-6000, ext. 4520 to discuss the issue.

Sincerely,



JJ Popowich  
President, WNC



**WNC**  
Celebrating Diversity with Unity  
and Dedication to the Community