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After what **LARD** did, Zinzun deserves plenty

So Michael Zinzun doesn't deserve "\$1 or one cent," says L.A. City Councilman Zev Yaroslavsky in response to the reversal by Superior Court Judge Michael Berg of the multimillion-dollar jury award to community activist Michael Zinzun ("Judgment for Zinzun thrown out," Daily News, July 3). Yaroslavsky thus reveals a visceral dislike for those who seriously intend to challenge the established order, regardless of how unlikely their prospects of realizing their goal might be.

Yaroslavsky either does not realize, or does not care, that Los Angeles Police Department Assistant Chief Robert Vernon's distribution of articles about Zinzun on LAPD Anti-Terrorist Division stationery is in and of itself a defamatory, neo-fascist action, and, as such, merits at least the \$450,000 Zinzun was willing to settle for.

With his lame statement that what Vernon did was "wrong," Yaroslavsky then displays a notion of fair play akin to that of Chief Daryl Gates. Gates gave Vernon a verbal reprimand only after his action embarrassed the department, but he suspended a traffic officer for six days for personal use of a department copier. This disparity of values does not bode well for the freedoms we claim to cherish.

— **Bill Becker**
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