



Venice Neighborhood Council  
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**Joint meeting of Homelessness Committee and Board of Directors – Minutes**

**Meeting Date: Tuesday 1/25/2022**

**Meeting Time: 7:00pm**

**Meeting Location:** Webinar online zoom meeting 84523172549

**Contact:** [Frank.Murphy@VeniceNC.org](mailto:Frank.Murphy@VeniceNC.org)

Topic: Homelessness

**1. 7:00 pm – Call to Order**

**2. Roll Call**

Frank Murphy (chair)	X	Clark Brown	X
Brian Ulf		Jody Mortimer	X
Colette Bailey			
Pat Raphael	X		
Liz Wright	X		
Vicki Halliday	X	Jim Murez (ex-officio)	
Stan Muhammad			

**2a: Approving the agenda was added to the agenda:**

Frank Murphy (chair)	<b>M</b>	Y	Clark Brown	Y
Brian Ulf			Jody Mortimer	Y
Colette Bailey				
Pat Raphael		Y		
Liz Wright		Y		
Vicki Halliday	<b>S</b>	Y	Jim Murez (ex-officio)	
Stan Muhammad				

Yes, no, abstained (6,0,0)

**3. Review, Comment and Adopt Minutes from November 30, 2021 meeting**

[https:// www.venicenc.org/ncfiles/viewCommitteeFile/25925](https://www.venicenc.org/ncfiles/viewCommitteeFile/25925)

Frank Murphy (chair)	<b>M</b>	Y	Clark Brown	Y
Brian Ulf			Jody Mortimer	Y
Colette Bailey				
Pat Raphael		Y		
Liz Wright		Y		
Vicki Halliday	<b>S</b>	Y	Jim Murez (ex-officio)	
Stan Muhammad				

Yes, no, abstained (6,0,0)

4. Chair Report (5 minutes).
5. Committee Introduction – Jody Mortimer – new committee member.  
Jody gave a brief bio of himself. After military service he experienced homelessness. During that period, he used the Safe Parking program at the VA. Through City and County services, he now has his own apartment, complete with indoor plumbing and hot and cold running water.
6. PUBLIC COMMENT – 1 minute on non-agenda items related to Homelessness Committee only.
7. Homeless Round Table – Only one person was able to attend. Instead of this being a negative, it provided an opportunity to learn more fully how this person became homeless and the obstacles to becoming housed once again.

Catherine Schultis, who lives with her partner in her SUV, shared her story. After a brief period in military service, she endured an abusive relationship for years (which caused PTSD), and eventually became homeless. Sometimes services have been denied because she has a service dog or because she is part of an unmarried couple. It is hard to get your clothes laundered. It is far easier for those needing services if the services are located in the same geographic area. Otherwise, if your car stops running, you miss out. For the safety of the general public, not just the homeless, some humane way has to be found to remove the severely mentally ill from the rest of society. Many people fighting to maintain sobriety cannot live in proximity to people who are currently using alcohol or other drugs. This means they cannot risk living in the same housing as active addicts.

Catherine is currently in the process of acquiring housing, which means a seemingly endless number of forms to fill out and documents to produce. But, she's almost there.

8. Public comment on Homeless Round Table presentation. 1 minute.
9. Presentation by Ethal Butler, the Supervisor for Homeless Outreach for the Veterans Administration. Introduction by Jody Mortimer. Presentation (20 minutes). Committee Q&A (15 minutes). Ethal Butler was not available for this meeting.
10. Public comment on Butler presentation. 1 minute.

## **NEW Business**

### **11. Item for discussion and Possible Action – Motion**

Motion submitted by Vicki Halliday

It has been identified that street donations often do more harm than good by disrupting the process of connecting the un-housed with professional homeless support services to begin the process of getting off the street.

In 2017, the Venice Neighborhood Council passed a resolution that encouraged individuals, religious groups, and community organizations to coordinate with professional service providers instead of providing street donation efforts on their own.

The motion encouraged the groups to trade street donations efforts for coordinating with licensed providers and/or support sanctioned organizations through the VNC like Saint Joseph’s Center Bread and Roses.

It has been identified that the motion needs updating. Therefore, the homeless committee submits the following:

Whereas, professional homeless service organizations, city officials, and law enforcement agree that street donations of food, clothing, and other items often do more harm than good by

- disrupting the process of helping people connect with professional homeless support services and begin the process of getting off the street
- creating dangerous and unclean environment for both the housed and unhoused,
- costing the city tens of thousands of dollars a year in street cleanup and trash collection costs from the resulting waste.

Be it resolved that the VNC requests aid from all City agencies listed to cite these providers for infractions, and to direct them to schedule, cooperate, coordinate, homeless support activities with the professional and city-sanctioned homeless service providers.

To: LAHSA, St. Joseph’s Center, LA Sanitation, Park and Rec, LAPD, CD11, County Supervisor, Department of Health

<b>Frank Murphy (chair)</b>	<b>S</b>	Y	<b>Clark Brown</b>	Y
<b>Brian Ulf</b>			<b>Jody Mortimer</b>	A
<b>Colette Bailey</b>				
<b>Pat Raphael</b>		N		
<b>Liz Wright</b>		Y		
<b>Vicki Halliday</b>	<b>M</b>	Y	<b>Jim Murez (ex-officio)</b>	
<b>Stan Muhammad</b>				

Yes, no, abstained (4,1,1)

**12. Committee Comments on items not on the agenda for consideration**

**13. ADJOURNED 9:25pm**