



# Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294

www.VeniceNC.org



## Board of Officers Regular Meeting Agenda **DRAFT**

**6:30-9:30 PM February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024**  
**Westminster Elementary School**  
**1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd Venice, CA 90291**  
(enter from parking lot on Westminster Ave)

TRANSLATION Services: Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de notificar a la oficina 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Si necesita asistencia con esta notificación, por favor llame a nuestra oficina 213.473.5391. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Board's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Board is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future Board meeting. Public comment is limited to 30 seconds per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Board.

### 1. CALL TO ORDER AND BOARD ROLL CALL

Brian Averill	Alley Bean	Yolanda Gonzalez	Bruno Hernandez
Jim Robb	Lisa Redmond	Deborah Keaton	Jason Sugars
Helen Fallon	Robert Thibodeau	Eric Donaldson	Christopher Lee
Tima Bell	Erica Moore	Amara Hordt	
Michael Jensen	Clark Brown	CJ Cole	
Nico Ruderman	Steve Bradbury	Soledad Ursua	

### 2. RECOGNITION AND MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR JEFFERY SOLOMON

### 3. APPROVAL OF PRIOR MINUTES.

<https://www.venicenc.org/assets/documents/5/meeting65b458e2200e4.pdf>

### 4. DECLARATION OF EX PARTE COMMUNICATIONS, CONFLICTS OF INTEREST OR RECUSALS

### 5. PUBLIC SAFETY REPORTS

### 6. GOVERNMENT REPORTS

### 7. TREASURER'S REPORT

### 8. PRESIDENT'S REPORT



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## 9. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT – LIMIT TO 20MIN/1MIN PER SPEAKER

Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Board’s subject matter jurisdiction. Each speaker will be allowed one (1) minute unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the meeting.

## 10. GENERAL CONSENT CALENDAR

**A. MOTION:** The VNC Board of Officers approves the January 2024 Monthly Expenditure Report (MER). See supporting documents. (Committee vote 2-0-0)

**B. MOTION:** The VNC Board of Officers approves the proposed budget adjustments (see supporting documents).

### **C. RESOLUTION TO RETURN TO WEEKLY STREET SWEEPING SERVICES NEAR THE BOARDWALK AND COMMERCIAL CORRIDORS AT VENICE BEACH (PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION 5-0-0)**

Whereas, Venice Beach, its Boardwalk, and commercial corridors, including Rose Avenue, Abbot Kinney Boulevard, and sections of Main Street, Venice Boulevard, and Washington Boulevard, are major tourist destinations, hosting over 10 million visitors annually; and,

Whereas, most of these millions of tourists park along commercial streets and in residential neighborhoods adjacent to these commercial corridors; and,

Whereas, these visitors routinely deposit massive amounts of food waste, food wrappers and containers, and beverage bottles on city streets and in gutters next to where they park and along streets and gutters which are the common pathways to and from the Beach, Boardwalk, and restaurants and shops; and,

Whereas, the City of Los Angeles unilaterally, without consultation with any neighborhood council, and in direct violation of the requirement contained in the Los Angeles City Charter that the city must consult with neighborhood councils in advance of significant budget decisions, reduced street sweeping in Venice from once a week to once every two weeks; and,

Whereas, the city’s pandemic emergency order has been officially voided and Venice can expect that warmer weather this spring and summer will bring a return of tens of thousands of visitors to our beach and community;

And upon passage this Resolution shall be submitted to Mayor Karen Bass (Mayor.Bass@lacity.org) and Councilmember Traci Park (Councilmember.Park@lacity.org)

### **D. CEQA THRESHOLDS RELATED TO CONSTRUCTION NOISE AND VIBRATION (LUPC 7-0-0)**

Background Pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guideline Section 15064.7(b), the Department of City Planning (Department) is considering adopting updated thresholds of significance and methodologies to analyze impacts for construction noise and vibration. Pursuant to the authority of the Director of Planning (Director) under Los Angeles





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Charter Section 506 to make and enforce any necessary rules and regulations, the Director is considering the adoption of updated thresholds and methodology in the Department's preparation of CEQA clearances. Below is a summary of the proposed updates to the CEQA Thresholds related to Construction Noise and Vibration. An analysis of the City's current construction noise thresholds, as well as a review of best practices and thresholds used by other jurisdictions, found that the City's existing thresholds are overly conservative, especially in the context of impacts to public health. In particular, the use of a numeric threshold based on the increase in decibel levels over existing ambient conditions (e.g., a 5 dBA [A-weighted decibel] increase over ambient conditions) often results in a determination that construction noise impacts are significant, even for routine construction activities that are expected to occur in an urban environment. The increase in ambient level threshold is so low that it has the potential to show significant environmental impacts, even for activities such as a single day of construction or exterior remodeling of a single-family home in a residential area involving no unusual noise-producing equipment. As a result, a more appropriate construction noise threshold should be crafted in consideration that construction noise is temporary and periodic, and that while construction noise could result in human annoyance, it may not necessarily result in direct health impacts unless a certain absolute noise threshold is attained.

Motion: The Venice Neighborhood Council requests that the City's current draft of the CEQA Thresholds Related to Construction Noise and Vibration changes be withdrawn and the process started again with a citizen advisory panel and a technical advisory panel.

## **E. PUBLIC ART SCULPTURAL COLUMN REPAIR (ARTS 5-0-0)**

Motion: The VNC Board of Officers requests the City of Los Angeles immediately assess the repairs needed to eliminate the current unsafe conditions, prevent continued damage, and make all necessary repairs to the Public Art sculptural column titled "Dreams Come True" by William Attaway installed at Windward Plaza with letters sent to CD11 RAP and DCA.

## **F. PUBLIC ART TILES REPAIR (ARTS 5-0-0)**

Motion: The VNC Board of Officers requests that the City of Los Angeles immediately assess and inform the VNC when restoration, repairs, and maintenance will be undertaken to protect and preserve the Public Art tiles installed on 3 OFW bathrooms: Brooks, Horizon, and 17th Street, with letters sent to CD11 RAP and DCA.

All agenda items on the Consent Calendar will pass when the Consent Calendar is approved. No discussion or Public Comment is allowed on any item. Items may be removed by any board member or stakeholder. Removed items will be treated as regular agenda items with discussion and public comment.

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## OLD BUSINESS

### 11. CROSSWALKS/SIGNAGE ON SPEEDWAY (4-0-0)

Whereas there is increased traffic on Speedway between Marine Ave and 30th Place due to traffic slowing on Pacific and apps such as Waze. Whereas facilities like the Safran Center Senior Housing, Phoenix House, many tourist destinations and other sensitive uses are located adjacent to Speedway. Whereas there is currently a lack of crosswalks, stop signs, and speed limit signage, creating a confusing and dangerous situation for drivers, pedestrians, both locals and tourists, therefore;

MOTION: the VNC shall write a letter to CD11, LA DOT, and BOE requesting additional crosswalks and signage to reduce speeds and increase public safety on Speedway

## NEW BUSINESS

### 12. RULES & SELECTIONS

**DISCUSSION ITEM** - Five (5) minute presentation followed by board feedback on ideas and recommendations for representation changes based on committee findings from research and stakeholder input thus far.

### 13. LUPC

#### A. 567 RIALTO AVE. - ZA-2023-6876-CDP-ZAA-MEL-HCA (6-0-1)

##### DESCRIPTION

Demolish (e) 1150 sf SFD & build (n) 1940 sf SFD, renovate carport, storage, driveway and landscape (see supporting docs)

##### MOTION:

The VNC recommends approval of the project as presented.

#### B. 1648 S. ABBOT KINNEY BLVD. - APCW-2024-275-SPE-SPP-CDP-WDI (5-1-1)

##### DESCRIPTION

Construction of a new commercial building in single jurisdiction coastal zone (see supporting docs)

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## **MOTION:**

The Venice Neighborhood Council recommends approval of a City CDP and a Specific Plan Project Permit for the project at 1648 Abbot Kinney for the construction a new 1-story with mezzanine, 22 foot high (flat roof), 2,651 square foot ground floor retail use commercial building on a 30 x 90 vacant lot (currently contains a temporary non-fixed structure) totaling 2,700.2 square feet, with no auto parking spaces, providing 2 short-term and two long-term bicycle parking spaces, including a waiver of the one-foot dedication and a specific plan exception for no auto parking on site.

## **14. PARKING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

### **RESOLUTION TO PRIORITIZE TOWING OF RVs AND CAMPERS NEAR RESIDENCES, SCHOOLS, CHILD CARE CENTERS, PARKS, POST OFFICES, LIBRARIES AND SENIOR CENTERS (4-0-1)**

Whereas, Venice is currently the unwanted host to over 100 RVs, campers and vans used as dwellings; and

Whereas, many of these vehicles have been parking in the same location, within several feet of residences, for months, in some instances for years; and

Whereas, the city of Los Angeles has unconscionably established a regulatory straitjacket for itself that unnecessarily limits its ability to enforce many existing parking regulations, including the Venice-specific "No Oversize Vehicles 2-6AM" ordinance (OVO), the 72-hour rule requiring all vehicles parked on city streets to move after this period, and the requirement to move on days of street sweeping, and

Whereas, this city policy straitjacket:

- i. Puts a priority on citing and towing vehicles that create traffic hazards, environmental or public health hazards (read: obviously leaking sewage to the street), obstruct city services, and/or are inoperable or unregistered.\*
  - ii. While it established (though not by ordinance) a lengthy internal city process of engagement and attempts at voluntary compliance, which accepts and enables continued vehicle dwelling in the city of Los Angeles, while all the cities and county incorporated territory near Venice completely ban vehicles over 7 or 8 feet tall at night on city streets (without a city permit) and enforce all their parking ordinances.
  - iii. And ignores the serious burden placed on residents by the policy, which allows for occupied vehicles to remain within feet of residents and significant spaces and facilities used by the public for years at a time, robbing residents and their guests of street parking, while also permitting ceaseless accumulation of trash, bikes and bike "chop shops," and food waste, discharge of human sewage to gutters, the storm drain system
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and Venice beach waters, and frequent late-night noise, preventing residents' "quiet enjoyment of their homes;" and

Whereas, these policies were requested and put in place by former city councilmember Mike Bonin in his capacity as chair of the city council's Parking and Transportation Committee; and

Whereas, the voters of Council District 11, which includes Venice, elected Traci Park as councilmember specifically to reverse the misguided policies of Mr. Bonin, especially in the city's approach to public safety, homeless encampments and resident quality-of-life; and,

Whereas, during the pandemic, the city enforced none of the parking regulations cited above, and saw a steep increase in the number of vehicles used as dwellings, which was not mirrored in nearby cities, and the city allowed its contracted ability to tow and store and dismantle oversize vehicles to atrophy and has proved incompetent at increasing these capabilities over the time since the pandemic emergency order was repealed;

## **MOTION**

Therefore Be It Resolved, that the Venice Neighborhood Council calls upon councilmember Traci Park to immediately introduce a Motion to establish, at least in CD 11, that the city prioritize citing and towing of all vehicles violating any of the three regulations above – OVO, 72 hour rule, street sweeping – parked on city streets within 75 feet of a residentially-occupied structure, a school, a child care center, park, library, post office, or senior center, regardless of whether they are used as dwellings or not.

## **16. RULES AND SELECTIONS**

Proposed amendments to Articles VI, VII, VIII, IX, X, XI, XII, XIII, IV of the 7/1/22 Bylaws (see supporting documents)

- a. The Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers approves the submitted changes amending ARTICLE VI: OFFICERS of the previously adopted (7/1/22) VNC Bylaws.
  - b. The Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers approves the submitted changes amending ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES AND THEIR DUTIES of the previously adopted (7/1/22) VNC Bylaws.
  - c. The Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers approves the submitted changes amending ARTICLE VIII: MEETINGS of the previously adopted (7/1/22) VNC Bylaws.
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- d. The Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers approves the submitted changes amending ARTICLE IX: FINANCES of the previously adopted (7/1/22) VNC Bylaws.
- e. The Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers approves the submitted changes amending ARTICLE X: ELECTIONS of the previously adopted (7/1/22) VNC Bylaws.
- f. The Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers approves the submitted changes amending ARTICLE XI: GRIEVANCE PROCESS of the previously adopted (7/1/22) VNC Bylaws.
- g. The Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers approves the submitted changes amending ARTICLE XII: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY of the previously adopted (7/1/22) VNC Bylaws.
- h. The Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers approves the submitted changes amending ARTICLE XIII: AMENDMENTS of the previously adopted (7/1/22) VNC Bylaws.
- i. The Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers approves the submitted changes amending ARTICLE XIV: COMPLIANCE of the previously adopted (7/1/22) VNC Bylaws.

## 17. LUPC

### **DEVELOPMENT SUBSIDIES FOR LOW INCOME HOUSING (8-1-0)**

This motion seeks support for government subsidies to be granted equally to smaller community builders who develop housing in our community. Government subsidized and grant-driven projects historically and currently have proven to be incapable of providing housing. Large corporate subsidized and for-profit builders of 50 or more unit building types account for 13.1% of the housing in Venice and 13.6% in all of the City of Los Angeles. In contrast, housing produced by “mom & pop” community builders of two to 24 unit building types account for 46.6% of housing units in Venice and 36.9% of units within the City of Los Angeles. Large government subsidized and grant driven projects historically and currently have provided housing that is massively over and above any reasonable character and scale that any residential community should be required to accommodate. Smaller apartment buildings are more in line with the community’s characteristics and provide more opportunity to engage with neighbors and the community. Large projects in Venice have frequently ignored VNC concerns, instead relying on political connections to obtain approvals. Finally, large government subsidized and grant driven projects cost vastly more per square than smaller projects.

### **MOTION:**

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WHEREAS, the VNC supports small businesses made up of smaller community builders who create low income housing in multi-unit apartment buildings that conform to the VCZSP; WHEREAS, the VNC supports smaller scale apartment buildings dispersed throughout the community; NOW, THEREFORE, the VNC recommends that the City of Los Angeles provide the same opportunities for subsidies, grants, and subsidized loans to local, community builders providing low income units that it provides to larger, "non-profit" corporate developers.

## **18. ARTS**

### **VENICE FLYING CAROUSEL (5-0-0)**

Motion: The Board of Officers of the VNC renews its motion, dated November 17, 2020, asking that RAP and CD11 expedite installation of the community Public Art project: the Venice Flying Carousel, in Venice of America Centennial Park. The Carousel is now operating and Centennial Park has been restored. The Carousel is owned and operated by its 501c3 public benefit not for profit Corporation. It is funded by the community and will generate proceeds to further benefit our community and park for years to come. It is human powered, sustainable technology that embodies Venice History, Public Art, and the playful magic of Venice. The community is eager for the Carousel to be installed in its safe and secure pavilion building in Centennial Park.

## **19. LUPC**

### **CEQA APPLICATION TO HISTORIC RESOURCES (8-1-0)**

CEQA requires analysis of impacts to historical resources and defines historical resources as those listed in or determined to be eligible for listing in the California Register of Historical Resources (California Register), those designated locally, and those that the City elects to treat as historical resources based on substantial evidence that they meet federal, state, or local listing criteria. Historical resources may include buildings, structures, sites, objects, and historic districts. Regulating historical resources falls within the jurisdiction of several levels of government: the framework for the identification of historical resources is established at the federal level, while the documentation and protection of such resources are often undertaken by state and local governments.

### **MOTION**

Request 60-day extension on proposal to allow for adequate study and provide more information on standards being proposed and potential impacts.

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## 20. BOARD COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS

## 21. ADJOURN

As a covered entity under Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Los Angeles does not discriminate on the basis of disability and upon request will provide reasonable accommodation to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request. To ensure availability of services, please make your request at least 3 business days (72 hours) prior to the meeting by contacting the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment by calling (213) 978-1551 or email: [NCsupport@lacity.org](mailto:NCsupport@lacity.org)

### **Public Posting of Agendas -**

The Venice Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows:

- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd., Venice, CA 90291
- [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)
- Receive agendas by email, subscribe to L.A. City's [Early Notification System \(ENS\)](#)

### **Notice to Paid Representatives -**

If you are compensated to monitor, attend, or speak at this meeting, City law may require you to register as a lobbyist and report your activity. See Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 48.01 et seq. More information is available at [ethics.lacity.org/lobbying](http://ethics.lacity.org/lobbying). For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or [ethics.commission@lacity.org](mailto:ethics.commission@lacity.org)

### **Public Access of Records -**

In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board in advance of a meeting may be viewed at our website: [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org) or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact the VNC Secretary, email at: [Secretary@VeniceNC.org](mailto:Secretary@VeniceNC.org).

### **Reconsideration and Grievance Process -**

For information on the NC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the NC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our website [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)

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