



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294
www.VeniceNC.org Email: info@VeniceNC.org



HOMELESSNESS COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Date: January 29, 2024 | Time: 5:00 – 7:45 P.M.
Location: Venice – Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library
501 S. Venice Blvd., Venice, CA 90291

AGENDA MINUTES

Translation Services: Si requiere servicios de traducción, favor de avisar al Concejo Vecinal 3 días de trabajo (72 horas) antes del evento. Por favor contacte Secretary@VeniceNC.org para avisar al Concejo Vecinal.

Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Committee’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 Committee meeting. Public comment is limited to one (1) minute per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer of the Committee. Public comments for Homelessness Committee Meetings may be emailed to the chair at alley.bean@venicenc.org

CALL TO ORDER Time: 5:10PM

ROLL CALL WITH DECLARATION OF EXPARTE COMMUNICATIONS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST if any:

Alley Bean, Chair	X	Naomi Nightingale	X	Christina Tullock	X
Lisa Redmond	X	Judy Goldman	X	Cari Bjelajac	A
Connie Brooks	A	Alfie Jones	arrive 5:30 X	VNC President, ex officio	

APPROVAL of PRIOR MINUTES

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Board Member Motion from Clark Brown – **Resolution for Ordinance to Provide Better Enforcement Against Homelessness Uses in Venice**

a. **Item Description:**

WHEREAS:

- There are homeless encampments, tents and oversized vehicles used by homeless persons throughout Venice, including but not limited to: the Flower-Lincoln corner, Rose Avenue at Whole Foods, Frederick and Lake, Main Street, Washington and Venice Blvds and Penmar Park.
- Los Angeles Housing and Services Authority and Rand Corporation recently reported there is a 45% increase in homelessness in West Los Angeles and there are 523 homeless in Venice.



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3. This exists even though for several years the City has had an anti camping ordinance, LAMC sec. 41.18. It has not been effective because it sets so many conditions for its enforcement that it can only be enforced in narrow circumstances which prevent its effective enforcement.
4. Homelessness is more widespread in Venice than any other part of the City except Skid Row and Hollywood. Therefore it is appropriate for the City to adopt a homelessness ordinance for Venice only as it did in 2010 with Ordinance 181413, which provides special procedures applicable to Venice only for Oversized Vehicle signs.
5. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals recently acknowledged in a case brought by the City and County of San Francisco that those who refuse specific offers of shelter are considered voluntarily homeless and as such a 2022 injunction, which restricted city workers from moving or clearing homeless encampments, does not apply, and San Francisco has thus returned to clearing encampments after offers of shelter have been made (<https://sfstandard.com/2023/09/25/san-francisco-to-resume-enforcing-laws-against-homeless-people-who-refuse-shelter-mayor/>)

b. Motion:

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved, the Venice Neighborhood Council calls upon the Los Angeles City Council to pass and the Mayor to sign a Venice-specific ordinance, which provides:

1. In instances when specific shelter has been offered to a person dwelling on public property in the Venice district of the city of Los Angeles, police officers may issue citations pursuant to LAMC Sec.11.00 against any person camping on public property even if within a vehicle.
2. Regardless of shelter availability, officers may enforce violations in the following locations:
 - (a) Within 1000 feet of K-12 schools, childcare centers, and adult day care centers.
 - (b) Within 1000 feet of a facility offering temporary shelter or affordable housing for individuals who had previously been homeless.
 - (c) In City parks and the Venice Beach Recreation Area, where a substantial public health and safety risk is determined, including within 1000 feet of a location or area which the Los Angeles Police Department has determined to have had a heightened level of crimes involving murder, assault, sex trafficking, bike or auto theft, or drug sales.
 - (d) When there is an immediate threat to public safety or a threat of fire or the person is wanted in connection to another crime.

Distribution List: Upon passage this Resolution shall be delivered to Mayor Karen Bass and City Councilmember Traci Park

c. Introduction / Clarifying Questions

d. Public Comment (One minute for each public comment, up to 20 minutes total for public comment)



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e. Committee Discussion/Vote

Maker **Goldman** Seconded **Tulloch**

Vote: (0 Yes / 6 No / __ Abstained / __ Recused)

2. Stakeholder Motion from Mark Ryavec – **Resolution to Follow Recent Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Decision Allowing Citations and Clearing of Encampments in Instances When Homeless Individuals Living in Venice Have Refused Available Shelter**

a. Item Description:

Whereas, there are homeless individuals living in encampments, tents, canopies, shanties or without cover on public property throughout Venice, including but not limited to: Flower and Lincoln, Rose Avenue at Whole Foods, Washington Boulevard near or at Ocean Front Walk, Main Street, Venice Post Office, Speedway, Penmar Park and in the Venice Beach Recreation Area (i.e., Venice Beach); and,

Whereas, the Los Angeles Housing Services Authority and Rand Corporation recently reported there was a 45% increase in homelessness in West Los Angeles and there are 523 homeless in Venice, and this represents the third largest homeless population after Skid Row and Hollywood; and,

Whereas, under the city's current version of LAMC Sec. 41.18, street/sidewalk camping is only prohibited in small areas around schools, childcare centers, parks, under tunnels and freeways, and a few designated high-crime spots, allowing encampments in most of the city's residential and commercial areas, frequently near residents and shops; and,

Whereas, service providers report that a significant percentage of the homeless population refuses to accept shelter or accepts shelter and for various reasons later leaves shelter and returns to the street; and,

Whereas, in 2010, to address the presence of over 250 recreational vehicles and campers on Venice's streets, the city adopted a Venice-specific ordinance banning vehicles over 7 feet tall or 22 feet long from city streets from the hours of 2 to 6 AM; and,

Whereas, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals recently acknowledged in a case brought by the City and County of San Francisco that those who refuse specific offers of shelter are considered voluntarily homeless and as such a 2022 injunction, which restricted city workers from moving or clearing homeless encampments, does not apply, and San Francisco has thus returned to clearing encampments after offers of shelter have been made (<https://sfstandard.com/2023/09/25/san-francisco-to-resume-enforcing-laws-against-homeless-people-who-refuse-shelter-mayor/>)

b. Motion:

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2. Regardless of shelter availability, officers may enforce violations in the following locations:

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c. **Introduction / Clarifying Questions**

d. **Public Comment (One minute for each public comment, up to 20 minutes total for public comment)**

e. **Committee Discussion/Vote**

Maker ___ Seconded ___

Vote: (___ Yes / ___ No / ___ Abstained / ___ Recused)

Motion pulled from agenda by stakeholder motion maker

Recess 5:52 – 6:13pm

6:00 – 7:00 P.M PRESENTATION:

1. Presentation on Mayor Bass' Inside Safe

Introduction from Marian Ensley, Mayoral West Area Representative, marian.ensley@lacity.org, and Inside Safe team members

Overview presentation on Mayor Karen Bass' Inside Safe program

2. Brief Q & A

3. Public Comment

CHAIR REPORT:



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GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT: Comments from the public on non-agenda items within the Homelessness Committee's subject matter jurisdiction.

COMMITTEE COMMENT: Comments from committee members on items not on the agenda for future consideration, time permitting.

ADJOURNMENT : Time 7:37pm

The American With Disabilities Act

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

Posting of Agendas

Neighborhood Council agendas are posted for public review as follows:

- Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd., Venice, CA 90291
- www.venicenc.org
- You can also receive our agendas by email, subscribe to L.A. City's [Early Notification System \(ENS\)](https://lacity.gov/government/subscribe-agendas/neighborhood-councils) <https://lacity.gov/government/subscribe-agendas/neighborhood-councils>

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. For assistance, please contact the Ethics Commission at (213) 978-1960 or 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 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 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