



Venice Neighborhood Council



VNC BOARD APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY OFFICER

Contact Information:

Qualifying Stakeholder Address (*Dirección*):

Print Name/ Nombre en letra de molde: David M. Chernek

 Street address / Dirección City / Ciudad State / Estado Zip/ Código Postal

Mailing Address (if different):

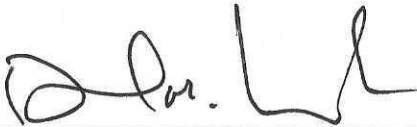
 Street address / Dirección City / Ciudad State / Estado Zip/ Código Postal

Contact Numbers:

 Phone (Day) / Teléfono (día) Phone (Evening) / Teléfono (tarde) Fax Number

dchernek@hotmail.com
 Email / Correo Electrónico (very important)

I hereby certify, that I wish to serve as Community Officer on the Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers and I live, work, or own property within the boundaries of the VNC area.

Stakeholder Signature/ Firma  Date 11-15-22



Venice Neighborhood Council



Answer all these questions; please limit your answers to 100 words or less each.

Questions:

Please see attached!

- 1) Please explain why you wish to serve as the VNC Community Officer.
 - a) Have you served before on the VNC Board or other Neighborhood Council Board? If so, where and when?
 - b) Have you served on a VNC Committee? Which one and for how long?
 - c) Please state your professional qualifications or related experience relevant to this position.
 - d) How long have you been a stakeholder in the VNC area?
- 2) Please list your previous and/or current neighborhood or community involvement.
- 3) Please list the three most pressing issues that you feel are facing the Venice Community.
- 4) What do you see as the primary roles of the Venice Neighborhood Council?
- 5) What is your Vision for Venice?
- 6) If not selected, are you willing to participate in a VNC committee? Which committee interest you and why?

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION TO VENICE NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

COMMUNITY OFFICER POSITION

1. Please explain why you wish to serve as the VNC Community Officer.

I have lived as a homeowner in Venice since November 2006. But from the time I arrived in Los Angeles in 1982, Venice Beach was always my regular – and favorite – destination. To me, Venice encapsulates everything great about Los Angeles: diversity, creativity, energy and eccentricity. Buying a home here was the culmination of a long-standing goal of mine, and I did so fully aware that I would be exchanging the safety and security of other neighborhoods for the far more interesting frisson of Venice.

Up until five years ago, I had no regrets about my decision. Sure, Venice had its share of petty crime and drug use, but I always felt that I lived in a relatively safe neighborhood. That has changed. Open drug use, violent crime on my doorstep, and destructive behavior are now a frequent presence in my neighborhood. As a result, the quality of life here has been on a steady, inexorable decline, with no sense of an ending. This is exactly how once thriving neighborhoods become blighted. I love Venice too much to stand-by and watch that continue. I want to help be part of the solution that restores Venice to what it was in the not too distant past.

2. Please list your previous and/or current neighborhood or community involvement.

I have been a regular participant in community activities. I was member of the Board of Directors of the Eisner Pediatric and Family Medical Center for eight years, where among other things I served on and eventually chaired the Governance Committee. I have also been a member of the Board of the MOCA Contemporaries, where I was Secretary. Currently, I am a member of the Board of Directors of the Jonathan Club, and prior to that served on the Jonathan Club's Legal Advisory Committee for nine years. As you can see, I am a very experienced – and motivated – member of Boards. I value the culture of healthy dialogue, and at times disagreement and compromise, that marks a well-functioning Board.

3. Please list the three most pressing issues that you feel are facing the Venice Community.

The Homeless Population. Near where I live, the homeless community has an air of permanency. It is hard to imagine that only five years ago I would walk the 100 yards from my house to the Erewhon market without passing through garbage, broken down RVs, and belligerent behavior. While I can certainly sympathize with those for whom life has dealt a harsh hand, the problem in Venice goes far beyond that, and evidences painful failures not just in providing affordable shelter, but also the treatment of mental illness and the tolerance of harmful drug use.

Crime. No one moves to Venice thinking that they will escape urban ills. When I moved here, the unofficial city motto was "Where Art Meets Crime." But the crime has clearly won, running rampant through Venice. I scarcely know anyone who has not been a victim of crime in the last few years. I have my own shocking stories in this area.

Gentrification. I suppose that I have contributed to this issue, but the Venice I moved to had plenty of room for a diverse populace including artists, long-time residents, and lower income

people. That time seems to be rapidly fading into the past, with Venice losing a bit of its soul along the way.

4. What do you see as the primary role of the Venice Neighborhood Council.

A role as the grass-roots liaison between the community at large and our government, helping to articulate concerns and solutions that may not always be apparent to our government representatives.

5. What is your vision for Venice?

A community where diversity in all forms – race, ethnicity, sex, income, beliefs, ideas, manners of expression, and lifestyles, find a safe and healthy haven in a community we can all be proud of.

6. If not selected, are you willing to participate in a VNC Committee? Which Committee interests you and why?

I would most likely select the Homelessness Committee, although I am flexible.