

To Whom It May Concern:

6/20/2023

Presented here and attached is a summary of the Venice Neighborhood Council's ad hoc Homelessness Committee's efforts from 11/14/19 – 5/30/23.

We convened over that time period some 42 meetings. Heard, considered and voted on some 35 motions. Set up some 39 presentations from significant advocates, service providers, politicians, and others sharing their expertise and advice concerning homelessness including regular updates from staff of various services being offered in Venice. Assembled and provided a homeless round table at which we heard from many currently homeless individuals. The committee members have remained consistent and engaged and are from all different points of view and perspectives.

The contents of all the meetings, motions and presentations are stored on the VNC website by date under the Homelessness Ad Hoc Committee. Throughout the pandemic period, 10/26/21-3/28/23, thanks to the expertise of Vicki Halliday and assistance of Jim Murez there are recordings and videos of all the meetings and throughout the existence of the committee, in its present form, we have had the benefit of Elizabeth Wright's minutes and notes of the meetings contained in the posted minutes. We have also posted a multitude of documents including data concerning homelessness. The attachments to this email provide a table of contents for the web site material broken out by date for ease of reference and by presentations, motions, attachments and round table presentations.

As to the committee itself there are currently 8 members with several participants moving on over the years.

Past members: Will Hawkins the previous chair of the committee stayed on at the beginning to help us start. Charles Rails, previously homeless and working for the SPY organization, cochaired with me for the first 10 months. CJ Cole, community activist and local real estate professional, was with us for 8 months starting 6/2020. Mike Rapkin, an attorney and substantive supporter of several service providers, was with us for the first 1½ years. Clark Brown, an attorney and VNC board member, joined us for several months at the end of 2021 and beginning of 2022.

Current members: Pat Raphael, currently homeless, an artist who sells his work on the boardwalk and frequently writes articles for the local newspaper The Beachhead, joined us at the beginning of 2021. Colette Bailey, longtime activist in the Venice Community and previous VNC board member, joined us 10/2021. Jody Mortimer, previously homeless and veteran of the armed services, joined us 11/2021. Stan Muhammad, community activist advocating for at risk youth, gang intervention, outreach to homeless, previous VNC board member and one of the original founders of Venice 2000 and the HELPER Foundation, joined us 12/20. Brian Ulf, substance abuse outreach and housing provider, local political activist, joined the Homelessness

Committee from its beginning. Liz Wright, prominent local political activist for decades, helped to start the VNC and local resident throughout her professional career, helped form the committee from the start. Vicki Halliday, local political activist, VNC board member, Communications Officer and Journalist, with Committee from its inception. Frank Murphy, local developer and Venice resident for 48 years.

As you can see this is a varied group of concerned citizens with widely different experiences and involvement with our unhoused population.

The attendance of our community members has been consistently high through all of what we have been through for the past 3 ½ years and their input thoughtful, substantive, passionate and constructive.

Given the breadth and scope of the work that we have done, as evidenced in this summary, we have met the obligation of our mission and continue to do so.

Respectfully,
Homelessness Committee Chair
Frank Murphy