



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

Meeting Date: Tuesday, June 27, 2023

Meeting Time: 7:00 – 8: 00 pm

Meeting Location: Extra Space Storage, Community Room, 658 Venice Blvd., Venice CA 90291

Contact: Frank.Murphy@venicenc.org

1. 7:00 pm – Call to Order

2. Roll Call

Frank Murphy (chair)	P		
Colette Bailey	P		
Vicki Halliday	P		
Pat Raphael	P		
Jodie Mortimer	P		
Stan Muhammad	P	Jim Murez (ex officio)	
Brian Ulf	P		
Liz Wright	P		

3. Review, Comment and Adopt Minutes from meeting
The minutes of the May 2023 meeting were accepted.

4. Chair Report (5 minutes).

5. Presentation by LAPD narcotics division focusing on homelessness and drug abuse.

The officer spoke on the phone, without giving his name, because he works undercover. He is involved with catching intermediate dealers.

Crystal meth is overwhelmingly the biggest problem in Venice, Cocaine is second, and they are seeing very little heroin. There is a new drug “trank” that started on the east coast and is now in Los Angeles. The high it creates lasts longer and there is less fentanyl in it. Narcan doesn’t work on it but, their instructions are that unless you know for a fact that someone did not overdose on an opioid, apply Narcan.

He requested that folks report dealer activity they see. It is most helpful, but not required,

if you leave your name and contact information so they can ask follow-up questions.
310-482-6399 or Crime Stoppers

6. Presentation by Pat Raphael, "What does success look like?"
Pat expanded on his write-up on this topic, which is on the VNC Homelessness Committee web page "Summary – Pat Raphael".
7. Homeless Round Table – A panel of current or recent homeless people focusing on their story and their concern's, need's and want's when homeless.
Presentation and Committee Q&A.
Larry Snyder was kind enough to share his life story with us. At an early age, his family moved from the east coast to the west. En route, his father was murdered in Texas. In order to provide food and a roof for the family, his mother worked. Often multiple jobs. That meant that she was not home when he got out of school, and was not present with the frequency needed to keep Larry away from gangs and out of trouble.
Unsupervised at an age when supervision and structure are needed most, Larry became a gang member and an incorrigible. His first incarceration was at age 14. At that time, or soon thereafter, he became addicted to drugs. He got released, went back to his gang and burgled wherever they said. Eventually he got caught and was sent to prison for 2-5 years. This cycle continued until he reached age 50. Imagine a life of out for a while, doing all kinds of things to support his habit, then incarcerated for 2-5 years. Repeat. Repeat.
At age 50 Larry took a serious look at his life's pattern and decided that it could not continue that way. With the aid of Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous, Larry was able to stop taking drugs/alcohol. He is now spending the bulk of his discretionary income and time spreading the word among addicts that help is available and it is worth the effort to stop. Educating and encouraging addicts has become a passion.
8. Public comment on presentation.
9. Public Comment – 1 minute on non-agenda items related to Homelessness Committee.
10. Committee Comments on items not on the agenda for consideration
11. Adjourn

This was the VNC's final Homelessness Committee meeting. As an ad hoc committee, it ends the last day of an administration (June 30, 2023) or 12 months from creation, whichever comes sooner.

The VNC Homelessness Committee now contains a document "Homelessness Committee Summary" which outlines what we have done.