

MOTION: The Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers approves the submitted changes amending **ARTICLE II: PURPOSE** of the previously adopted (7/1/22) VNC Bylaws.

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

CURRENT LANGUAGE BYLAWS dated 7/1/22:

- ~~A. Mission Statement: To improve the quality of life in Venice by building community and to secure support from the City of Los Angeles for the resources needed to achieve our goals.~~

- ~~B. Purpose: the purpose of the VNC shall be:
 - ~~1. To engage the broad spectrum of Stakeholders for collaboration and deliberation on matters affecting the community including events, issues and projects.~~
 - ~~2. To work with other organizations in Venice and other Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils that want help in accomplishing their objectives or projects that the Venice Neighborhood Council desires to support.~~
 - ~~3. To promote Stakeholder participation and advocacy in Los Angeles City government decision-making processes and to promote greater awareness of available City resources.~~
 - ~~4. To be an advocate for Venice to government and private agencies.~~~~

- ~~C. Policy: the policy of the VNC shall be:
 - ~~1. To respect the Stakeholders as the ultimate authority and controlling force of the Venice Neighborhood Council.~~
 - ~~2. To consistently and diligently outreach to the diverse and ever-changing Venice Community.~~
 - ~~3. To respect the autonomy of all individuals, groups and organizations within the community.~~
 - ~~4. To maintain the confidentiality of the Voting Member database as required by law.~~
 - ~~5. To remain non-partisan with respect to political party affiliation and inclusive in the Council's operations including, but not limited to, the process of electing or selecting the Board of Officers and Committee members, as herein set forth.~~
 - ~~6. To utilize the Early Notification System (ENS) to inform the Council and Stakeholders and Community Interest Stakeholders of matters involving the City and our community in a way that is tailored to provide opportunities for involvement in the decision-making process.~~~~

7. To prohibit discrimination against any individual or group in our operations on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status, income, homeowner/renter status, or political affiliation.
8. To have fair, open, and transparent procedures for the conduct for all Council business.

PROPOSED CHANGES:

ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Council is to promote more citizen participation in government and make government more responsive to local needs. Neighborhood councils shall include representatives of the many diverse interests in communities and shall have an advisory role on issues of concern to the neighborhood. (The purpose is defined in Los Angeles Charter section 900.)

A. The **MISSION** of the Council is:

1. To provide an inclusive and open forum for public discussion of issues of interest to the Council, including City governance, the needs of the Council, the delivery of City services to the Council area, and other matters of a City-wide nature.
2. To advise the City on issues of interest to the Council, including City governance, the needs of the Council, the delivery of City services to the Council area, and other matters of a City-wide nature.
3. To initiate, execute and support projects for the physical, social and cultural improvement of the Council area.
4. To facilitate communication between the City and the Stakeholders on issues of concern to the community and/or the Stakeholders.

B. The **POLICY** of the Council is:

1. To respect the Stakeholders as the ultimate authority and controlling force of the Venice Neighborhood Council.
2. To respect the diversity, dignity, and expression of views of all individuals, groups, and organizations within the community and/or involved in the Council.
3. To remain non-partisan with respect to political party affiliation and inclusive in the Council's operating including, but not limited to, the process of electing or selecting the Board of Directors, Officers and Committee members, as herein set forth.
4. To utilize the Early Notification System (ENS) to inform the Council and Stakeholders and Community Interest Stakeholders of matters involving the City and our community in a way that is tailored to provide opportunities for involvement in the decision-making process.

5. To encourage all Stakeholders to participate in activities of the Council.
6. To prohibit discrimination against any individual or group in our operations on the basis of race, religion, color, creed, national origin, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation, age, disability, marital status, income, homeowner/renter status, or political affiliation.
7. To have fair, open, and transparent procedures for the conduct for all Council business.

RATIONALE:

Formatting and language changes more accurately reflects Empower standardized bylaws and states the NC purpose with language approved by the LA City Council and defined in the Charter section 900.

Current Section "A" addressing the Mission, becomes a subcategory of Purpose with the proposed changes clarifying the actual Mission of the NC. By conforming to language in Standardized Empower Bylaws, the mission of the NC is more clearly defined.

Current Section B-2 incorrectly states that the purpose of an NC is to help other organizations ("organizations" is not clearly defined by the current bylaws) in Venice accomplish their goals. The actual objective of B-2 is covered by Neighborhood Purpose Grants (NPGs) and Community Improvement Projects (CIPs) using criteria defined by the City Clerk's office so this should not be in the bylaws as this is regulated and defined by the City Clerk.

Current Section B-4 is confusing because it references "government" when NCs are supposed to communicate to the City.

Policy section under Purpose, with the exception of Current C-1 will conform to the Empower standardized bylaws. Proposed changes make the Policies clearer.

Current Bylaws Policy C- 2 could be moved to Outreach responsibilities but is also covered in proposed change B-4.

Current Policy C-3 referring to autonomy is addressed in proposed change B-2.

Current Bylaws Policy C-4 belongs under Communications responsibilities (Article VI E.) and is already listed as part of that Officer's responsibilities in the current bylaws.

C-5 change to Board of Directors eliminates confusion over reference to "officers" which will also be addressed in amendments to Article V

Proposed changes require current Policy Items to be renumbered.