



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / www.VeniceNC.org

Email: info@VeniceNC.org Phone: 310-421-8627

Homeless Committee Agenda

Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 4, 2020

Meeting Time: 7:00 p.m.

Meeting Location: Zoom Webinar

Contact: Frank.Murphy@venicenc.org

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Nov 4, 2020 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Topic: VNC Homeless Committee Webinar, Wednesday November 4, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81211457501>

Or iPhone one-tap :

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Webinar ID: 812 1145 7501

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1. 7:00 pm - Call to Order and Roll Call

Frank Murphy (Co-Chair)			
Brian Ulf			
Mike Rapkin			
CJ Cole			
Liz Wright			
Vicki Halliday		Ira Koslow (ex-officio)	
Homeless Rotating Member			

2. 7:00 pm - Approve Agenda as presented or amended

3. 7:05 pm – Approve Minutes of last meeting as presented or amended

4. 7:05 pm - ANNOUNCEMENTS

5. 7:10 pm - PUBLIC COMMENT – 1 minute on non-agendized items related to Homeless Committee only

6. 7:15 pm - Chair Report

7. 7:20 pm - Items for Discussion and Possible Action – Motion

a. READ Text of Motion

b. MAKE MOTION

c. SECOND MOTION



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- d. PUBLIC COMMENT
- e. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION
- f. VOTE

Motion 1:

Motion for Parking Lot vagrancy enforcement
Submitted by Tom Wright

Agenda Motion Request: The motion is to discuss uniting with the LAPD to enforce existing codes on vagrant and excessive behavior in the parking lot behind SPARC located on Venice Blvd

Motion 2:

Venice Homeless Initiative: We Are All Venice
Submitted by Matthew Schwartz

Agenda Motion Request: Pheenix Wade and myself, Matthew Schwartz, are looking to plan soup kitchens in the Venice community in an effort to mend relations between the homeless population and provide much needed assistance. Attached is a proposal that includes the who, what, when, where, why, and how. Please reach out to discuss any questions or concerns. We have yet to hear a response from the Homeless Committee and have been in touch with Jim Robb. (see Supporting Documents)

Motion 3:

Calling for Bi-Monthly Cleaning of All Encampments in Venice
Submitted by Eva Greene

Whereas, the recently released homeless count for Venice revealed a 49% increase in that population to a total of 1,685 at the time of the count in January, and

Whereas, residents have seen a rise in human feces, trash piles food waste and needles on sidewalks and in their front yards and alleys, and

Whereas, many people that live near the homeless encampments in Venice have seen a surge in rats and mice scurrying in their trashcans and finding ways into their homes and apartments, and

Whereas, there have been no encampment cleanups since late March, 2020, and

Whereas, the City Council voted 10-4 on Wednesday, July 29, 2020 to bring back "comprehensive" cleanups in designated zones around the Bridge Housing sites and the backers of the Motion said it was needed in order to maintain cleanliness and keep the promises that city leaders made to residents, and

Whereas, there are many homeless encampments in Venice that are not near the Bridge Housing site but which are also sites of accumulation of human sewage, food waste, and which act as magnets for rodents; and

Whereas, in October, 2019, L.A. County officials declared an outbreak of typhus linked to overcrowding around Skid Row, and

Whereas a major outbreak of Hepatitis A in San Diego linked to homelessness killed 20 people two years ago, and

Whereas, the growing homeless populations create unsanitary conditions that contribute to the spread of disease – typhoid, typhus, bubonic plague, salmonella, according to infectious disease specialist Dr. Jeffrey Klausner of UCLA, who has stated that there is no time to waste in addressing these looming public health threats, and



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Whereas now with MRSA and Covid-19 within the homeless community these conditions more than ever must be kept as sanitary as is possible with those living in the encampments, and
Whereas, Los Angeles City Councilman Joe Buscaino, who represents Watts and the Harbor Area, stated recently that growing rat infestations across the city “are emblematic of how we lost control of the homeless, trash and encampment issue. And if we can’t protect the greatest symbol of our own democracy, our own City Hall, if we can’t protect our own staff from medieval diseases, then we should all pack up and go home,” and
Whereas, CatsUSA Pest Control, brought in to assess the areas outside City Hall and nearby buildings, warned that homeless people create “harborage for rodents,” according to their report issued Dec. 28, 2019, and that the company found “poor sanitary conditions” — including leftover food, human waste and hypodermic needles and recommended that the city clear away the homeless population living in the Civic Center,” and
Whereas, studies have shown that the only way to prevent these medieval diseases and prevent a possible plague outbreak is through sanitation, and
Whereas, the LA County Public Health Department has stated: “Garbage and rubbish is an excellent food source for rodents and garbage should be stored in rodent-proof containers. Receptacles should be rust resistant, water tight, and have tight fitting lids. Stored items should be elevated a minimum of 18” above cleared ground and stored 12” from walls and fences.” And the CDC recommends: “Keep food in thick plastic or metal containers with tight lids. Prevent contact with rodents by cleaning up your home, workplace, or campsite,” and
Whereas, it is frequently not possible for those in encampments to abide by these rules, and
Whereas, there is a serious concern over the diseases that can develop in encampments citywide, including in Venice, and that these diseases will also infect housed residents through the proliferation of rodents, now

Therefore, be it resolved, the Venice Neighborhood Council calls upon the City of Los Angeles and its Sanitation Department to clean all homeless encampments in Venice two times a month, including the temporary shifting of all possessions, tents, furniture, etc., to allow thorough cleaning of sidewalks, parkways, and any other public areas, including power-washing, CDC guidelines notwithstanding, and that the city provide and service rat-proof trash cans at all encampments of ten or more people.

Upon passage, this Resolution shall be forwarded to Mayor Eric Garcetti, Councilman Mike Bonin, President of the Board of Public Works Kevin James, and Department of Sanitation General Manager Enrique C. Zaldivar, and the entire city council.

Motion 4:

Calling for immediate sheltering opportunities for the homeless population

Submitted by Michael Rapkin and Frank Murphy

Whereas, the homeless population in Los Angeles, including Venice, has continued to grow at alarming rates year after year; and

Whereas, while every day unhoused people in Los Angeles are being housed there are more people each day who are entering homelessness; and

Whereas, the number of tent encampments for homeless people in Los Angeles, including Venice and other neighborhoods within CD 11, has increased, causing consternation amongst both Venice residents and homeless advocates; and



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Whereas, the population of Venice represents 14% of the population of CD 11 and the population of homeless people in Venice represents 56% of the population of homeless people in CD 11; and

Whereas, decreasing the homeless population in Venice by providing temporary shelter while permanent supportive housing is sought in and about Los Angeles will improve public safety, alleviate personal property on public property, open up more sidewalks, protect homeless people from the elements, and decrease the quantity of RVs on the streets; and

Whereas, most unhoused people want to be re-housed; and

Whereas, all 15 City Council persons are coordinating efforts with a Federal Court Judge to find options to immediately reduce the homeless population within their respective Council Districts, and further delays are unacceptable;

NOW THEREFORE, the following Motion is made:

The Venice Neighborhood Council and its Homeless Committee shall support efforts by local, state and federal agencies and officials, as well as local service providers, to immediately reduce the growing, unhoused population in Venice by advocating master leasing, shared housing, safe parking, rapid re-housing, pallet sheltering, and other similar accommodations. In addition, they shall seek to collaborate with other neighborhoods of CD11 to find ways to reduce homelessness and distribute the care and accommodations of homelessness throughout CD11 including, but not limited to, Venice.

8. 8:20 pm – Old Business

9. 8:22 pm – New Business

10. 8:25 pm – COMMITTEE COMMENTS – Comments by Committee Members on subject matters within the jurisdiction of the Homeless Committee but not on the Agenda

11. 8:30 pm - ADJOURN

PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS: The public is requested to fill out a “Speaker Card” to address the Homeless Committee on any agenda item before the [committee] takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the Homeless Committee’s jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Homeless Committee 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 Homeless Committee meeting. Public comment is limited to 1 minute per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer.

POSTING: In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board members in advance of a meeting may be viewed at Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd; Venice Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd; and at our website by clicking on the following link: www.venicenc.org, or at the scheduled meeting. You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City’s Early Notification System at <http://www.lacity.org/government/Subscriptions/NeighborhoodCouncils/index.htm>. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record related to an item on the agenda, please contact frank.murphy@venicenc.org.

RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS: For information on the VNC’s process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the VNC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website www.venicenc.org.

DISABILITY POLICY: The Venice Neighborhood Council complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and does not discriminate on the basis of any disability. Upon request, the Venice Neighborhood Council will provide reasonable accommodations 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.