



# Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)

Email: [info@VeniceNC.org](mailto: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](mailto: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 :

US: +16699006833,,81211457501# or +13462487799,,81211457501#

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Webinar ID: 812 1145 7501

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81211457501>

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

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

Motion was made and passed to postpone approval of minutes because not everyone had reviewed the draft. (6,0,0)

### 4. 7:05 pm - ANNOUNCEMENTS

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



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**Note: It was noticed that once a person was allowed to speak, that person could speak and be heard by all at any time. Even when the screen showed their mic was muted, all they had to do was say something and it became unmuted, enabling them to interrupt the meeting.**

**6. 7:15 pm - Chair Report**

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

## Item 1 - Discussion

Parking Lot vagrancy enforcement  
Submitted by Tom Wright

Discuss uniting with the LAPD to enforce existing codes on vagrant and excessive behavior in the parking lot behind SPARC located on Venice Blvd.

The conclusion was that Bryan Ulf and the motion author, Tom Wright, would be put into touch with one another to clarify and possibly enlarge the request to all parking lots.

## Item 2 - Discussion

Venice Homeless Initiative: We Are All Venice ([Establish soup kitchens](#))  
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)

The authors will be referred to the appropriate groups or agencies for guidance. It is known that the City is very concerned about the safety of any food service it approves.

## Item 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



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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

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.

The chair, reminded attendees that they were to wait their turn to speak and otherwise to remain silent. During the comment period, 16 members of the public spoke without interruption. While the 17th person was speaking, others interjected comments relentlessly.

At this point the meeting was adjourned.