



# Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org)  
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## Joint meeting of Public Health and Safety Committee and Board of Directors – Agenda

**Meeting Date:** 02/03/2021  
**Meeting Time:** 5pm Pacific  
**Meeting Location:** Webinar online zoom meeting  
**Contact:** [soledad.ursua@venicenc.org](mailto:soledad.ursua@venicenc.org) (Chair)

Please click the link below to join the webinar:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85964107854>

Or iPhone one-tap :

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 833 548 0282 (Toll Free)

Webinar ID: 859 6410 7854

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**1. Call to Order and Roll Call (5:00pm-5:10) 5:03pm**

<b>Soledad Ursua (Chair)</b>	X		
<b>Eva Greene (Co-chair)</b>	X		
<b>John Baginski</b>	X		
<b>Helen Fallon</b>	X		
<b>Allan Parsons</b>	X		
<b>Mark Ryavec</b>	X	<b>Ira Koslow (ex-officio)</b>	

2. **Approval of Agenda** (Start time + 00:05) **Mover MR, Second EG. Yes-6 (SU, EG, JB, HF, AP, MR), No-0, Abstain 0**
3. **Review, Comment and Adopt Minutes from prior meeting** (2 minutes) **Mover HF, Second MR. Yes-6 (SU, EG, JB, HF, AP, MR), No-0, Abstain 0**
4. **Chair Report** (5 minutes)
5. **Committee Member Announcements** (5 minutes)
6. **Public Comment – 30 Seconds on non-agendized items related to Public Health and Safety Committee only** (10 minutes)
7. **Summary of Public Records Reports** (15 minutes): Presented by Allan Parsons to LAPD
8. **Public Safety - LAFD and LAPD Report** (40 minutes): Includes a monthly Venice crime report and updates on law enforcement and public safety issues in Venice.

Los Angeles Police Department, Steven Embrich (30993@lapd.online), Brian Cook (36258@lapd.online), Monique Contreras (38228@lapd.online);



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Los Angeles Fire Department, Armando R. Hogan, Deputy Chief  
([armando.hogan@lacity.org](mailto:armando.hogan@lacity.org))

## 9. Venice Beach Enforcement Issues - Coordination Among Municipal Offices and Panel of Experts (25 minutes)

### a. Item for Discussion and Possible Action. Invited Panelists:

Los Angeles Police Department, Steven Embrich ([30993@lapd.online](mailto:30993@lapd.online)), Brian Cook ([36258@lapd.online](mailto:36258@lapd.online)), Monique Contreras ([38228@lapd.online](mailto:38228@lapd.online)); Office of LA City Attorney, Claudia Martin ([claudia.martin@lacity.org](mailto:claudia.martin@lacity.org)) & Director of Homelessness Policies & Strategies, Gita O'Neil ([gita.oneill@lacity.org](mailto:gita.oneill@lacity.org))

## 10. Items for Discussion and Possible Action - Application of Fire Code, Safety Buffer between Encampments and Structures

### a. Item for discussion and possible action

Venice has witnessed numerous fires over recent years in homeless encampments, in recreational vehicles, and free-standing fires in public; and the recent fire at 723 Ocean Front Walk (OFW) destroyed the office building at that location and threatened nearby apartment buildings and single-family residences.

### b. Public comment – 1 minute per person (10 minutes)

### c. Committee discussion – (10 minutes)

### d. Motion: Whereas, Venice has witnessed numerous fires over recent years in homeless encampments, in recreational vehicles, and free-standing fires in public; and

Whereas, these random and ongoing fires pose a tremendous threat of serious lifelong injuries or potential death to our Unsheltered population; and

Whereas, the recent fire at 723 Ocean Front Walk (OFW) destroyed the office building at that location and threatened nearby apartment buildings and single-family residences; and

Whereas, the Los Angeles Fire Department has announced that the fire at 723 OFW spread from the large homeless encampment on Park Avenue adjacent to the building; and

Whereas, fires on Rose Avenue next to Penmar Golf Course have threatened the golf course's expansive tree canopy and resulted in the city removing all encampments on Rose Avenue east of Lincoln Boulevard, setting a positive precedence for addressing fire danger in Venice; and

Whereas, Venice has an unusually high percentage of wooden and historic structures that are especially vulnerable to fire; and

Whereas, such a buffer zone would significantly advance the objective of protecting residences and other structures from fire; and

Whereas, there is precedence in the City of Los Angeles banning camping in other fire-vulnerable areas, such as the bluffs along Pacific Coast Highway in the Pacific Palisades; now

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Venice Neighborhood Council calls upon the Los Angeles City Council to immediately pass an ordinance to reinforce and enhance current LA City Fire Code by; prohibiting tents and/or temporary flammable structures to be located within 20 feet of lot lines, buildings, other tent or membrane structures,



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parked vehicles or internal combustion engines; banning any fires for any purpose on public property within 50 feet of any structure; banning flammable-liquid-fueled equipment use in tents or membrane structures; requiring flammable and combustible liquids shall be stored per LA Fire Code not less than 50 feet away from lot lines, buildings, other tent or membrane structures, and parked vehicles; and ensure all fire access lanes are clear for emergency use.

The Venice Neighborhood Council further calls upon the Los Angeles Fire Department to conduct an immediate study of the fire hazard posed to structures in Venice by encampments and to issue orders for those encampments that pose a fire threat to be removed from proximity to those structures and fire access lanes.

Upon passage this Resolution shall be sent as a Community Impact Statement to Councilman Mike Bonin ([Mike.Bonin@lacity.org](mailto:Mike.Bonin@lacity.org)), Mayor Eric Garcetti ([Eric.Garcetti@lacity.org](mailto:Eric.Garcetti@lacity.org)), the Los Angeles City Council's Public Safety Committee (Committee Legislative Assistants: [Keyonna.Kidd@lacity.org](mailto:Keyonna.Kidd@lacity.org), [Rita.Moreno@lacity.org](mailto:Rita.Moreno@lacity.org) and [Dennis.Gleason@lacity.org](mailto:Dennis.Gleason@lacity.org), and Deputy Fire Chief Armando Hogan ([armando.hogan@lacity.org](mailto:armando.hogan@lacity.org)) and to the Los Angeles City Clerk to be attached to Council File: 20-0010-S16.

**Mover HF, Second JB. Yes-6 (SU, EG, JB, HF, AP, MR), No-0, Abstain 0**

**Meeting Adjourn 8:02pm**

**A written report was sent to the VNC Board.**

Questions, comments? Send us an email!

[publicsafety@venicenc.org](mailto:publicsafety@venicenc.org)

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**PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS:** *The public is requested to fill out a "Speaker Card" to address the Public Health and Safety Committee on any agenda item before the Public Health and Safety 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 Public Health and Safety Committee's jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the Public Health and Safety 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 Public Health and Safety Committee meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 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](http://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 [vp@venicenc.org](mailto:vp@venicenc.org).*

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