

**LETTER IN SUPPORT
TO KEEP VENICE WITHIN CD11
AND CD11 BOUNDARIES UNCHANGED
[Council File: 20-0668]**

SUMMARY:

Venice remaining part of CD11 satisfies the need and desire for Council Districts to adhere to closeness and compactness. Venice's unique culture, its proximity to the coastline, and its similar racial diversity index as neighboring communities makes a strong case for these coastal neighborhoods currently in the CD11 boundaries to remain intact. The acceleration of affordable housing being built in Venice provides opportunities for people in Venice, and in Venice-adjacent communities to remain on the Westside in CD11. The Venice Neighborhood Council asks that the Redistricting Commission define CD11 as: East of the Pacific Ocean, South of Mulholland Drive, West of the 405 Freeway, and North of Imperial Highway. We are advocating and endorsing that Venice remain part of CD11.

The Venice Neighborhood Council supports both the inclusion of Venice in Council District 11 ("CD11") and for the boundaries of CD11 to remain unchanged. We believe that the Santa Monica Mountains bound by Mulholland Drive (to the North), the 405 Freeway (to the East), Imperial Highway (to the South), and the Pacific Ocean (to the West) provide a reasonable and logical boundary consisting of both natural and major thoroughfare landmarks for CD11. Given that one of the guiding principles of the Los Angeles Redistricting Commission is to ensure that districts remain geographically close and compact, we believe that CD11's current boundaries -- as is -- fully satisfy the desire for CD11 to remain both compact and close; neighborhoods throughout CD11 abuts one another, with the exception of unincorporated areas of Los Angeles.

Another guiding principle of the The Los Angeles Redistricting Commission is for communities of likeness to remain intact. Bounded by the Santa Monica Mountains to the North and the Pacific Ocean to the West, the neighborhood makeup of CD11 includes environmentally sensitive habitats that span the Pacific Palisades, Venice, Playa Del Rey, and West Chester. Keeping these neighborhoods together allows them to coordinate resources to protect the environment and wildlife along the coastline (much of which includes endangered species), and allows a single elected representative to coordinate efforts, monies, and policy with Los Angeles County, Beaches and Harbors, and the Coastal Commission. Breaking up this coastal community would delay coordination with multiple agencies to respond to coastal issues, coastal emergencies, the protection of wildlife, coastal access, and the production of affordable housing within a coastal zone. The proximity to natural wildlife habitats and the coastline ostensibly makes Venice and other neighborhoods along the shoreline a community of likeness.

This proximity to the Pacific Ocean makes Venice a largely unique community in CD11. It's the second most-visited tourist site in California, outside of Disney World, delivering large influxes of people during peak tourist season. Tourists often visit Venice in concert with neighboring

communities, such as Santa Monica (an unincorporated area of Los Angeles) and beaches in the Palisades. This large, temporary increase in population poses unique challenges in public safety. These CD11 communities benefit from a coordinated effort between the Los Angeles Police Department and a single Council District office. Further, coastal cleanliness and maintenance required to continually attract tourists from both around the world and here in LA County alike is simplified when multiple agencies (Parks and Recreation, Beaches and Harbors, LA Sanitation, LAPD) are coordinated through a single council district office (CD11).

Venice is relatively diverse, according to recent census data. Venice has a racial diversity index of ~ 61 (0 is least diverse, 100 is extremely diverse). Venice-adjacent CD11 neighborhoods share similar diversity indexes (Mar Vista: 76, Del Rey: 83.50, West Chester / Playa 71, WestLA/Sawtelle: 77). The diversity of CD11 as a whole is 69. We can see the result of a racially and culturally diverse community in public datasets available for restaurants and food markets that line major transportation corridors running through these CD11 neighborhoods: Venice Blvd (Venice, Mar Vista, Palms), Lincoln Blvd (Venice, Playa Del Rey, West Chester), Santa Monica Blvd (West LA), and Sawtelle Blvd (West LA). Given the density of these restaurants, their proximity to major transportation corridors, proximity to housing, and proximity to LA Metro lines, it's clear that the current CD11 neighborhood makeup creates a sizable amount of food industry jobs. The Venice Neighborhood Council believes that unique challenges for housing affordability and reliable transportation are best coordinated and solved through a single Council District Office overseeing the physical intersections of these racially and culturally diverse neighborhoods.

Finally, after looking at the dataset for housing, we see that the largest concentration of affordable housing developments is located within Venice for CD11. This means that the rest of the Venice-adjacent neighborhoods within CD11 are benefiting -- and stand to continually benefit -- from affordable housing policy and development through a single Council District office. These affordable housing developments within Venice benefit Venice, as Venice has only added approximately 1,300 net new housing units from 2010 to 2021, despite a population growth of approximately 11,000 people. We're advocating for Venice to remain within a single Council District, and that CD11's boundaries remain unchanged, as the Venice-adjacent neighborhoods stand to benefit from the affordable housing recently built and currently under construction.

In summary, Venice remaining part of CD11 satisfies the need and desire for Council Districts to adhere to closeness and compactness. Venice's unique culture, it's proximity to the coastline, and a similar racial diversity index as neighboring communities makes a strong case for these coastal neighborhoods currently in the CD11 boundaries to remain intact. The acceleration of affordable housing being built in Venice also provides opportunities for people in Venice, and in Venice-adjacent communities to remain on the Westside in CD11. The Venice Neighborhood Council asks that the Redistricting Commission define CD11 as: East of the Pacific Ocean, South of Mulholland Drive, West of the 405 Freeway, and North of Imperial Highway. We are advocating and endorsing that Venice remain part of CD11.

