**Resolution Supporting the Creation of a Landscaped Median on Grand Boulevard**

Whereas, the organization Neighbors of Grand earlier prepared and submitted to CD 11 Councilmember Bill Rosendahl a plan (attached) to create a landscaped median on Grand Blvd. from N. Venice Blvd. to Main Street that would add approximately 70 to 140 street parking spaces, depending on whether the Department of Transportation, in consultation with the Los Angeles Fire Department, allows one or two lanes of median street parking; and

Whereas, this plan, prepared by landscape architect and then-Venice resident Darin Morris, would serve as a model for any of the wider streets in Venice to allow for additional parking, traffic calming, storm water runoff diversion, beautification and greening, while the introduction of trees and native plant species would reduce heat gain on paved surfaces and allow the return of native species; and

Whereas, at that time the city was still recovering from the Great Recession and was not able to consider funding for projects such as the one proposed; and

Whereas, the 2021 Fehr & Peers Parking Study included a recommendation previously twice-rejected by Councilman Rosendahl to re-orient all the parallel parking spaces on Grand Blvd. from parallel to diagonal with the objective of creating additional parking, an objective that would be met by construction of the Neighbors of Grand plan; and

Whereas, Grand is a major thoroughfare and has historical significance as one of the original canals, and turning Grand into a parking lot does not contribute to the character of the “Lost Canals of Venice” neighborhood; and

Whereas, Grand is used as a speedway and drivers regularly ignore stop signs, let alone speed limits; the introduction of trees and landscaping, and pedestrian and bicycle-friendly circulation will significantly mitigate this hazard; and

Whereas, on September 19, 2005, the Los Angeles Council adopted Ordinance 176861, which:

*Authorized the City Council to designate by Resolution areas where parking is prohibited between 2:00 am and 6:00 am, to issue permits to residents and their guests in residential areas where such parking is prohibited if there is inadequate off-street parking available, and to establish permit fees at a level sufficient to fully reimburse the City for the cost of administering, implementing and enforcing the overnight parking program.*

And whereas, the city subsequently established by resolution Venice Overnight Parking Districts (OPDs) 520, 521, 522, 523, and 526 west of Lincoln Blvd., and approved city Coastal Development Permits 08-07, 08-08, 08-09, 08-10 and 08-11 for these OPDs and this legislation is still valid; and,

Whereas, at an official election conducted by the VNC on February 22, 2009, Venice residents voted by a margin of 891 to 608 to grant residents the right to establish OPDs on their streets by resident petition and this remains the position of the VNC (<https://www.nbclosangeles.com/news/local/venice-voters-advice-restrict-overnight-parking/1870044/>);and

Whereas, the VNC’s Arbor Committee has publicly noted the sparseness of Venice’s tree canopy at only 15% coverage and has called for planting trees on excess city land; and,

Whereas, the width of Grand Blvd. is an historical anomaly created by Abbot Kinney; i.e., Grand Blvd. was originally the Grand Canal, and thus made wider than the other canals to accommodate Kinney’s dream of recreating Venezia's Grand Canal, which today creates an opportunity to expand Venice’s tree canopy by planting down the middle of the street;

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved; the Venice Neighborhood Council calls upon Mayor Karen Bass and Councilwoman Traci Park to adopt and find funding for the Neighbors of Grand plan for the “greening” of Grand Blvd, including a landscaped median, large trees to provide shade and resist urban heat effects; to add parking next to the new median, which would be reserved solely for residential permit parking 2 to 6 AM under the existing OPD district and city CDP; for the city to apply for a state coastal development permit for the designated OPD parking spaces on Grand, and it is further resolved that the Venice Neighborhood Council rejects the Fehr & Peers Parking Study recommendation to convert existing street parking on Grand Blvd. to diagonal orientation.

Following passage this Resolution shall be forwarded to Mayor Karen Bass and Councilwoman Traci Park and the general managers of StreetsLA and the Department of Transportation.