

## Venice Neighborhood Council

LAND USE AND PLANNING COMMITTEE  
PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 [www.VeniceNC.org](http://www.VeniceNC.org) Email:  
Chair-LUPC@VeniceNC.org

### Contact Information:

Name: David Feige

*Nombre el letra de Molde*

Qualifying Stakeholder Address: 

*Dirección*

Street address (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

*Dirección, si diferente*

City: Venice State: CA Zip Code: 90291

*Ciudad*

*Estado*

*Código Postal*

Email (mandatory)  Phone (mandatory): 

*Correo electronico (obligatorio)*

*Telefono (obligatorio)*

I hereby certify, that I wish to serve on the Land Use and Planning Committee of the Venice Neighborhood Council and I am a Stakeholder within the boundaries of the VNC area.

Stakeholder Signature  Date August 2nd, 2025

*Firma*

Proof of stakeholder status via a valid credential must be presented at the August Board meeting. A valid credential includes, but is not limited to one of the following: a CA Driver's License or CA Residency Card (for an address within the VNC area); a school ID Card (for a school with in the VNC boundaries); a business card (in combination with any of the following with a matching Venice address: Business license, business check, or pay stub); a recent utility bill (for an address within the VNC area); an imprinted check (including an address within the VNC area); a Pay stub (from a business within the VNC area); a Passport (only in combination with any other credential item); a school report card (from a school with in the VNC boundaries); a property tax bill (with an address within the VNC area)

## **Application of David Feige for VNC LUPC Committee**

### QUESTIONS & ANSWERS:

**1) *Please explain why you wish to serve on the LUPC.***

I love it here. My wife and I have lived here for nearly 20 years, my son and daughter in law live just a few blocks away, and I have come to feel both a deep sense of belonging, and a profound sense of obligation to our Venice community. I love the artistry and the craziness, the joy and the diversity. I love the beach and the commerce, but most of all I love the people who surround me in the wonderful experiment of Venice.

I deeply believe that civic life thrives when people are engaged, and withers when they cease to care. It takes work to build a, mutually respectful community—and I believe in that work and that project. LUPC plays an incredibly delicate, but important role in shaping our present and our future—and that is something I'd like to be a part of.

**a) *Have you served before on the LUPC or other planning and land use related committee? If so, what committee and when?***

- I have not served on LUPC nor on any other planning or land use committee.

**b) *Please state your professional qualifications or related experience relevant to this position.***

I have been a resident of Venice for nearly 20 years, and a homeowner in Venice for 15 of those years. I have personal experience in dealing with both the City and Coastal Commission's permitting processes, and I am trained as a lawyer, and though I no longer practice, I did mostly trial work for over 15 years, primarily back east in the South Bronx. I am familiar with some land use law, and have some facility with navigating bureaucracies, parsing architectural drawings and evaluating projects. In addition, my work as a professional writer, enables me to draft succinct opinion letters. Finally, I have been involved in a couple of issues that both LUPC and the VNC have considered, and so I know what I'm getting into.

**c) *Please indicate your understanding of the time involved in terms of meetings and case work.***

As I understand it there are two meetings a month. In addition, the role will involve a significant amount of preparatory reading in order to intelligently render opinions about proposed projects, as well as additional work in generating written recommendations to the board concerning specific projects.

**2. *Please list your previous and/or current neighborhood or community involvement.***

I am very active in our neighborhood and even more so on our block. I know literally every person on our block and have taken on an organizing role when we have community or block-based concerns. I have been the person to interface with CD 11, in trying to get our sidewalk repaired so that one of the elderly residents who is dependent on a scooter can get down the walk street more easily. I have also brought our block's concerns to SLO of the LAPD. Beyond the block I have attended a number of VNC meetings and participated in several, and perhaps most significantly, I spearheaded the creation of the Speedway/Washington Action Committee which now has over 100 members who are concerned about the ongoing issues at Speedway and Washington Blvd. It was in that

capacity that I brought before the VNC a motion (which was passed) which required all applicants for AI Fresco permits to be currently in compliance with the ordinance in order to receive a letter of support from the VNC. In bringing that motion, I also understood and heard the concerns of a few of the board members, that adopting the rule would create additional work for the VNC and for LUPC. I said then—and this application is my way of making good on that promise—that I would help do that work so as not to merely dump a problem on others, but to volunteer to help solve it. I meant it then, and I am ready to do the work now to make that happen.

**3. Please list the three most critical planning and land use issues you feel are facing the Venice Community.**

The three most critical planning and land use issues facing the Venice community are:

1. Navigating the transition from the temporary to the permanent al-fresco ordinance. COVID and AI-Fresco dining have re-shaped a huge number of places finding a fair and livable balance between the needs of neighboring communities and the legitimate interests of the business owners being granted access to public space is critical to the continued evolution of Venice.
2. Continuing to balance the complex interests of neighbors with the real needs of our unhoused residents—this includes continuing to innovate in finding solutions for the lived-in RV's parked on our streets, as well as the encampments that spring up in our public spaces.
3. Finally, it is critical to continue to protect Venice itself—in all it's quirky glory -- from overdevelopment, while still honoring the completely legitimate needs of owners to renovate, innovate and expand. That means being alive to diversity, but open to innovation, reverent of the past, but not so wedded to it that we become mired in it, and above all, tolerant—of everyone who wants to join us in the very special project that is our community.

**4. Please review the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan and the Venice Land Use Plan (which was certified by the California Coastal Commission) and comment on your opinion of each of them.**

I have read both documents in all their specific and detailed glory, and quite honestly, I am deeply impressed with both. Are there things I would change if I were the sole author? Of course. But what both of these represent is a shared commitment to rules that are designed to share burdens and, to some extent, to equalize spaces while minimizing the diminishment of creativity. And in that is the genius of all of this—both of these documents are literally the social contract we've agreed to live by. So while I might have preferred that we require more parking or allow larger roof access structures—what really matters is that these are the rules—and that they apply to everyone.

**5. How do you view your role in private interactions with Applicants who have projects proposed before the Land Use and Planning Committee?**

As a general matter, I think there are two approaches to this issue both of which rely on a total fealty to transparency: the first is meet with everyone--Applicants and stakeholders alike--and hear all of their concerns, and then be sure to disclose to the committee everyone you've spoken with.

The second approach is to meet with no-one and only consider publicly filed documents and publicly made statements. Both, approaches are, in my view, legitimate, but I far prefer, and intend to follow the former. Of course, by choosing engagement, two things become critical: disclosing who you meet with, and working hard to ensure engagement with both applicants and stakeholders rather than just one side or the other.

Finally, as to a LUPC's member's "role" in private interactions, that role is to listen—not to speak for the committee, not to advance any particular agenda and certainly not to render an advisory opinion, but rather to use any such meeting to hear out the applicants, representatives, or stakeholders while using any such the meeting to get any necessary clarifications on any point(s) that might be unclear.

**6. *What is your understanding of and opinion on the VNC Ethics/Conflict of Interest requirements?***

The VNC bylaws require members (which presumably includes LUPC members) to follow the City of LA's governmental ethics ordinances. Those in turn are codified in the LA municipal code Article 9.5 under section 49.5.1 *et seq.* Among the core requirements are the rules that make clear that officials cannot participate in decisions in which they or an immediate family member have a financial interest. There are also additional rules governing confidential information, misuse of resources, gifts, lobbying and record keeping. All of which are fairly straight forward and all of which I would, of course follow.