

Venice Neighborhood Council

Motion:

_____ -2026-VNC (assigned post AdCom)

Committee: Rules and Elections

TITLE: **New Standing Rule--External Guidance Authority**

PURPOSE: Establish a definitive process for obtaining operational, procedural and legal guidance from the City in order to reduce the practice of board members weaponizing ad hoc advice to thwart the progress of other members. Nothing in this rule seeks to limit or eliminate the use of properly filed grievances or censures nor abridges any member's ability to seek personal advice on potential conflicts of interest.

THE MOTION: Unless otherwise delegated in writing, the chair of the board is the sole authorized representative of the Venice Neighborhood Council and its committees for purposes of seeking operational, procedural, or legal guidance from the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE), the City Attorney's Office, or any other City department or office, on matters pertaining to VNC governance or Board or committee procedure or operations.

Any guidance obtained by any Board or committee member in violation of this rule carries no authority.

Nothing in this rule limits a Board or committee member's right to file an official grievance, censure or to seek personal legal advice directly from the City Attorney's Office regarding their own potential conflict of interest in a specific matter before the Board, as required by DONE's Conflict of Interest Guidance. But any such communication shall not purport to generate guidance applicable to the VNC, the Board, or any other Board or committee member.

ACTIONS:

Committee Vote: _____(YEA) _____(NO) _____(ABSTAIN)

Heard by VNC Board on: _____ **Moved by:** _____ **Seconded by:** _____
Board Vote: _____(YEA) _____(NO) _____(ABSTAIN)