

Venice Neighborhood Council

COMMUNITY OFFICER APPLICATION RESPONSES

Applicant: Nico Ruderman

1. Why do you want to serve on the VNC Board of Officers?

Venice has been my home for 20 years, and I care deeply about this community. I want to continue working to improve public safety, address homelessness, support residents and local businesses, preserve the history and character of Venice, and make city government more responsive to our stakeholders. I also want to help improve communication and cooperation among Board members. I believe my experience, my relationships throughout Venice, and my willingness to do the work allow me to continue making a meaningful contribution to the Board.

A. Have you previously served on the VNC Board or any other Neighborhood Council Board? If so, where and when?

Yes. I have served on the Venice Neighborhood Council Board since 2021 as an At Large Community Officer and Communications Officer.

B. Have you served on a VNC Committee? Which one and for how long?

Yes. Since joining the Board in 2021, I have served on the Administrative Committee, chaired the Ocean Front Walk Committee, and served on the Venice Arbor Committee. I have also represented the VNC on the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils, where I still currently serve as Secretary.

C. Please state your professional qualifications or related experience relevant to this position.

I am a small business owner and professional sound mixer. My work requires me to manage complicated projects, budgets, schedules, technology, and teams under significant pressure. Through years of community involvement, I have built strong working relationships with elected officials, staff members, and government agencies at the city, county, and state levels. Those relationships help me stay informed, understand how decisions affecting Venice are being made, connect stakeholders with the right people, and advocate directly for our community. My years on the VNC Board have also given me extensive experience with public meetings, community outreach, and city government.

Venice Neighborhood Council

COMMUNITY OFFICER APPLICATION RESPONSES

D. How long have you been a stakeholder in the VNC area?

I have been a Venice stakeholder for 20 years. I live, work, own property, and own a business in Venice.

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

I have attended VNC meetings since approximately 2012 and have served on the Board since 2021. I have worked with residents, businesses, public officials, law enforcement, and community organizations throughout Venice. I have also worked collaboratively with surrounding councils and built strong relationships with leaders across West Los Angeles. I represent the VNC on WRAC, where I currently serve as Secretary. My work has included public safety, homelessness, parking, Ocean Front Walk, local businesses, government accountability, planting and preserving trees, and protecting Venice's history. I am also a board member of the Marina del Rey Rotary Club.

3. Please list the three most pressing issues that you feel are facing the Venice Community.

The three most pressing issues are public safety, homelessness, and protecting the character and economic health of Venice. Residents, businesses, and visitors deserve clean and safe streets. People suffering from addiction or serious mental illness need treatment, services, and accountability, not policies that leave them deteriorating on the street. We must also support local businesses, address parking and basic city services, preserve Venice's history, and make sure decisions affecting Venice reflect the needs of the people who live, work, own property, and operate businesses here.

4. What do you see as the primary roles of the Venice Neighborhood Council?

The VNC exists to give Venice stakeholders a meaningful voice in city government. That requires honest communication, serious outreach, transparent decision making, and Board members who listen before taking action. Every elected member has one vote. No member is more important or entitled to a greater voice than another. The racial, economic, geographic, and political diversity of the Board should reflect the diversity of Venice. We should respect one another's work and perspectives, even when we strongly disagree, so the VNC can fairly represent the entire community.

Venice Neighborhood Council

COMMUNITY OFFICER APPLICATION RESPONSES

5. What is your vision for Venice?

My vision is a Venice that is safe, clean, welcoming, and still recognizably Venice. We need to address homelessness honestly, support our residents and local businesses, improve basic city services, preserve our history, and protect the unique character that makes Venice unlike anywhere else. I also want the VNC itself to become less divided and more productive. We should be able to debate passionately, disagree on important issues, and still leave a meeting, share a coffee or a drink, and know one another as people. Our political disagreements should not prevent us from working together for Venice.

6. If not selected, are you willing to participate in a VNC committee? Which committee(s) interest you? Why?

Yes. If a seat were available, I would nominate myself for an open WRAC representative position. I would also like to continue serving as a VNC representative to the Westside Regional Alliance of Councils.