

VNC BOARD APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY OFFICER

Contact Information:

Name: Remi Salter

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

I hereby certify, that I wish to serve as Community Officer on the Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers and I live, work, or own property within the boundaries of the VNC area.

DATED: October 12, 2020

By: 
REMI T. SALTER

Answer all these questions; please limit your answers to 100 words or less each.

Questions:

1) Please explain why you wish to serve on the VNC Board of Officers.

a) Have you served before on the VNC Board or other Neighborhood Council Board? If so, where and when?

No, only recently moved to Venice, but I love the neighborhood and I am eager to get involved!

b) Have you served on a VNC Committee? Which one and for how long?

No.

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

As an attorney, I believe that my legal background will be a useful tool to the Neighborhood Council. I have experience litigating land use issues, so am familiar with the relevant land use codes with respect to zoning, permitting, and the like. I also have experience doing legal work in underserved areas, including working with people experiencing homelessness, which I know is a concern of many Venice residents. I also am adept at mediating conflict, and my skills as a

litigator will allow me to navigate differences of opinion that may arise amongst the council and our fellow Venice residents.

d) How long have you been a stakeholder in the VNC area?

5 months, and am here to stay as long as I can.

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

None yet.

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

Homelessness: I read about Venice residents' concerns on Nextdoor and in the local news, and experience it myself everyday walking through the neighborhood. I know that our elected officials at the local and state level have not been able to find an adequate solution to this issue. I believe it is now on us Venice residents to come up with a solution that keeps both our community and those experiencing homelessness safe.

Development: Venice is a city unlike any other. The eclectic mix of people and personalities makes this city what it is. Like the rest of LA, I think there are many developers out there that see Venice properties merely as a way to flip an old house and turn a profit. I think that the Venice Community needs to maintain what makes Venice unique compared to the rest of LA, and we ensure that any new development is in accord with the surrounding neighborhoods. Relatedly, I think we need to ensure that there is affordable housing available to those who need it in our city.

COVID-19: COVID-19 does not seem to be going away any time soon. I am proud to be a resident of Venice when I walk around and see my fellow neighbors wearing masks and socially distancing. At the same time, I know that the mandatory closures of local businesses is taking a toll on the town as well. I think allowing local restaurants to utilize underused parking lots and portions of the street for outdoor dining has been a great idea. I think we as the neighborhood council can work on coming up with other creative ideas like this that balance residents' concern for safety with local businesses' need to stay open.

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

I see the primary role of the Venice Neighborhood Council as serving as a voice for the residents of the great city of Venice. I believe that our role should be to actively listen to the concerns of our neighbors, work on realistic solutions to the problems our neighbors are concerned about, and to implement those solutions. I think the Venice Neighborhood Council should be an unbiased organization that is meant to serve the people and not to be persuaded by political agenda in any way.

5) What is your Vision for Venice?

My vision for Venice is to maintain what makes this community so unique, but at the same time to address the issues we're facing, including those outlined above. I envision a Venice with drum circles on the beach, bungalow homes being restored, and neighbors eating together at one of our locally owned restaurants. What I don't envision is the trash on the ground that you have to step over on your way to the beach, or the homeless encampments that are encroaching onto my neighbor's property, or the inadequate street parking.

6) Are you willing to participate in a VNC committee? Which committee interest you and why?

Yes!

Homeless Committee: As I mentioned above, I have a background in providing legal services to low income communities, which often involves working with people experiencing homelessness. I think this experience would lend itself well to serving on the homeless committee and finding a solution to this issue.

Outreach and Event Planning: I am an extrovert at heart and am looking for ways to get to know my fellow Venice neighbors. I think being on the outreach and event planning committee would be a great way to get more involved with the social side of Venice.