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Dennis Hathaway



Venice Neighborhood Council



Questions:

Please limit your answers to the 9 questions below to 200 words or less each.

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

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as a m	ember of the GRVNC	board and LUPC in 2004. I am currer Empowerment Congress.	ofly a member of the





Please state your professional qualifications or related experience relevant to this position:
I was employed in the construction industry for thirty years, as an independent contractor and it construction management. I was the construction manager and director of property management for Venice Community Housing Corp. for six years.
4) Please list your previous and/or current neighborhood or community involvement:
I have been involved with the Venice Community Coalition, which addresses land use and development issues in the community, and was instrumental in getting a Community Development Overlay adopted for Lincoln Blvd. I am a board member of the Coalition to Ban Billboard Blight, a non-profit corporation working to combat visual blight in the city. I am a member of the CD11 Empowerment Congress' Housing Committee. I am a member of the St. Joseph Working Group, a committee set up by the CD11 office to address issues relating to the St. Joseph Homeless Service Center on Lincoln Blvd.





5) Please list the three most pressing planning issues you feel are facing the Venice Community: The most pressing issue facing the Venice Community is the preservation of the essential nature of the community. Venice has long been a diverse community, with people of varied ethnicities, economic class, and age living side by side. It has also been a community of small, neighborhood businesses, and it has been home to writers, visual artists, musicians, and others who find its eclectic nature creatively stimulating. However, the precipitous increase in housing prices in the past decade is threatening that diversity, and the community is in danger of becoming much more homogeneous, a place where only the well-to-do can afford to live. We need to find ways through the planning process to slow down this trend, by encouraging the construction and preservation of affordable housing and small, locally-owned businesses. We also need be observant of height and density limits that preserve the intimate feel of the community, as a place that is oriented to people, not to cars and the kind of faceless commerce characterized by large chain stores and shopping centers. 6) Under what kinds of situations do you feel it to be appropriate to grant exceptions or variances to the Venice Specific Plan or other LA City Planning codes? The city charter and municipal code set out very specific and definite conditions a property owner needs to meet in order to be granted exceptions to the specific plan and other codes. Unless these conditions are clearly met, variances and exceptions should not be granted





7) What is your opinion of the Venice Specific Plan?

How do you view your role in private interactions with developers who have projects proposed before the Land Use and Planning Committee?
I am uncomfortable with the idea of LUPC members meeting privately with developers. I'm not sure what the purpose would be, other than the developer lobbying the member on behalf of the project. At the least, any LUPC member meeting privately with a developer should disclose the fact perfore any consideration of a project, in order to promote absolute transparency. On the other hand, it is incumbent upon LUPC members to be as informed as possible about a project under consideration, and it would not be unreasonable for a member to seek detailed information from a developer outside the public forum of the committee.





9) What is your Vision for Venice?

some point in the past and resisting any change. The evolution of the community is inevitable, a even desirable, in order to remain a dynamic and vibrant place. What I don't want to see is a Ve in which only the well-to-do can afford to live, and in which the business community is dominate by anonymous chain stores and shopping centers. I want to see a Venice in which various group in terms of economic class, age, and ethnicity can live and prosper. I want to see a Venice that stattracts creative people. I also want to see a pedestrian-friendly community, with some mass transportation system that will relieve our streets of the congestion of cars. At the danger of usin cliché, I want to see Venice maintain the "soul" that it had when I first moved here thirty years as It wasn't a perfect community then, but it had something that was missing in some other				
communities, which I think was really a sense of community, which means that the popular the live				
in it deeply cared about what was going on in their streets and neighborhoods.				