

March 25, 2006

Ms. DeDe Audet, Chair  
Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council  
Venice, CA 90291

Madame Chair:

The Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee of the Grassroots Venice Neighborhood Council has completed its work. Attached please find two (2) documents: a strikethrough version of the bylaws adjustments recommended by the committee; a “clean” version of the bylaws adjustments recommended by the committee. This letter and the attached documents comprise the committee’s final report. As such, we request to be discharged as an ad hoc committee.

The attached document, as noted, represents the committee’s work and is a compendium of three sets of bylaws: The original Bylaws; the Bylaws adjustments presented as a result of a stakeholder initiative and approved by the stakeholders; and the Bylaws adjustment presented as a result of a Board recommendation and approved by the stakeholders. As you are aware, it was a significant task of the committee’s mission to resolve the contradictory language of the two competing Bylaws adjustments. That task has been completed. Additionally, the Bylaws Committee reviewed the entire Bylaws, line by line, with the goal of making the Bylaws a more effective, more efficient, and more representative document. We believe we have accomplished this task as well.

Four months ago, the Bylaws Committee began its work. Meeting at least weekly, and often twice a week, each meeting was noticed under the Brown Act, held in a public place, and was open and welcome to all input and suggestions. We employed a round table format and conducted our deliberations by listening to stakeholders, Board officers, and committee members on an equal footing basis. We commissioned three different task forces to work on specific sections of the Bylaws, or to insure that each section was in agreement with the other. We conducted an educational forum to explain most of the significant Bylaws adjustments. This forum was attended by most of the GRVNC Board of Officers, and a number of members of the community. As a committee, we listened to the feedback, took notes, and implemented most, if not all, of the suggestions. We thank you for that opportunity and for the input provided by many of the Board members.

The result of the feedback from the Board and the community, the transparent and open process, and the committee’s diligent work has produced a document of which we are rightfully proud. Its major points include:

- Changing the name to the Venice Neighborhood Council to develop a consistency in name with other Neighborhood Councils in Los Angeles;
- A change in the definition of how a stakeholder is defined to being a person, 16 or over, who lives, works, or owns property within the boundaries of Venice;
- Permanently moving the Board elections to September, with the hope that it aids in efforts to increase stakeholder participation;
- A new makeup of the Board of Officers, which includes:

- Renaming and re-defining the roles the seven (7) Executive Officers to include President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, LUPC Chair, Outreach Officer, and Communication Officer;
- Replacing District and At-Large Officers with Fourteen (14) Community Officers, elected by a limited voting method; where each Stakeholder gets to vote for only One (1) Community Officer;
- The LUPC Chair, as noted above, is an Executive Officer and is elected by the stakeholders;
- A strengthened committee structure, which includes:
  - A LUPC Committee, which, after transition, will be comprised of stakeholders who are not board members, other than the Chair, in order to gain the broadest possible input;
  - Referral of most matters to committee, in order to gain a full and fair hearing;
  - An Administrative Committee to replace the Executive Committee, and is made up of Four (4) Executive Officers and Four (4) Community Officers;
  - A Neighborhood Committee as a standing committee;
  - An Education Committee as a standing committee;
- Removal of language that was duplicative, surplus and contradictory.

The current Bylaws is a document that well served the GRVNC during its certification process and initial years. The adjustments submitted reflect a maturing Neighborhood Council and its needs to best serve the Venice community.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve the Stakeholders and the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council.

Sincerely,



L.J. Carusone, Chair, Ad Hoc Bylaws Committee

Members of the Committee:

Colette Bailey  
 David Buchanan  
 Eileen Erickson  
 Lisa Ezell  
 Greg Fitchitt  
 Steve Freedman  
 Jody Gusek

David Moring  
 Joe Murphy  
 Tom O'Meara  
 Stewart Oscars  
 Susan Rennie  
 Ivan Spiegel