

***Motion for 2006 Venice Building Moratorium
And
Venice Specific Plan Hearings***

Whereas it has been seven years since the Venice Specific Plan was adopted, and;

Whereas the area of Venice to the east of Lincoln Boulevard does not benefit from the controls and guidance of a specific plan, and;

Whereas under the Venice Specific Plan and under the citywide zoning and general plan regulations in effect east of Lincoln Boulevard there is no assessment of the cumulative impact of the traffic generated by projects which have been built in recent years and are now proposed to be built, and;

Whereas the residents Venice currently face gridlock on Lincoln Boulevard, Washington Boulevard, Rose Avenue, Abbott Kinney Boulevard, Pacific Avenue, Ocean Avenue and other streets and thoroughfares, and;

Whereas, it is unacceptable for the City of Los Angeles to continue to allow by right or permit by discretion new commercial development and high-density residential development in commercial zones where those developments will produce greater than 25 car trips per day; and,

Whereas the Los Angeles City Significance Threshold for traffic impacts is much too high and therefore does not adequately protect our community's quality of life, and;

Whereas massive new commercial developments have been proposed for Lincoln Boulevard, Washington Boulevard, Rose Avenue, Pacific Avenue and Main Street and elsewhere in Venice in commercial and manufacturing zones, and;

Whereas under the existing Specific Plan, residential lofts have been built under commercial zoning along Abbott Kinney Boulevard and said residential lofts have no setbacks from Abbot Kinney nor setbacks from adjoining properties and present a wall at the sidewalk's edge, which is the opposite of the pedestrian-oriented atmosphere which most residents would like to have maintained on this popular shopping and dining venue;

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council hereby recommends to the Council Office, the Mayor's Office, the West Area Planning Commission and the City Planning Department that the City of Los Angeles immediately impose a six month moratorium, extendable by City Council action for an additional six months, on new commercial construction on the east and west sides of Lincoln Boulevard in the Venice area, and Venice Boulevard, Washington Boulevard, and Rose Avenue in the Venice area, and move to establish hearings for the purpose of crafting an Interim Control Ordinance for these areas to be followed by the development and adoption within one year of a Specific Plan for these areas. This should be done in conjunction with the Lincoln Boulevard Community Design Overlay that is being established by the Los Angeles City Council, 11th District, and further;

Be it resolved that the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council hereby recommends to the Council Office, the Mayor's Office, the West Area Planning Commission and the City Planning Department that the City of Los Angeles hold hearings as soon as practicable to take testimony from the public for amendments to the portions of the existing Venice Specific Plan which address commercial and manufacturing zones, and further;

Be it resolved that the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council hereby recommends to the Council Office, the Mayor's Office, the West Area Planning Commission and the City Planning Department that the Planning Department and Department of Transportation be directed to draft an amendment to the Venice Specific Plan and for incorporation into an Interim Control Ordinance for the areas delineated above which would require traffic and infrastructure mitigations for any additional traffic generated by new construction in commercial zones. New development in these zones shall only be allowed to the extent that anticipated additional vehicle trips will be fully mitigated and other infrastructure provided.

Adopted this day, February 2, 2006, by the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council, Land Use and Planning Committee.