



Venice Neighborhood Council



VNC BOARD APPLICATION FOR COMMUNITY OFFICER

Contact Information:

Qualifying Stakeholder Address (*Dirección*):

<u>Print Name/ Nombre en letra de molde:</u> Michael Sugarman			
<u>Street address / Dirección</u>	<u>City / Ciudad</u>	<u>State / Estado</u>	<u>Zip/ Código Postal</u>

Mailing Address (if different):

<u>Street address / Dirección</u>	<u>City / Ciudad</u>	<u>State / Estado</u>	<u>Zip/ Código Postal</u>
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Contact Numbers:

<u>Phone (Day) / Teléfono (día)</u>	<u>Phone (Evening) / Teléfono (tarde)</u>	<u>Fax Number</u>
<u>Email / Correo Electrónico (very important)</u>		

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.

Stakeholder Signature/ Firma Michael Sugarman Date 8/28/18

June 8, 2018

Venice Neighborhood Council Application Questionnaire- SUGARMAN

- 1) As a Venetian resident of over 6 years, I would like to fulfill a long-held desire to take a more active role in my community. As a Venice resident, I am lucky enough to be able to walk to-and-fro work every day. Also, I am single and enjoy local nightlife. Thus, day and night, I am in Venice on foot and am able to not only see the challenges facing our neighborhood, but also to meet my fellow neighbors and discuss some of these issues. So, while I have never served on any official government boards or councils, I am eager to try to make a difference by pitching in.

- 2) I've been lucky enough to live in several different cities, and in each one, I was an active member and participant of community councils, ranging from Homeowners Associations to neighborhood and block volunteer organizations. Because of my size, I am frequently asked to provide safety or participate in Neighborhood Watches, increasing the comfort level for both friends and residents alike.

- 3) I believe the 3 most pressing issues facing the Venice community are:
 - a) Crime. Venice continues to struggle with crime ranging from vandalism to drugs; both of which contribute to the perception of Venice having a much higher Major Crimes profile than other west side communities.
 - b) Homelessness. Like the first issue above, the large homeless population at the beach, and frequently concentrated on Rose and 3rd (colloquially known as "Skid Rose") has put a strain on LAPD in Venice which makes it even more important that the local community pitch in to help where and whenever possible. Further, these first 2 issues also take a large toll on the tourist dollars that help fund many neighborhood programs that assist and address these same issues.
 - c) Business Growth vs. Neighborhood Residents. As an employee of one of the fastest growing tech companies in Venice, I saw how Snapchat mishandled their community relations and heard first-hand local residents complain about increased costs-of-living which made it hard for them (especially older residents) to remain in their homes, many of whom have lived here for decades. This particular issue is, therefore, of utmost importance to me as I am in a unique position to provide a bridge from the Venice Business Community to the Residential one, optimally paving the way for mutually very beneficial growth.

- 4) I see the primary role of the Venice Neighborhood Council to be an active and vocal advocate between my fellow neighbors and the City of Los Angeles, making sure that our issues are heard and addressed.

- 5) My vision for Venice is a more balanced marriage between Commercial growth through providing fertile ground for business growth and by maintaining and increasing the perception of Venice being THE new, exciting and vibrant choice of homeowners in Los Angeles. The way we accomplish this is by working to address the issues outlined above in order to make our neighborhood as attractive as possible to both prospective businesses and home buyers alike.

- 6) I am willing to participate in a VNC committee because I feel I am ideally positioned to influence both my neighborhood as a long-time resident and an employee of a growing Venice business. I am passionate about both and feel like I can make major contributions to each. Thus, for the 2 types of committees (Standing and Ad Hoc), I could see me easily becoming involved with:
 - a) Standing Committees
 - 1) Land Use and Planning- representing both residents and businesses. Areas that I discussed above and that I might be uniquely placed to be of assistance.
 - 2) Ocean Front Walk- Where the vast majority of Venice's tourist dollars are spent. This is a critical committee and I would be proud to serve here.
 - 3) Outreach & Event Planning- I have a lot of experience in this field that I could bring to the table.
 - 4) Arts Committee- One of the most exciting things Venice offers to the public, and a great public relations event to tout the neighborhoods true value to Los Angeles.

 - b) Ad Hoc
 - 1) Biz Committee- Given that I work, as well as reside in Venice, I am uniquely placed to add a lot of value to this committee.
 - 2) Discussion Forum Committee- The hearing and forwarding of our neighbor's voices to the city of Los Angeles. My communication skills, both written and spoken, could be of major use on this committee.

In Summary, I believe I could be a beneficial and energetic addition to the Venice Neighborhood Council. I am happy to answer any other questions needed and hope to meet in person soon.

Thank you.