



Venice Neighborhood Council

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VNC Cannabis Committee

September 4, 2018, Tuesday, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm
Extra Space Storage Community Room, 658 Venice Blvd.

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Roll Call (7:00–7:03 pm)

	Present	Absent		Present	Absent
Cindy Chambers, Chair			Michael Jensen		
Roseann Boffa			Sailene Ossman		
Justin Brezhnev			Shep Stern		

2. **APPROVAL OF THIS AGENDA** as presented or amended (7:03–7:05 pm)

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS** (7:05–7:10 pm)

Scheduled Announcements:

- VNC Cannabis Committee page updates
- VNC Cannabis Committee open seat

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT** on items not on the agenda (7:10–7:15 pm)

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** from August 7, 2018, meeting (7:15–7:18 pm)

6. **OLD BUSINESS**

A. **ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION:** Provide an update on Outreach Committee meeting regarding a VNC Cannabis Townhall (7:18 –8:00 pm)

- The Outreach Committee submitted the Cannabis Townhall budget for consideration and approval at August’s VNC Board meeting. The \$1,000 budget was approved by the VNC Board. Please see budget attached to this agenda for more detailed information.
- Cannabis Townhall date proposed by the Outreach Committee is mid-October.
- Review location options.
- Determine townhall structure, format, and presenters and cast committee vote to move forward.

- Venice Chamber of Commerce has offered to partner with the Cannabis Committee on this event.
 - Approve as presented or amend Cannabis Townhall purpose and goals.
 - Proposed text: *In partnership with the VNC and VNC Outreach Committee, the VNC Cannabis Committee will host a Cannabis Townhall with the following objectives:*
 - *Educate and inform stakeholders on existing commercial cannabis laws and regulations*
 - *Gather stakeholder input on issues such as limitations, onsite consumption, and enforcement; and,*
 - *Roll-out the VNC Cannabis Committee application steps.*
 - Review proposed survey.
 - Discuss outreach and draft follow-up items to send to the VNC Outreach Committee.
 - Identify action items to move forward.
- B. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Identify criteria and discuss the VNC Cannabis Committee’s role in the annual licensing process (8:00 –8:35 pm)

The mission of the VNC Cannabis Committee is to:

- Support our community’s stakeholders, organizations, and local businesses in the transition out of an unregulated industry and into a new regulatory framework; and,
- Liaise with local government and public agencies to access resources and share community-based education and best practices.

Through our demonstrated commitment to our mission, the Cannabis Committee will work closely with the VNC Board and other committees to inform and make recommendations regarding licensing applications for Venice. The Cannabis Committee must begin to define and propose a process by which both stakeholders and the VNC Board and its applicable committees can refer to and access.

The Cannabis Committee proposes either the following or amended cannabis applicant process:

- STEP 1: Contact VNC Cannabis Committee.
 - Applicant reviews process and *cannabis staff report* requirements on VNC Cannabis Committee page located on VNC website.
 - A Cannabis Committee member is assigned to the applicant.
 - Assigned Cannabis Committee member follows up with applicant to review process, answer questions, and obtain date for community input meeting.
- STEP 2: Hold community input meeting.
 - Applicant contacts residents and organizations/businesses within 600 feet of the proposed location to attend a community input meeting.
 - Applicant responsible for mailing.
 - Community input meeting information posted on Cannabis Committee web page.
 - Applicant responds to community input at meeting.

- Assigned Cannabis Committee member attends community input meeting, gathers information and community feedback.
 - STEP 3: Complete Cannabis Committee staff report.
 - Report completed by assigned Cannabis Committee member and submitted to Cannabis Committee to place on the agenda and review at next meeting.
 - STEP 4: Review and vote on application.
 - Cannabis Committee reviews report and votes to approve, approve with conditions, or reject application.
 - STEP 5: Forward report and application to LUPC; or, applicant addresses issues and returns to Cannabis Committee seeking approval.
 - STEP 6: Complete LUPC process and application submitted to VNC Board for vote by full Board.
- C. ITEM FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION: Propose that the Los Angeles City Council expand its current definition of Disproportionately Impacted Areas to include Venice (8:35 –8:55 pm)

Venice’s history suggests that the community falls within the scope of those who have been disproportionately impacted by cannabis criminalization. Venice narrowly missed the standards set by the consulting group that calculated the numbers. Further, the City Council has instructed the consulting group to conduct a similar analysis for the Valley.

MOTION:

WHEREAS on March 7, 2017, voters in the City of Los Angeles approved the Cannabis Enforcement, Taxation, and Regulation Act (CETRA), commonly known as, “Measure M”;

WHEREAS the City of Los Angeles City Council amended the Los Angeles Municipal Code (LAMC) to include Chapter X to regulate commercial cannabis activity;

WHEREAS the City of Los Angeles City Council created the Department of Cannabis Regulation (DCR) and a Cannabis Regulation Commission to implement its cannabis regulations and otherwise coordinate administration of the requirements of CETRA;

WHEREAS the City of Los Angeles City Council created a Social Equity Program “intended to decrease disparities in life outcomes for marginalized communities and to address disproportionate impacts of Cannabis prohibition in adversely-impacted and lower income communities”;

WHEREAS the City Council adopted the Social Equity Analysis Report, dated October 18, 2017, and its addendums as the findings for the Social Equity Program;

WHEREAS Venice has a history of cannabis related arrests, poverty, minority residents, including a historically African American population; and

WHEREAS the Social Equity Analysis Report excluded Venice as a Disproportionately Impacted Area, as defined by the LAMC.

The Commercial Cannabis Committee recommends the Venice Neighborhood Council request the Los Angeles City Council designate Venice and its three Police Reporting Districts (1431, 1412, and 1411) as a “Disproportionately Impacted Area,” as defined by the LAMC. This is based on the Venice qualifying for the number of cannabis-related arrests, it having comparable income statistics, and historic minority residents who have been marginalized by the War on Drugs.

According to the Social Equity Analysis Report, dated October 18, 2017 (the “Report”), between 2000 and 2016, 2,411 cannabis-related arrests were made in Venice among its three Police Reporting Districts, compared with a citywide median of 714. (Social Equity Analysis Report, p. 16.) The Report also references findings from the Million Dollar Hoods Project, and claims a “majority of people who are arrested for a cannabis-related crime reside in the Council District they were arrested in.” (Social Equity Analysis Report, p. 16.)

The Social Equity Analysis Report (the “Report”) states:

There are a few areas where the results of this study and the Million Dollar Hoods project do not overlap. Generally, **the people arrested in Hollywood, Venice Beach, and the Los Angeles International Airport do not reside in these areas.** This is likely due to the fact that many non-residents, including tourists, frequent Hollywood and Venice Beach, and that no people reside on airport property. This is further supported by the fact that reporting districts 647 (Hollywood) and 1431 (Venice Beach) are 66% and 31% populated by people of color respectively, but people of color account for 73% and 58% of cannabis-related arrests in these districts, respectively. As a significant proportion of people arrested in Hollywood, Venice Beach, and the Los Angeles International Airport do not reside in these areas (e.g., tourists), they are not recommended as communities that this Program should serve. In the case of Venice Beach, it is a community that is characterized not only by heavy visitation, but by a mix of both affluent and lower income residents, increasing the difficulty of supporting a finding of disproportionate enforcement adversely affecting a lower income community.

(Social Equity Analysis Report, pp. 16-17 (emphasis added).)

The Report concludes without evidence that the majority of cannabis arrests in Venice were not of residents.

Next, the Report imposes a requirement that more than 50% of residents be defined as low income. Several neighborhoods within Venice include 48% 49%, and 50% of the population qualifying as low income.

Therefore, the Venice Neighborhood Council requests that the City Council amend its definition of Disproportionately Impacted Area to include Venice.

7. NEW BUSINESS

No new business

8. COMMITTEE COMMENTS – Comments by committee members on subject matters within the jurisdiction of the Cannabis Committee but not on the agenda (8:55 –9:00 pm)

9. ADJOURN at 9 pm

PUBLIC INPUT AT NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL MEETINGS: *The public is requested to fill out a “Speaker Card” to address the [committee] on any agenda item before the committee takes an action on an item. Comments from the public on agenda items will be heard only when the respective item is being considered. Comments from the public on other matters not appearing on the agenda that are within the committee’s jurisdiction will be heard during the General Public Comment period. Please note that under the Brown Act, the committee is prevented from acting on a matter that you bring to its attention during the General Public Comment period; however, the issue raised by a member of the public may become the subject of a future committee meeting. Public comment is limited to 2 minutes per speaker, unless adjusted by the presiding officer.*

POSTING: *In compliance with Government Code section 54957.5, non-exempt writings that are distributed to a majority or all of the board members in advance of a meeting may be viewed at Beyond Baroque, 681 Venice Blvd; Venice Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd; and at our website by clicking on the following link: www.venicenc.org, or at the scheduled meeting. In addition, if you would like a copy of any record*

related to an item on the agenda, please contact Hugh Harrison at treasurer@venicenc.org. You can also receive our agendas via email by subscribing to L.A. City's Early Notification System at www.lacity.org/your-government/government-information/subscribe-meetings-agendas-and-documents/neighborhood

RECONSIDERATION AND GRIEVANCE PROCESS: For information on the VNC's process for board action reconsideration, stakeholder grievance policy, or any other procedural matters related to this Council, please consult the VNC Bylaws. The Bylaws are available at our Board meetings and our website www.venicenc.org.

THE AMERICAN WITH DISABILITIES ACT: *The Venice Neighborhood Council complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act and does not discriminate on the basis of any disability. Upon request, the Venice Neighborhood Council will provide reasonable accommodations to ensure equal access to its programs, services, and activities. Sign language interpreters, assistive listening devices, or other auxiliary aids and/or services may be provided upon request.*

It's YOUR Venice - get involved!



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