

October 12, 2024

Michael Jensen, chair
Venice Neighborhood Council
Land Use and Planning

RE: 52 - 60 Market Street, Venice

To all concerned:

As an addendum to my previously delivered letter of SUPPORT please note the following.

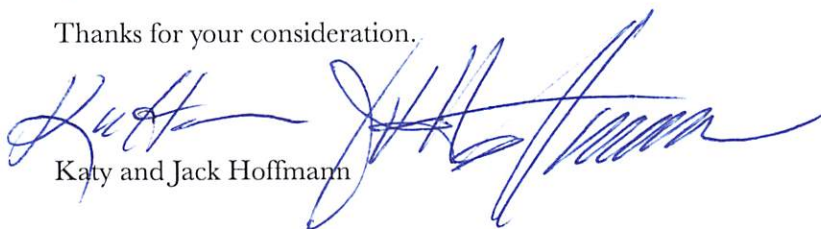
I have lived in Venice for 39 years. I have owned 47 Market Street since 1999 and have occupied it as my primary residence since 2008. I have also owned 74 - 76 Market Street since 2003. During this time our small block has been subject to mayhem, drug overdoses and other violent crimes.

More recently, after the rehabilitation and commercial reoccupation of several buildings, including the reopening of a restaurant, the block has regained its balance. People walk freely day and night and their activity is a welcome relief to our block and the surrounding environment.

The previous owner of the two properties currently under plan check review were owned by a gentle man, since passed, who I was asked to help at times with local issues due to his struggles with the activities on the street, some of his tenants and problems with growing difficulty maintaining the aging conditions in his buildings. One of his recent tenants became a hostile neighbor who physically assaulted passersby (including homeless occupants camping on our street) and climbed on to the rooftops of adjacent properties vandalizing them and using his perch to verbally assault, threaten and provoke confrontations with neighbors, including homeless occupants during COVID, and tourists. Nothing he did seemed to merit any city response and so it continued for over a year. There were additional issues that got out of hand but his, living in one of the front units, was the most notorious and was assumed (and eventually resolved) by Mr. Sullivan and Mr. Ellis as a condition of the probate sale.

Our block is a rare collection of like minded, creative, well intended owners. We act unanimously in favor of anything we can do to improve overall conditions so that all can enjoy the beach and their time in Venice. Eventually buildings get tired and their usefulness diminishes without restoration. We offer our whole hearted support for their project and look forward to the inevitable benefits of both buildings reoccupation.

Thanks for your consideration.



Katy and Jack Hoffmann