



**venice
neighborhood
council**

**YOUR
VENICE**

ELECTION 2019

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"DeDe Audet, long time Venice advocate and past President of the Venice Neighborhood Council.

Venice Neighborhood Council to Hold Candidates Forum on May 28th & 30th

By Ivan Spiegel and Liz Wright

The upcoming VNC Board Elections (read the second article on this page) will bring a whole new twenty-one member Board to Venice. We hope you've been inspired to vote in the elections - but what do you know about almost fifty candidates that are running for the Venice Neighborhood Council Board? How do you choose who to vote for?

A great place to start is by reading their candidate statements (included in this issue and at venicenc.org) - but how do you tell them apart? Who are these volun-

teers that are willing to devote a big chunk of their lives over the next two years to a job that pays nothing, and sometimes seems like it pleases most of the people none of the time?

Here's your chance to meet them in person and find out.

On Tuesday and Thursday, May 28th and 30th, the VNC will host Candidates Forums at the Westminster Elementary School auditorium from 6:00 - 9:00 pm. Because there are so many candidates, it will take two nights to present all of them. Each evening, a different group of candidates will be invited to participate in what we expect to be both fun and informative. The prospective VNC officers will be given an opportunity to let the voters know the benefits they hope to bring to the Board if elected, as well as the differences in their approach to the offices they

More VNC News:

- Curbside Voting will be available for the Election
- There are no absentee ballots

NOTE: All efforts have been made to print candidates statements as submitted.

Brought to you by:

Venice Neighborhood Council
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E-mail: board@VeniceNC.org
Web: www.VeniceNC.org

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have chosen to run for.

The VNC Election Committee has devised a format to make the evenings interactive and fun. There will be an opportunity to meet one-on-one with the candidates before and following the programs

Don't miss this opportunity to meet the candidates! We hope to see you there!

What: Two 2019 Board Election Candidates Forums
When: Executive Officer Candidates, Tues, May 28 @ 6:00 pm
Community Officer Candidates, Thur, May 30 @ 6:00 pm
Where: Westminster Elementary School Auditorium
1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter from Westminster)
Questions: email to: elections@VeniceNC.org



People who live, work, own property, or have a verifiable ongoing interest in Venice, are stakeholders and can vote in the VNC Board Elections. This map shows the boundaries of the Venice Neighborhood Council.

VOTE for VNC Board!

Elect Your Candidates on Sunday, June 2nd

Now is your opportunity to have a say in Venice! The terms of all twenty-one Venice Neighborhood Council Board members are expiring and every position is up for grabs. Almost fifty of your friends and fellow Venetians are vying for positions on the VNC Board.

On Sunday, June 2, 2019, from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm, the Venice NC will hold its biennial elections at Oakwood Recreation Center with the Los Angeles City Clerk conducting the election.

Whether you live, work, own property, or have a substantial and ongoing participation in Venice, you are a VNC "stakeholder" and eligible to vote on June 2nd. No pre-registration is necessary, but election rules state: "Stakeholders must affirm their stakeholder status by

completing a Stakeholder Registration Form" which will be available at the Polling Place on the day of the election. Every voter must verify their eligibility before receiving a ballot - so **DON'T FORGET YOUR ID and evidence that shows you're a Venice stakeholder!**

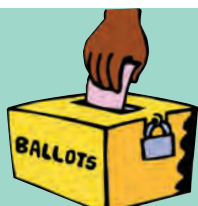
Over the past several years, through the hard work and dedication of the VNC and its stakeholders, the VNC has become an important part of Los Angeles City government. The VNC's recommendations are closely watched, and more often than not, are followed by our City Councilman, the City Council and the Mayor.

Community involvement in the VNC has grown to an all time high, with hundreds of people routinely attending Town Hall meetings and

over 2700 Venetians voting in our last election in 2016. That's important, because the VNC's credibility (and its voice at City Hall) rests on our election turnout and stakeholder participation.

So it's imperative that Venetians vote on June 2nd. Voting sends a strong message to the City Council that Venice is as engaged and involved as ever, and that we demand to be heard by City Hall.

Note: Please consider walking or biking to the polls! And remember that turnout could be high and lines may form - so plan accordingly! Everyone in line at 6:00 pm will get to vote. We hope to see you on Sunday, June 2nd! Please go to <https://empowerla.org/elections> for more information, including ID requirements.



What: Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers 2019 Election
When: Sunday, June 2nd from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm (Please bring ID and evidence showing you're a stakeholder)
Where: Oakwood Recreation Center, 767 California Ave.
Questions: LA City Clerk, 213-978-0444 and at <https://empowerla.org/elections>

The VNC Board election is vital to our community. The City's continuing budget issues affect the services we receive, from public safety to trash collection. We're dealing with critical quality-of-life issues (and the Board's recommendations on these issues count with the city!):

- Improving the evolving commercial and residential character of Venice
- Homelessness issues
- Keeping a lid on crime
- Addressing increasing amounts of traffic and dealing with the challenges of parking, congestion and scooters
- Working to preserve Ocean Front Walk as one of Southern California's greatest tourist attractions

■ Candidates for: **PRESIDENT**



■ Ira Koslow

As a resident of Venice for almost 50 years, I have seen the community go through incredible changes. I always was involved in neighborhood affairs, while on the VNC I've been trying to solve the

much larger problems that Venice is facing. I also was 25 years in the private sector working is the music business as a manager. If I am re-elected as President of the VNC I will continue to bring logic

and consistency to the issues we deal with as Venice grows, approaching these problems with fairness and an open mind. Combined with the experience of eight years on the Council as: Chair of the Education

Committee-3 years; Chair of the Ocean Front Walk Committee-2 years; Chair of the Rules & Elections (Selections) Committee-3 years, Member of the Administrative Committee-7 years,

and 3 years-President, I understand the workings of the Council and how to guide it to be most effective. Anyone can list the problems we have, but the solutions come from cooperative efforts from all stakeholders.



■ Hollie Stenson

I believe that what Venice needs is leadership that is non-polarizing, listens to the community without personal agenda, and can respond in a respectful manner. I'm committed to making sure our

dynamic community is thriving. As President, I pledge to involve ALL parts of our community and to listen intently to your needs, communicate them and clearly to the City of L.A. with an intent of response. As

your Council, that is our entire job; to be YOUR voice to the City. I hope I have the opportunity to serve as your VNC President. Please visit: www.hollieforvenice.com

Lo que necesita Venice ahora es liderazgo

no divisivo, que escuche a la comunidad y que pueda responder a los deseos de la gente de manera respetuosa y directa. Como su Presidente, prometo a involucrar a TODAS las partes de nuestra comunidad

y a escuchar atentamente a sus necesidades, comunicar lo mismo a la Ciudad de L.A. y garantizar que ellos nos escuchen. Ese es nuestro trabajo principal; ser su voz frente a la ciudad.

■ Candidates for: **VICE PRESIDENT**



■ George Francisco

It has been an honor to serve as the Vice President of the VNC for this past Board term and I hope to continue my service. Often the role of the VP is to be the "traffic cop" for Community Officers and Com-

mittee Chairs and I have been proud to oversee our 15 committees and watch them have positive impacts for Venice stakeholders. It has been especially rewarding to help bring important new committees

addressing Cannabis legalization and Community Resiliency to fruition. I am also gratified that the Vice President's committee - Neighborhoods - has been able to address areas such as Sustainability and

Public Safety across all of Venice. And I look forward to working with future Board members and stakeholders to create more effective committees in areas that will help the community prosper. But

maybe the most satisfying accomplishment of my past term has been being part of a Board that prioritized civility and hard work.



■ Grant Turck

Grant Turck is a marketing consultant and longtime Venice resident who believes in the original mission of Venice put forth by Abbott Kinney; that Venice was created as both a live/work/vacation com-

munity for L.A., and as a diverse people's paradise welcoming many incomes, races, etc. to enjoy the magical spot by the Pacific. Grant has supported this vision of Venice through innovative activities and

working with our local government. He has shown this support of our community by co-organizing the first Venice sign holiday lightings and fighting for the local LGBTQ community by starting Venice Pride,

where he created the Venice Pride Flag Lifeguard Tower – a ground breaking, first of its kind beacon to the world on our shore celebrating our inclusiveness. Now, Grant is stepping up because he sees Abbott

Kinney's mission and Venice itself attacked by outside interests. Grant is not part of the VNC establishment and right now, that's what we need. Vote for Grant for VNC Vice President.

■ Candidate for: **SECRETARY**



■ Melissa Diner

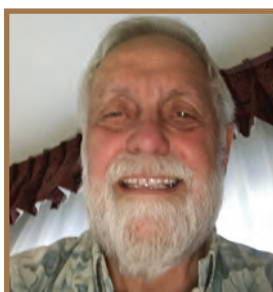
Venice, CA resident. Born and raised in Denver, CO. Take it to the limit bound. As the current Secretary of the Venice Neighborhood Council and a former Community Officer, Ocean Front Walk chair and com-

mittee member, I have learned how to navigate the local political arena, assisting in turning our board recommendations into action. I am running for Secretary to continue to modernize our organizational pro-

cesses. I aim to create win win situations, to think about the positions of all others before making a decision, and to try to compromise so we can move forward. You can trust that I will make decisions for the best

interest of the community at large while recognizing the obstacles of the law above us. I represent that hard work has reward and if we to work together despite our differences we can accomplish anything.

■ Candidate for: **TREASURER**



■ Hugh Harrison

I am running for re-election to maintain the fiscal integrity of the Venice NC.

■ Candidates for: **CHAIR of LAND USE and PLANNING COMMITTEE**



■ Alix Gucovsky

Transparency, accountability, and communication, are what I will bring to the VNC and LUPC should I be elected. I will work to empower Venetians to be effective advocates for our community. Over

the next two years, Venice has huge land use decisions, including the update to our community plan. Public input for this is almost done and yet most Venetians are unaware. The community is being left out.


Our voices must be heard before it is too late. LUPC should be a conduit for this communication, but it has been silent. The Local Coastal Plan (LCP) which gives State control to land use rules for 85% of Venice

is also being updated. What values will/ won't this LCP protect? LUPC must push for community engagement in this process. SB50 and future iterations will continue to be a concern. To date LUPC is the

only council that has endorsed these bills, despite strong opposition. The voices of the residents have been left out from LUPC. I hope to be a voice at the table for the residents.



Candidates for: CHAIR of LAND USE and PLANNING COMMITTEE (Continued)



■ Daffodil Tyminski

As a former VNC Board member and current Land Use and Planning Committee member, I am running for LUPC Chair to further a sane and reasonable land use and planning process in Venice. We have unique land use and planning challenges in Venice. Parking, density, traffic, commercial development, low income housing, and coastal access can sometime seem to be at odds in our ever-changing community. But, I believe that by working together we can meet all of our shared goals and make Venice a great place to live, work, and play. I am a hard worker, I am open to new ideas, and I work well with others. Venice a better place. I believe in fair process and that all applicants appearing before LUPC deserve equal treatment. I look forward to continuing to serve our community and working with all of you to make

■ Nicole Vann PHOTO AND STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED


Candidate for: COMMUNITY INTEREST/COMMUNITY OFFICER



■ Bruno Hernandez

I currently serve as the Executive Director of the STP Foundation, a charitable non-profit organization. The STP Foundation is the curator of the Venice Art Walls program by means of the City of Los Angeles. The foundation is also the steward for the 3rd Avenue community project with the Google Foundation. Born and raised in the greater Los Angeles area, I am very familiar with the specific challenges that our community faces. As your Community Interest Commissioner, I will bring a strong work ethic, diverse network of support, and a "serve first" mentality to this opportunity. With over 25 years of management experience in both corporate and private business, building and leading teams to accomplish measurable goals has always been my strength. I pledge to continue to build on the 7 plus years of programs that I have helped to develop and contribute to the culture of the community of Venice.


Candidate for: COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER



■ Teresa White

I will build on the Communications office while giving a voice to families and the next generation of Venice.

Candidates for: OUTREACH OFFICER




■ Sima Kostevetsky

I am one of your neighbors. I've seen you at The Cow, or walking your dog, or jogging the beach. I am honored to have called Marina Peninsula/Venice my home for the last 18 years. My kids are growing up here. Our parents are aging here. I am entrenched in our community & will focus my efforts as a steward of this neighborhood, treating Venice with its rich & unique history, its people, & our beach with the utmost respect. Smart development & the preservation of our coastline/ocean are issues most dear to me. I am 1st generation American, a proud immigrant who stands for civility & multiculturalism in our community. With ample time available to serve, I will devote myself fully as an outreach officer to drive forward the needs of our community & work with other Neighborhood Councils on common goals & make Venice a force within Los Angeles politics! Those of you who know me, know my dedication, watchfulness & loyalty. Give me the chance to ensure a better Marina/Venice for us all.



■ Alby Navarro

My name is Alby Navarro and I'm one of your neighbors. I live and own a small business in Venice. I'm also finishing up my PhD at Stanford. I've decided to not run for Outreach Officer. Instead, I want to focus my time and energy on Committees. Committees are a great tool to organize around common issues and give Residents the opportunity to directly participate in the political process. I plan to propose the creation of two new Committees: one on Homelessness and another on the Environment. I want to structure these Committees around project-based, solutions-focused working groups. We have a lot of brilliant, creative and passionate people in Venice. If we organize effectively and work together, we can produce solutions to issues that most impact our community. To learn more about these two potential Committees, please check out my proposals at: VeniceGoesGrassroots.com.



■ Joslyn Williams

As a 3rd generation born and raised Venetian and current VNC Board member, I want to help our community further by running for the advanced role of Outreach Officer. During my first term on the VNC board, I had the pleasure of sitting on the outreach committee where I gained firsthand knowledge of what it takes to listen and engage with our community in effective ways that unify us as neighbors. I have put in the time getting to know my community through local events, supporting our businesses and local artists, to simply walking the boardwalk smiling at familiar faces. I'm a proponent of preserving all that is good, while selectively embracing the changes that benefit Venice as a whole. I'm an education grant writer and doctoral candidate in education policy. I will continue to support education endeavors, arts, and music in the community. I will give generations of Venetians before and after me a voice that they know and trust so collectively we can ensure a better future we can be proud of.

Candidates for: **AT-LARGE COMMUNITY OFFICERS**



■ Brian Averill

I've lived in Venice for 17 years. I love it dearly and deeply respect its incredible history. As a photographer, I'm endlessly inspired by our diversity, creativity, and free-spiritedness. As a surfer, I

cherish the ocean and our beaches. I feel that this is a very pivotal time in our history. Tech money is flooding the neighborhood. Short term rentals are changing the face of our community and

displacing permanent residents at an alarming rate. Important local decisions are being made by people who do not live here. We're losing a bit of our soul, and we all need to collectively pump the

brakes and figure out a better way to move forward, embracing new ideas, but remembering and respecting the very unique heritage of our community, its culture, and its people.



■ Bradley Avery

When I first visited Venice many years ago I was living in a small community, in New Zealand, where I was actively involved in helping guide it through the growing

pains of respecting the town's history, while embracing the changes that are inevitable. I liked Venice then, but it was not until I moved here, became a part of the

community and learned more about the history here, that I fell in love with Venice. My wife and I own a home here and she is a local business owner and a member of

the Venice Chamber. My work takes me all over LA and while I enjoy exploring the city, each time I arrive back in Venice, I feel like I am home. Because of this I want to

expand my involvement within the community and help guide Venice through its current set of growing pains.



■ Sunny Bak

I have lived on my block since 1995 but have been involved with the community only for the last ten years. I have to say it has enriched my life so much to be involved. I have relationships that are so

wonderful thanks to the Venice Art Crawl, the Venice Neighborhood Council, the Venice Chamber of Commerce and Venice Pride. I am actively working with organizations and neighbors on forming a

Venice Mar Vista Art District in hopes of preserving arts in Venice which has historically been an arts haven. the neighborhood has changed a lot, some good and some things not so good. There

is much to be done in many areas of Venice and I will work hard as long as I can in whatever area my help is needed. It's all about commitment to community for me.

Sunny Bak



■ Travis Binen

I'm running for a VNC Community Officer position to make Venice a nicer safer place. Since moving to Venice about 8 years ago, I've seen a big increase in crime,

homelessness and health hazards. I'd like to work with the community, the LAPD, Sanitation and our elected officials to provide solutions that work for the people who pay

rent or mortgage and the homeless who are working and trying to get back into housing.



■ Justin Brezhnev

I'm running to ensure that our representatives put Venice first! I'm currently on the Board of the Venice Neighborhood Council, serving as the Chair of the Education Committee. As a resident for the last 4.5 years, I

believe in creating a Venice Renaissance in which generations young and old can engage in the conversations that make Venice safer, more productive, and culturally diverse. As the youngest member of the cur-

rent VNC Board, I work diligently to make sure that a new generation of Venetians also has a seat at the table in helping shape this diverse community we call home. I would like the privilege to continue serving you and

expand on the programs I have put into place through my participation on the following committees: Arts, Outreach, Cannabis, and Education. I hope to continue revitalizing a commitment to Venice artists,

provide a pathway for services for our homeless, and create personal and professional development opportunities for our youth and adults alike.

■ Elizabeth Clay

PHOTO AND STATEMENT NOT PROVIDED



■ CJ Cole

CJ COLE ... Venice property owner, resident & community activist since 1968 MY PROMISE TO VOTERS: • I will advocate for reducing crime & the filthy conditions caused by our current homeless encamp-

ments • I will oppose the Metro Lot Bridge Housing & Venice Median projects • I will represent the rights of home owners, renters & businesses for peaceful enjoyment of their property • I will fight to protect our private res-

idences & low-density housing from proposed large-scale building • I will support moderate growth while keeping our small town vibe MY COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: I am on the Venice Canals Association

Board, past Treasurer of the Venice Neighborhood Council and past Venice Chamber Board Member. I am a member of the Voice of the Canals & on the Venice Canals Foundation Board. I am an Associate Broker

with Bulldog Relators in Venice. 310.773.6945 I CJforVNC@CJCole.com I CJCOLEforVNC.com ... a vote for CJ is a vote for reducing crime while increasing the safety & cleanliness of Venice.



■ Amy DeVault

I'm running for the Venice neighborhood council because i care about Venice a great deal and want to be a part of what it's future has in store for it. I've resided in Venice since 1986 and owned and operated my Interior

design firm (voted # 1 on west side 2 times) and a local surf shop on Abbott Kinney (Hydro lab) as well as sending my son to local Venice preschool and elementary. Originally moving from Maine, I like the " small town

community " Venice has and want to try to preserve that. I would make a great addition to the VNC with many things to bring to the table, business, home and family. I will be community leader representing the people

with all aspects in mind. "a person for the people"



■ Michael Dubin

Venice has been my home for seven years and it's given a lot to me: great friends, good fortune and perspective. I'd be eager to give time back to this neighborhood of contrasts and challenges at a critical

time in its journey. There's a saying that back East, the older the idea the better it has; and that out West, the newer the idea the better it is. Venice, on the west edge of the Republic, has always been a place of new ideas and

fresh perspective. I've made a career separating the great ideas from the not-so-great ideas, and bringing the former to life. I'd love to help do the same for our community.



■ **Candidates for: AT-LARGE COMMUNITY OFFICERS (Continued)**



■ **Matt Fisher**

As a 20+ year Venice local I've lived many lifestyles we have to offer, gaining an understanding for our community unlike most. I spent a good part of my youth homeless on the boardwalk & I've experienced

first-hand how our system can fail & what it takes to overcome. I've also built, managed, maintained & lived in many different Venice properties where I grew into a productive person, caring for homes, businesses & their occu-

pants, all while volunteering for local outreach & events, & helping with city projects like the Venice skatepark. I'm currently studying Eco-design for cities & suburbs, learning to make better use of our public spaces & how to

advocate for them. I want to make sure everyone in our community has a voice, that our history is not lost as we progress & that we learn from our past so we do not repeat it. I have the real life experience, understanding

& care for all sides of our community to make the most of the position & help give Venice the voice it deserves.



■ **Michael Greco**

It is my privilege to have served on the Venice Neighborhood Council since December of 2018. It is an honor that I hold in the highest esteem and in my brief period of service, I have seen the heart beat

and the passion of Venice up close and in person, and understand the integrity and importance of the commitment to Venice and its citizens. I believe that my work in the Community as Managing Part-

ner of the Venice Whaler has blessed me with a forum to listen to multiple points of view, whether it be locals, fellow business owners, or tourists who all share a common love for the great city of Venice. It

is also my belief that Venice is one of the most desirable cities in the world, and as such, expansion is inevitable. Therefore I'd like to lend a voice of reason to our community and help pave the

way towards responsible growth, while at the same time, honoring and respecting the history, that makes Venice so unique in our world.



■ **Grant Hughes**

Venice is a unique community replete with artistic and culture diversity, amazing dining, beautiful beaches, explosive tourism, expensive real estate, and a good deal of grit. There are a lot of

interests to balance here, but I plan to take a Venice locals-first approach to my position so this place that we all call home continues to feel familiar and safe. As a former middle school teacher, as a vol-

unteer in the homeless community, and as a local small business owner, trust that I can access and source perspectives from our multi-faceted community to make clear, advantageous decisions

for our stakeholders. By voting for me today for at-large community officer, I can tirelessly advocate for you. I can work to strengthen our ties to this place we call home. We will reap the benefits and

ensure we continue to enjoy an exceptional quality of life. Thank you for your support and your vote today in this election.



■ **Dylan Johnson**

My name is Dylan Johnson and I am running to be a Community Officer on the Venice Neighborhood Council. I have lived in Venice for 4 years now and feel an urge to take a more active role in be-

ing of service to my community. I have spent my whole career doing political advocacy work and now want to use the skills I have honed to promote the interests of my neighbors and serve as a fierce

advocate for them in this new capacity. The role of the Venice Neighborhood Council is an advisory one and in order to enact real change the council must be dogged in its efforts at the neighborhood, city,

and potentially state level. I know what it takes to be effective and pledge to work hard to make the voice of our community not only heard but listened to and acted upon. I pledge to do my best to

listen to all stakeholders, take the time to inform myself on the issues, and collaborate with the other members of council to arrive at the best solutions for Venice. I look forward to working together!



■ **Megan Kissinger**

As 17-year Venice homeowner, I am delighted to run for Venice Neighborhood Council Community Officer. I am excited to bring over 25 years of professional fundraising experience and

management to Venice to support leveraging funding opportunities from the City and other resources to help Venice improve issues relating to public health, the environment and the community.



■ **Nisa Kove**

Hello Venice! I am running for a Community Officer seat on the Venice Neighborhood Council. As a resident of Venice for over a decade, woman, Mother to two elementary aged children and a

trained community organizer, I plan to continue reaching out to my community and learning about your experiences, concerns and suggestions. When we come together with respect, compas-

sion, and commitment to positive change, we open doors to a better future for our residents for generations to come. I am here to listen and represent the beautifully diverse culture which is Venice

Beach. Please reach out to me. I want to hear from you and earn your vote. The election is June 2, 2019 at Oakwood Recreation Center. Please mark your calendars and make your voice heard.

Local elections matter!
NisaforVNC@gmail.com

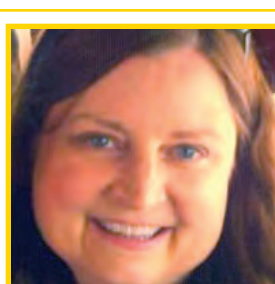


■ **Matthew Levy**

Parents Be Heard! I am a lifelong resident of Los Angeles. I graduated from Taft High School in the San Fernando Valley, earned my bachelor degree at Northwestern University and earned my

JD at UCLA Law School. I have lived all around Los Angeles and purchased a home in Venice about 8 years ago. I have two young boys who attend Venice schools. My family and I love Venice and

want to see the community thrive. As such, I would be honored to act as a conduit for Venice residents to be heard by the City of Los Angeles. Please vote for me!



■ **Angela McGregor**

For the past two years, I have covered Neighborhood Council meetings for the Venice Update, as well as worked with the Oxford Triangle Association and Thomas Safran and Associates to

develop a project for the Thatcher Yard which will meet the requirements of both the City and my neighbors. In my coverage for the Update, I have tried to be assiduously fair and thorough

in describing all sides of every motion. In working with the OTA and TSA, I've discovered that consensus and cooperation are possible, even on the most contentious issues. Should I be elected to

the VNC Board, I will, first and foremost, truly listen to the concerns of all of my neighbors on issues before each vote and, as I have in my reporting, do the research necessary before coming to a truly

informed decision.

Candidates for: **AT-LARGE COMMUNITY OFFICERS (Continued)**



■ Stephen Meadows

As a disaster relief volunteer and retired professor, I have experience in resolving civic issues. With escalating safety conditions along Speedway and Ocean Front Walk, we have a duty to attempt any conceivable

remedy. Twenty-million yearly visitors to Venice provide huge revenues for the City of LA. The health and safety of millions should be more paramount in the minds of officials. Needles, broken crack-pipes, rotting

food, human feces, trash and abandoned electric vehicles litter our Neighborhoods. Safety Issues: Speedway Speed limit-15 mph. From Barnard Way to Washington Blvd, (1.5 miles); Only One Speed Limit Sign. No

Crosswalks at any 32 Walk-streets intersecting Speedway. No 'Speedbumps' on Speedway. (15 mph) 32 Alleys terminate at Speedway from Pacific Ave., Only Four Stop Signs. Mandatory Docking Stations

for Electric Vehicles or ban them altogether. People zooming the wrong way on one-way streets, w/headphones, no helmet, simultaneously texting = disaster.



■ Jason Moore

Hi, my name is Jason, a 20+ year Venice resident, surfer, painter and business owner of an esports player agency and tech company. Currently, I am on the VNC Ocean Front Walk Committee

and am involved with various community events. In 2018, I volunteered at the Sounds of the Shore and Venice Pier Project as well as supported the city motion for the repair and signage on the OFW bike

path. As our current VNC OFW Committee Chair is resigning, I offer a seamless transition into the position. I will represent our great OFW community with integrity and transparency. Moreover, I will

take the time to listen to our neighborhood, the concerns and issues, and work with the community to represent their best interests, with high moral values. I support the much needed balance

between preserving our eclectic Venice history, arts, small businesses, and beaches with the emerging growth of our new gentrified Venice.



■ James Murez

Los Angeles native, I joined Venice Action Committee 1988 after retiring from computer industry and volunteering for 1984 LA Olympic Committee. As manager of the Venice Farmers' Market (1988-present)

I've witnessed change. I served Councilwoman Galanter for 10 years on land use advisory committee. In 1992, I applied for funds to plant trees in Venice & organized volunteers to plant over 1400 trees through-

out the community. My wife Melanie and I have raised two wonderful children in Venice. Both attended LAUSD schools, now Zachary, CS PhD. with two undergraduate degrees from Yale, and Andrea with

two NCAA records while swimming at Stanford, competed in Rio Olympics, presently a medical student and training for Tokyo 2020. I helped organize Grass Roots Venice (renamed Venice NC), served on Land

Use & Planning for 12 years, presently Parking & Transportation Chair with 37 motions passed by the Board. I would like to help make Venice a cleaner and safer place to live, work and play.



■ Alex Neiman

I was born and raised in Venice. I live on the same street I grew up on, near my parents who are in the same house they raised me in. I grew up running from neighbor's yard to neighbor's yard - we had

open borders at the time. My 29 years in Venice has given me a deep appreciation for its history and with no plans to leave I am excited about what we, as neighbors, can accomplish. I am a proud

Venetian with a belief that a community's vibrance and growth is measured not by boutiques and cafes, but by the people who live within its borders. We are a group of individuals from all walks of life,

for many of us the only thing we have in common with each other is our zip code. But regardless of your background or your vision for Venice I promise to always treat you like a neighbor.



■ Jamie Paige

Now is the time that we as a community need to work together, not only to preserve what is great about Venice but also have the vision to ensure that we have a secure future ahead of us. I am running for office to:

Strengthen our business community, Improve Public Safety, Enhance residents' quality of life. As a journalist, I have spent numerous years being curious, diligent, and fastidious about the facts and hungry to bring

the truth. Most recently I helped start the Rose Ave Merch Assoc. We started the group to use our ingenuity and collaboration to help businesses grow and thrive. I grew in a family of small business owners. Aside

from contributions to our general economic well-being, I know small (all) businesses can help offer our community a diverse inventory and opportunity. If elected, I will work with you all to

continue to help move Venice in an upward trajectory while preserving what we hold to be the backbone of this great community we live in.



■ John Reed

Venice is an extraordinary ever changing city unlike most others. Some families have lived here for generations, while others recently moved here but the common link is the following sentiment:

Once you live in Venice, you can think of no other place that you would rather be. There is a sense of place here which can be defined differently by many but home to everyone. This uniqueness

makes Venice so special and the reason community not barriers is more important now than ever.

About myself, I am an architect and artist, I live and work in Venice and believe in balance and

reason.



■ Charles Rials

I love almost everything about Venice, from Venice high school all the way to the Venice pier. I love the skatepark, the paddle tennis courts, and of course the breakwater! I love Thomas's, Hinano's,

and waterfront cafe. I love the boardwalk vendors, the storefront workers and the Abbot Kinney hipsters. I love the culture and style that is so often replicated in other communities. It is that love that

has inspired me to run for a VNC chair and work with the community to solve the important problems that we are faced with. My co-workers at Safe Place for Youth and I are hyper focused on

solving the homelessness epidemic in Venice. I believe that if enough people get involved in the solution that there will be a reasonable outcome. A vote for Charles Rials is a vote for a cleaner and

safer Venice!



■ Jim Robb

Jim Robb- As a 33-year Venice resident and a founding member of the Venice Dogz: instrumental in getting national attention for our protest against Snapchat. I want to protect the city from the gentrification and outrageous

leases that have already changed other parts of Venice. The boardwalk became the dumping ground for Tech companies and Developers. Our community is facing big fights ahead to preserve our history, culture, and

character. This egotistical outlook combined greedy has also led property owners Developers and corporate Internet monsters continue to breaking zoning laws, taking parking away from residents, prohibiting beach access for

beach-goers, and utilizing an overwhelming amount Electric Scooter that have been dumped in public areas and made our streets unwelcoming, in addition to other problems Vote Jim Robb! Elections are June 2, 2019 from

10AM-6PM at the Oakwood Recreation Center. Address is 767 California Avenue Venice, CA.



■ **Candidates for: AT-LARGE COMMUNITY OFFICERS (Continued)**



■ **Matthew Royce**

I am currently serving as Chair of the Land Use & Planning Committee, and hope to continue serving the community as a Board member.



■ **Mark Ryavec**

MARK RYAVEC, President, Venice Stakeholders Association. I intend to continue my 30-year effort to improve quality of life for residents, including: keeping Venice a low-rise community by honoring the limits of the

Venice Specific Plan and opposing SB 50; increasing public safety by securing more police officers with fewer restrictions on enforcement, urging the LAPD to enforce against sleeping on sidewalks, and supporting the instal-

lation of more planter boxes to create buffer zones that protect residents; increasing parking for residents by permanently prohibiting RVs/campers at night; opposing the Bridge Housing MTA project, the oversized 720

Rose Ave. project, and the Venice Median project; supporting funding for SHARE, Inc. housing for the homeless; urging the city to use housing funds to build smaller units on less expensive land inland to house more

people; clean up Venice Beach by pushing the Rec. and Parks Dept. to remove all personal items after the park closes each day.



■ **Eric Schiff**

I moved to Venice in 1998 for what I thought would be a temporary stay, fell in love with the place and never left. 2 years ago, I made good use of the organizational skills I developed as a documentary television Executive Producer, co-founding the Venice Homeowners' Alliance (VHA). This grassroots non-profit is dedicated to educating and supporting neighbors facing the daunting pros-

pect of securing permits to improve their homes. I've since spent countless volunteer hours advocating on behalf of fellow Venetians - attending Venice Neighborhood Council, Area Planning and Coast-

al Commission meetings, locally and afar. In addition to property rights advocacy, VHA is also dedicated to the improvement of Venice public spaces and quality of life. Through this work, I've collaborated

closely with many amazing neighbors, sharing their concerns with city representatives. If elected to join the VNC, I look forward to furthering my service work on behalf of our unique community.



■ **Juliette Sponsel**

I moved to Venice two years ago from Santa Barbara County, where I was on the Building and Fire Ordinance Board of Appeal (City of Santa Barbara) for 18 years. I feel that I am qualified

to be familiar with the Neighborhood sufficiently to understand the local problems and goals for this area.

It would be an honor to become a Board Member of the Venice Neighbor-

hood Council.



■ **Todd Stern**

Hi Venetians, I'm Todd Stern and I've lived here for 30 years. As a resident and homeowner in Venice, I understand the many challenges facing our community including homelessness, out-of-scale development and

the negative effects these issues bring into our community. After the proliferation of electric scooters, I began attending VNC meetings and I decided I had to fight for our community. I oppose the planned Reese Davidson (Monster

on the Median) Project. It's too large in scale for the site and doesn't have the necessary requirements in place to ensure that it will address the homelessness problem in Venice. I believe the City of LA doesn't provide enough

resources to our community commensurate with its profile and economic contributions to the City. As an attorney, I have experience in identifying solutions to difficult problems and I've developed skills as a consensus builder

to bring people together. Vote for me and I will make sure the VNC accurately represents our community.



■ **Michael Sugarman**

Having lived and worked in Venice for years, I frequently meet our fellow neighbors who tell me they feel they have no voice when it comes to issues facing us here. Elect me and I will be

YOUR voice to make sure YOUR concerns are heard. Venice has a lot of challenges these days, and whether your chief concern is: Homelessness, Increasing Crime Rates, Scooters/"Last

Mile" transportation, Tourism or just keeping Venice the kind of place where you can both raise a family or invite visitors who feel safe when they're here, I will be the change you want to see.

Big Ideas. Big Commitment. Big Sug.



■ **Robert Thibodeau**

I am a Venice resident and business owner. I love living, working, surfing and raising my family in Venice. What makes Venice unique, and why I love living here, is the di-

versity and artistic freedom that flows through our city. As a property owner and business owner, I am familiar with the challenges of living and working here. I believe in a "balanced"

approach to growth and life here. We as a community must continue to grow and evolve. But we must not forget the history that makes Venice unique.



■ **Sam Trude**

I am an active and passionate member of our community having been a resident, homeowner and business owner in Venice for the past 10 years. I have a deep interest in

the wellbeing of our community and am an advocate for all that Venice represents both past and present. As a member of the Neighborhood Council I will work to ensure the his-

tory and culture of historic Venice is preserved and highlighted as well as embracing new changes that we are faced with as part of a thriving and growing community that Venice is. I

particularly look forward to being a conduit to City Hall and representing Venice to ensure we are getting the tools we need for a safer, more productive and independent neighborhood.

My Wife and I live in Venice with our 9 month old baby daughter, we are both local business owners and love the neighborhood we live in.

■ Candidates for: **AT-LARGE COMMUNITY OFFICERS (Continued)**



■ **Patrick Tudor**
Concrete protected bike lanes.



■ **Christian Wrede**
I am a co-founder of Fight Back, Venice!, a 20-year resident of Venice and an attorney. I believe the most immediate challenge facing Venice is Councilman Bonin's campaign to concentrate the overwhelming majority of Council District 11 housing and services for the homeless here. Venice should continue doing its part to address homelessness, but any solutions implemented here should

be proportionate to what is done in other West-side neighborhoods (like Brentwood and Pacific Palisades), consistent with the characteristics of our community, and respectful of the working families who call Venice home. I am also eager to address issues relating to parking and traffic and believe it is high time that Venice take its rightful place among the world's great beach towns. We should be what Abbot Kinney dreamed we would be – not what Councilman Bonin has reduced us to.



■ **Chris Zonnas**
A 10-year Venice resident, homeowner and business operator, I'm dedicated to improving quality-of-life issues for stakeholders. Bustling retail streets, busy commuter routes, a major tourist attraction, all surrounded by residential neighborhoods - we have unique problems and concerns. Venice is now navigating unregulated street camping, multiple supportive housing proposals, an e-scooter invasion and road diets. All as it expands

business and residential life on Lincoln Blvd. Decisions that have outside negative impact on our community are being made by City Hall, developers and 'non-profits'. Our beautiful streets are being used as dumps and criminal havens for political leverage. It's clear we need more proactive, local leadership going forward. With all these changes coming to our corner of Los Angeles, it's more important than ever to have a voice in its evolution. Please help me speak for us all. Proud member of Heal The Bay and supporter of Stop Illegal Dumping In Venice Beach.

What Has the Venice Neighborhood Council Done For You?

By Liz Wright and Ivan Spiegel

Your Neighborhood Council is your smallest, closest piece of real LA City government. All neighborhood councils are advisory boards, not legislative bodies. Their function is to learn what their stakeholders want and to press their City Councilperson and City Departments to accommodate those wishes.

What have been some of the results!

- The Venice Neighborhood Council uses a large majority of its annual City funding allocation to support projects that enrich the quality of life in Venice.
- The Council helps fund Thanksgiving food for outreach by the Vera Davis Center, and sponsors a holiday party for Venice children.
- The Council has an Outreach booth at the Venice Farmers Market every Friday morning.
- The Council funds Community Improvement Projects such as the Docracy film series, concerts, classic motorcycle shows, tree plantings, school landscaping, and Gone Fishing-a fishing event at the Venice Pier.
- Land-Use Planning. Development activity has exploded in Venice. So much so that the Land Use Planning Committee (LUPC) meets twice a month, reviewing projects that require variances or may be subject to challenge.
- LA City Councilman Bonin, Supervisor Kuehl, Congressman Lieu, Senator Allen, Mayor Garcetti, and Assemblyperson Burke send deputies to reports on topics that are important to Venice. In addition, the VNC invites representatives from City Departments such as Building & Safety, Sanitation, Street Services, DWP, Emergency Management Dept, Fire Dept, Beaches & Harbors, and Dept of Transportation to address the community about ongoing and upcoming projects.
- Distribution of free bike vests and safety lights.



- The VNC has hosted Town Halls on issues that are important to Venice stakeholders such as public safety, visitor impact, homelessness, new cannabis regulation, Venice Cityhood, Silicon Beach, and the danger of tsunamis.
- At each monthly Board meeting, LAPD gives the status of law enforcement in Venice, explains 'what happened, and why', if there was a news-worthy incident, and stays afterwards to answer stakeholder questions just outside the meeting room. This enables suggestions and ongoing dialogue with LAPD on how best to perform policing without being perceived by the community as overbearing.
- The Board contributed to the restoration of the POW/MIA wall.
- Potholes have been repaired on many Venice streets.
- There is now a traffic light at Lincoln & Palms.
- There is now a 3-way traffic signal at the intersection of Pacific & Brooks, a "scramble" crosswalk at Washington & Pacific, and painted crosswalks on Lincoln & Broadway for school crossing.
- Lighted crosswalks have been installed at particularly problematic sites.
- There is not a giant Ferris wheel, similar to the LONDON EYE, on Venice Beach.
- Stakeholders were encouraged to, and did participate in the annual count of the unhoused in Venice.

The Governing Body of the **Venice Neighborhood Council** shall be the Board of Officers. The Board of Officers shall establish policies and positions of the Venice Neighborhood Council at its meetings and review and recommend actions to governmental and other entities on issues affecting the Venice community.

The Board of Officers is comprised of twenty-

one (21) voting Officers, as follows: seven Executive Officers, thirteen Community Officers and one Community Interest Officer.

Voters at Board elections may vote for one person for each executive officer position, and for one person for Community Officer or Community Interest Officer (Community Interest stakeholders may only vote for the Community Interest Officer).

The one person getting the most votes for each Executive Officer position and Community Interest Officer position shall be elected.

The thirteen top vote-getters for Community Officer shall be elected.

Office descriptions can be found at: https://www.venicenc.org/pdfs/VNC_ApprovedBylaws_07.01.2017.pdf