



Venice Neighborhood Council

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Venice Neighborhood Council Opposes Proposed Budget Cut that Could Cripple Los Angeles Neighborhood Councils

On May 6th, the Venice Neighborhood Council Board received the following notification from the City of Los Angeles:

"This is to inform you that the Budget and Finance Committee will be recommending to City Council that the NC funding program be reduced to a total of \$1M for next year - this roughly breaks down to \$11,200 instead of the \$50,000 per NC."

The City Council's Budget and Finance Committee will meet again on Tuesday, May 12th at 1:00pm in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 200 N Spring Street, to take a final vote on the proposed cuts. Representatives from the Venice Neighborhood Council will attend this meeting to present an emergency resolution opposing the cuts, and will be joined by most of the NCs in the City, who also plan to protest the cuts. At least 200 NC representatives are expected.

The cuts could cripple the Venice Neighborhood Council, and destroy the Neighborhood Council system citywide, if passed. The VNC's Board would be faced with decisions on what to cut: perhaps its highly successful Community Improvement Project Funding program; or the activities of its well respected Land Use and Planning Committee. Other potential cuts would affect outreach and communications, requiring curtailment of town hall events and the quarterly newsletter, the principle components of the VNC's community organizing and mobilization strategy.

These cuts would be mirrored at every one of the 89 Neighborhood Councils in the city. The all-volunteer Neighborhood Councils were earlier advised by the Office of the Mayor to plan on a 10% budget reduction, the same amount other city departments were being asked to cut. This was seen by most as fair and reasonable in light of the City's budget problems. But the size of the decrease proposed by the Budget and Finance Committee is so large that many NC's might be unable to survive; in fact, some activists are already urging mass resignations if the 78% cut is sustained.

The VNC urges concerned residents to contact the members of the Budget and Finance Committee. They can be reached at:

Bernard Parks, Committee Chair at Councilmember.Parks@lacity.org
Wendy Greuel, Vice-Chair at councilmember.greuel@lacity.org
Jose Huizar, Council District 14 at Councilmember.Huizar@lacity.org
Bill Rosendahl, 11th District at Councilman.Rosendahl@lacity.org.
Greig Smith, Council District 12 at councilmember.smith@lacity.org

You can also call the Committee at 213-978-1075.

Contact Marc Saltzberg at Outreach@VeniceNC.org if you have any questions.

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