



Venice Neighborhood Council



Questions:

Please limit your answers to the 9 questions below to 200 words or less each.

1) Please explain why you wish to serve on the LUPC:

I am an attorney and long time Venice stakeholder. I have lived, worked, rented and/or owned property in Venice for approximately 13 years. I love Venice and care deeply about its future. I treasure its cultural, economic, social, artistic and architectural diversity. While I understand the virtues of development in any community, including Venice, such development cannot be at the expense of this diversity. Moreover, it must be balanced with a healthy regard for local restrictions – including the Venice Specific Plan - the environment, and low income housing requirements.

2) Have you served before on the LUPC or other planning and land use related committee? If so, what committee and when?

No.

3) Please state your professional qualifications or related experience relevant to this position:

I served as an attorney and Executive Director of the Fair Housing Institute, a private non-profit group focused on affordable housing, landlord/tenant, discrimination, and ADA compliance issues in the City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County. In this capacity, I became very familiar with local and state ordinances and codes. I also had frequent contact with the Los Angeles Housing and Planning Departments, as well as local officials, including city councilmembers. As an attorney for a mid-size regional California firm for six years, I worked on various real estate matters, among other things. And, I have served as a member, officer or director for a number of civic organizations – making me very familiar with processes and procedures.

4) Please list your previous and/or current neighborhood or community involvement:

I have attended – and continue to attend – LUPC, VNC, and Los Angeles City Planning Department meetings as a Venice Stakeholder. I follow past and present projects and developments closely, and I have taken action or spoken up on various items when I thought it was appropriate. I also serve on the Venice Safety & Community Development Committee, and the sub-committee concerning Oakwood Park specifically. I have attended Venice Mobility Action Committee meetings, and am actively involved in my own neighborhood – President's Row. For instance, I am currently collecting signatures for speed humps on our street. Recently, on October 22, 2006, my husband and I raised over \$1,600 for Heal the Bay through a very small and local fundraiser at our home. And, I shop, eat and walk locally where possible, to support local businesses and a greener Venice.



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5) Please list the three most pressing planning issues you feel are facing the Venice Community:

- (1) Striking a balance between development and preserving Venice's cultural, economic, social, artistic and architectural diversity;
- (2) Preserving the character of Venice's neighborhoods while combatting density issues, housing shortage crises, and traffic congestion problems;
- (3) Exploring new and emerging technologies to make Venice greener and more pedestrian friendly.

6) Under what kinds of situations do you feel it to be appropriate to grant exceptions or variances to the Venice Specific Plan or other LA City Planning codes?

As a general rule, adherence to the Venice Specific Plan and other local ordinances is critical in order to preserve the Venice that we all love and cherish. As such, I think variances should be granted only under very limited circumstances, and with public input. For instance, I might be willing to grant a small variance on height at the intersection of two major intersections – such as Venice and Abbott Kinney, as LUPC did in the case of Frank Murphy's recent project. This exception will not alter the general character of this particular intersection and neighborhood. The architect and developer made concessions and changes to their original project here, reducing the overall density and average height of the project, adding an affordable housing unit, including solar panels and rooftop gardens, and accounting for local aesthetics.

7) What is your opinion of the Venice Specific Plan?

It is important and it must be adhered to strictly with limited exceptions, as noted above and with respect to the variances granted to the Hotel Ray. The Plan represents the interests of Venice Stakeholders, and assists in preserving Venice's community and diversity. And, it acts as a set of guidelines for LUPC, VNC, and the City of Los Angeles Planning Department.

8) How do you view your role in private interactions with developers who have projects proposed before the Land Use and Planning Committee?

There are ethical issues and possible conflicts of interest that may arise if developers interact privately with LUPC members. It is my understanding that there are procedures in place to address these concerns, which must be followed. Review of these procedures, and education regarding conflicts of interest are important. If a member of LUPC does interact with developers privately, such interaction obviously must be disclosed.

9) What is your Vision for Venice?

Preservation of Venice's cultural, economic, social, artistic and architectural diversity; integration of community members; a safe and prosperous community that supports new and existing artists, residents, businesses and property owners, but not at the expense of the Venice Specific Plan, its diversity, aesthetics, affordable housing and the environment; and one that uses new and emerging technologies and best practices to make Venice greener and more pedestrian friendly.