

Michele Blackmon:

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

I have been a resident of Venice for the past 17 years and would not live any place else in the world. I love the eclectic, diverse, scenic and historical values of Venice.

Being in real estate I have played an active role, either directly with my own projects or indirectly through my clients with developing and rehabbing homes and businesses in the area. Always placing emphasis on maintaining the character of Venice and taking into consideration the special environmental needs of our beautiful beach City.

My experience in communicating with the City, County and Coastal, my knowledge of building and rehabbing properties along with my passion for preserving the unique lifestyle of Venice will only be an asset to the committee. Coming from the Mid West where we preserve historical properties...I have always been intrigued with the History of Venice and would like to bring to the committee my knowledge and strong feelings of responsible development.

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

I have not served on any committees, however, I have been very active in the community with meeting once a month with Cindy Miscikowsky's office prior to Rosendahl regarding neighborhood issues and coastal committee concerns. I am currently setting up a similar meeting with Mark Antonio/Bill Rosendahl. I now have more time to dedicate to a committee that is making a difference in our community.

3. Please state your professional qualification or related experience relevant to this position.

I am a realtor who has been very involved with building personally and have been involved with local developers, architects and clients with their new construction projects...I have a lot of hands on knowledge of the process. I strongly feel that 17 years ago when I moved to Venice that through my real estate advertisement and presentation of my listings, emphasizing the

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Paradise in which we live and Venice's incredible lifestyle that I have assisted with attracting a more creative and environmentally educated group of residence to Venice. My passion speaks for itself, I love this place. I am well known in the community and have been consistent with my ethical and above board way of taking care of business.

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

I have been actively involved with the Venice Art Walk for the past 17 years, volunteered for the Garden Tour, I am an active member of the Pacific Division C-PAB, Member of the Marina Peninsula Neighborhood Association, Have sponsored the concerts in the Park, Sponsored the Marina Boat Parade and board member, I have hosted several meetings with the City and County at my personal residence, Recently hosted a Safety Awareness Day and Heal the Bay Clean up, was on the board of the Venice Art Mecca and have hosted local Artist/Architectural private tours to support the local artist/architects.

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

1. Non responsible/over development.
2. Traffic Flow Issues.
3. Lack of consideration for delicate Environmental Issues.

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?

Just as any new ordinance or plan...there is always room for adjustment. I feel that if it is an exception that could improve the environment, preserve a Historical Structure, assist with density issues or preserve flow with the character of Venice it should be considered.

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

Even though I don't like restrictions on a persons real estate/land use as long as they are within guidelines. I understand the need for the Specific Plan.

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However what I would like to see is an Architectural/Historical Society or organization that would assist with maintaining the Vision of Abbot Kinney with Character and Ambiance and preserving some of our Historical sites, potentially forcing developers and builders into being responsible for what they are designing for Venice and getting a final stamp of approval on all development/building. There is no other place in the world like Venice California...I would hate to see it turn into a South Beach Miami.

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

Over the past several years we have had a lot of developers coming from all over the world to develop in Venice. I feel that if precedence is set and a reason as to why it is set...most developers will understand and deal with any restrictions that might be placed on them. I believe most people want to do the right thing, however, they may not understand what the right thing is. I have dealt with a lot of builders and developers through out my real estate career and feel that this experience will assist with good communication, due to my knowledge of what they do on the other side of the picture.

9. What is your Vision of Venice?

Having traveled to Venice Italy, I can understand what Abbot Kinney saw and felt when he developed Venice California. I love this place and feel that it is one of the most amazing Cities in the world. I feel over the past 10 years it has evolved into a stronger art community. The eclectic ambiance is refreshing. I would like to see more emphasis placed of the Historical aspect of Venice...I feel that this will give people the pride and education to want to maintain the beaches and homes in a manner that reflects the energy of Venice California.