



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 have worked in Venice for many years and my family has owned industrial property in the area since the 1950s. For most of that time, we have managed our real estate quite separately and independently of the community. As I am now taking a greater interest in managing the properties, I feel strongly that it is time for me become more active in the community and join my time, voice and energy to the dialogue surrounding the future of Venice, and specifically its position, policies and approach to land use and planning.

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

No, I have not.

3) Please state your professional qualifications or related experience relevant to this position: I am a licensed and practicing attorney with a background in real property, contract law and intellectual property, which could prove helpful to the committee. I am trilingual (English, Spanish and French), which would assist me in reaching out to the diverse international and ethnic communities which are proud to call Venice home. I was educated in Washington DC for my undergraduate degree in diplomacy and government, which could also assist me in my functions as part of this local government committee.

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

I only recently moved my home to Mar Vista and have not yet had an opportunity to become formally involved in my new community there, although I have already had the opportunity to form strong bonds with my neighbors. Previously, as a resident of Beverly Hills, I was somewhat active in the campaign against the Montage Hotel project.

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

I believe that the Venice community will continue to naturally grow both in density and population by virtue of its attractive lifestyle, its worldwide notoriety and its close proximity to the beach. As a result, I think the 3 most pressing planning issues facing the community are 1) addressing the traffic, parking and overall congestion intelligently; 2) determining what "smart growth" means for Venice both in terms of residential areas and commercial/retail projects and striking the delicate balance between the demand for Venice real estate and location and the needs and wants of the established community to maintain the original character and charm that gives Venice its unique identity; and 3) trying to develop a long-term proactive plan for improving Venice public areas and not only



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improving landscaping but also better maintaining that which already exists, and part of this could include a better dialogue between Venice residents and the business community.

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?

I think this is a very difficult question to answer in a general way as I am a great believer in taking into account the specific facts and circumstances surrounding each individual project, request and submission. I think the most important thing to consider is why an exception or request is being made, how truly necessary or essential it is to a given project, what adverse impact the proposed exception will have on the community, both immediately-surrounding it and in general and what other benefits or concessions of greater value or importance might be granted in exchange for its thoughtful consideration, and whether a pattern of such requests might indicate a greater flaw in either the Venice Specific Plan or LA City Planning Codes which might merit revision or further big picture consideration.

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

To be perfectly honest, I am not as yet well-versed enough in its specific nuances to intelligently form an opinion. I do know that the Venice community has been transformed and has been in transition for many years now, and that the Venice Specific Plan's constraints may not adequately address those changes yet.

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

As an attorney who has taken an ethical oath which I take quite seriously, I think that one should conduct oneself in such interaction with the highest code of ethics and separate one's formal position from any private personal interactions. No one developer should be given any preference over the others for any reason and each project should be considered and discussed on its merits with transparency of process by the Land Use and Planning Committee in its entirety. It is the only appropriate way to preserve and uphold the integrity and objectivity of the Committee.

9) What is your Vision for Venice?

I love that Venice is a unique area of Los Angeles, with an international and eclectic flair and fun-loving-tolerant community. I would seek to preserve, cultivate and expand that uniquely special character of the area while accomodating opportunities for growth or expansion to the extent that such plans improve, beautify and embellish the uniqueness of the community and its artistic traditions and heritage. For example, while I love frozen yogurt, there is something very wrong to me about seeing a Pinkberry store on Abbott Kinney Boulevard and something very right about Jin Patisserie with its tranquil garden. It is difficult to put this into words, but the loving protectiveness that wants the best for the area on the whole flourishes strongly in my heart.



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Thank You for Volunteering to Help Our Community!