



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 14 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 Coastal Zone 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?

Yes, I am presently on LUPC. I have served on this committee since November 2006.

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 civil rights, landlord/tenant, ADA compliance, and affordable housing 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. I also served - and continue to serve - as a member, officer or director of a number of civil and non-profit organizations – making me very familiar with processes and procedures. Currently, I work part-time as in-house counsel for an environmental, consumer, and democracy non-profit organization, as well as a real estate broker.

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

I currently serve on LUPC and have for the past year. I also participate in my neighborhood association, President's Row, am helping to obtain speed humps on my street, and I take action as a stakeholder on matters I deem important to our community. I serve on the Venice Community Housing Corporation's Housing Committee and am a member of Venice Arts' Board of Directors. And, I shop, eat and walk locally where possible, to support local businesses and a greener Venice.



Venice Neighborhood Council



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 and businesses, while combatting density issues, housing shortage crises, and parking and traffic problems;
 - (3) Exploring new and emerging technologies to make Venice greener and more pedestrian and bicycle 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 Coastal Zone 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, extenuating circumstances, and with public input.

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. The Plan represents the interests of Venice Stakeholders, and was carefully crafted with their input. It assists in preserving Venice's community and diversity, and 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 Coastal Zone 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 and bicycle friendly.