

**DRAFT**  
[INSERT ON VNC LETTERHEAD]

November 7, 2007

Councilmember Bill Rosendahl  
Los Angeles City Council  
[INSERT ADDRESS]

Gail Goldberg  
[INSERT TITLE]  
Los Angeles Planning Department  
[INSERT ADDRESS]

Betsy Weisman  
[INSERT TITLE]  
Los Angeles Planning Department  
[INSERT ADDRESS]

[INSERT NAME]  
Los Angeles City Attorney's Office  
[INSERT ADDRESS]

[INSERT NAME]  
Department of Building & Safety  
[INSERT ADDRESS]

[INSERT NAME]  
Los Angeles Department of Transportation  
[INSERT ADDRESS]

[INSERT NAME]  
Department of Public Works  
[INSERT ADDRESS]

Charles Posner  
[INSERT TITLE]  
Coastal Commission  
[INSERT ADDRESS]

RE: Recommendation to Improve Parking in Venice Immediately

Gentlepersons:

The Venice Neighborhood Council (VNC) and its Land Use & Planning Committee (LUPC) strongly urge the Los Angeles City Council, along with the various relevant agencies, including without limitation, the Department of Planning, Transportation, and Public Works, as well as the

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Coastal Commission and the City Attorney's Office, to take the following immediate action to improve the parking crisis in Venice.

Venice, and in particular, residents and merchants on and around Abbot Kinney and the Boardwalk, as well as tourists frequenting these areas, face a serious parking crunch, which threatens one of the largest tourist destinations and thriving economies in the country. The parking shortage also significantly impacts the community, not only making it difficult if not impossible for tax paying residents and merchants to find parking in their immediate neighborhood, but it also affects the growth and planning of this entire.

As but just a few examples, many property owners along Abbott Kinney are building large, boxy artist residences and live work spaces, rather than mixed use spaces because the parking requirements for the latter make it virtually impossible to profitably build them. This is affecting the character and charm of a unique and diverse shopping district. It is also impacting the ability of current merchants to stay in business as their customers and employees cannot find parking. Buildings on the Boardwalk might have adequate parking, but do not have adequate ingress and egress from the structures and/or the spaces are not open to the public.

As such, the VNC and LUPC call for the immediate creation and implementation of a Parking Assessment District and/or a Building Improvement District in Venice, as well as a Parking Overlay Ordinance, particularly re Abbot Kinney Boulevard. Parking structures on public land, such as in the median along Venice Boulevard, at each end of Abbot Kinney Boulevard, at the lot on Pacific between North and South Venice, on Electric Avenue (like the ones in Beverly Hills), at Westminster School District and/or elsewhere are absolutely necessary. Existing parking lots should offer reduced rates for residents and/or modify their hours to work with merchants, valet services (so they stop parking on public streets and in public spaces), and residents. Free shuttle service (or one that charges a nominal fee to sustain it) to and from these and current beach parking lots would help, as would bicycle racks along Abbot Kinney and the Boardwalk.

To pay for these parking structures and/or the shuttle service, the City Council and relevant agencies must locate the money previously put into Venice Parking Fund and use it. We demand an immediate increase of the in lieu parking fee from \$18,000 (see the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan) to \$50,000, which amount automatically increases every year based on the increase in the cost of standard of living. The City Council and its relevant agencies must also eliminate phantom, grandfathered spaces and credits from project parking requirements. They must also enforce current parking requirements, particularly those applicable in the coastal zone.

The VNC and LUPC currently have a Parking Task Force working on these issues, focusing on Abbot Kinney Boulevard. We further charge the City Council and the above listed agencies to work together to implement the above suggestions in the immediate future and to create a task force to study other options in the future. Immediate action is absolutely necessary. Thank you.

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Very truly yours,

VNC & LUPC

**Cc:** Councilmember 2-13  
Los Angeles City Council  
[INSERT ADDRESS]