



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / www.VeniceNC.org
Email: info@VeniceNC.org / Phone or Fax: 310.606.2015



April 15, 2008

Antonio Villaraigosa
Office of the Mayor
200 N Spring Street, 2nd Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Mr. Mayor,

It has come to the attention of the Venice Neighborhood Council that in your proposed Budget, funding for gang intervention programs in Venice will be cut dramatically or even eliminated. We are being told this money would then be allocated to other areas of Los Angeles. Eliminating funding will eliminate ongoing, successful gang intervention programs that have reduced violence and personal loss in Venice.

We understand Venice is not considered a Gang Reduction Zone (GRZ) and the rationale we are hearing for this proposed funding cut is that all funds should be allocated to GRZs. We dispute this reasoning. Venice is not a GRZ because of the continued efforts of Venice 2000/H.E.L.P.E.R ALLIANCE which has been working the streets/gangs of Venice since 1999 to effect positive change. By cutting the funding of these intervention programs in the Venice area, we believe the success they have achieved could be lost and we could become a GRZ.

We ask you, Mr. Mayor, to please continue funding Venice 2000/H.E.L.P.E.R ALLIANCE area programs that have a track record of success in Venice and can be used as models in other communities.

Thank you,

Mike Newhouse
President
Venice Neighborhood Council



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Cc:

Jeff Carr, Director of Gang Reduction and Youth Programs

Steven Cheung, Venice Mayoral Representative

All members of Los Angeles City Council

All Neighborhood Councils in Council District 11

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