



Venice Neighborhood Council

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



September 9, 2009

Councilmember Bill Rosendahl
City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Captain Joseph Hiltner
LAPD, Pacific Division
12312 Culver Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90066

Re: LAPD Officers on Venice Beach

Dear Councilman Rosendahl and Captain Hiltner:

It has come to our attention that LAPD has reduced the number of patrol officers for Venice Beach, otherwise known as the Basic Car 14A11 area. As you are aware, at summer's peak, 32 officers were assigned to patrol Venice Beach. That number has subsequently decreased to 21 officers. It is our understanding that since Labor Day, Venice Beach patrols will decrease to 8 officers.

While we understand that this is not drastically inconsistent with reductions in past years, and we appreciate the seasonal increases in patrols, at our August 18, 2009 meeting, the VNC Board passed a unanimous motion to ask that LAPD reconsider the decision to reduce this year. Even though Labor Day has passed, September and most of October are still "summer like" traffic months for Venice Beach, which remains the number one tourist attraction in Los Angeles, even outside of the summer months.

Moreover, while safety in Venice has improved dramatically over the past 15 years, in large part due to the LAPD's fine work, there is still constant and persistent criminal activity which requires adequate police patrols. The unusual combination of the tourist business, the late night alcohol establishments, and packed residential density has made this area particularly susceptible to vehicular theft and vandalism, intoxication, and drug use. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that residents cannot park on Pacific Ave. until after 8 pm, which becomes darker and darker as the winter months approach.

Understandably, the City is experiencing a particularly difficult budget crisis; and Venice residents are willing to share the pain with other parts of the City. Nevertheless, we ask that you reconsider this decision and increase the number of patrol officers for the Venice Beach area; at least through the end of October.



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We applaud the work you're doing and appreciate you making our Venice Beach community a high priority in your public safety efforts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike R. Newhouse".

Mike Newhouse
President, Venice Neighborhood Council

Cc: Secretary@venicenc.org