



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / www.VeniceNC.org

Email: info@VeniceNC.org



Board of Officers Meeting Minutes

Westminster Elementary School (Auditorium)

1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd, Venice, 90291

Tuesday, September 21, 2010 at 7:00 PM

1. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting called to order in memory of Carol Hector, Publisher of The Argonaut; Sid Pollack-Erickson, husband of former VNC board member, Eileen Pollack-Erickson.

Present: Linda Lucks, President; Carolyn Rios; Joe Murphy; Cindy Chambers; Ira Koslow; Kristopher Valentine; Marc Saltzberg; Brennan Lindner; Jake Kaufman; Clark McCutchen; Ivonne Guzman; Jed Pauker; Mariana Aguilar; Peter Thottam; Scott Kramarich; Stasia Patwell.

Absent: Hugh Harrison; Daffodil Tyminski; Amanda Seward; Cynthia Rogers; Kelly Willis.

Emeritus (non-voting): Mike Newhouse, President Emeritus; DeDe Audet, President Post-Emeritus.

Parliamentarian: Ivan Spiegel.

2. Approval of the Agenda

ACTION TAKEN **Approved**

3. Approval of outstanding minutes (1 minute)

August 17, 2010 Board Meeting Minutes

(see <http://venicenc.org/files/100817VNCBoardMinutes.doc>)

ACTION TAKEN **Approved**

4. Scheduled Announcements (no more than 1 minute per report unless otherwise stated)

A VNC Announcements (3 min)

- **President:** Linda Lucks (310-505-4220; president@venicenc.org)
- **Vice President:** Carolyn Rios (310-821-7922; VP@venicenc.org)
- **Neighborhood;** Carolyn Rios
- **Outreach;** Marc Saltzberg
- **Ocean Front Walk;** Ivonne Guzman, Ira Koslow
- **Arts;** Clark McCutcheon, Daffodil Tyminski
- **Education;** Peter Thottam
- **Environment;** Kristopher Valentine
- **Rules and Elections;** Ira Koslow
- **Public Safety;** Nick Hippisley Coxe
- **Airport;** Laura Silagi
- **Community Improvement Projects:** Ivan Spiegel (310-821-9556; ivan13147@verizon.net)

B Governmental Reports (15 min)

- **State Assemblyperson Ted Lieu;** Jennifer Zivkovic, Field Representative (310-615-3515; Jennifer.zivkovic@asm.ca.gov)
- **Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa;** Jennifer Badger, West Area Representatives (310-479-3823; jennifer.badger@lacity.org)
- **City Councilperson Bill Rosendahl;** Arturo Piña, Field Deputy (310-568-8772; arturo.pina@lacity.org)
- **LAPD:** Officer Peggy Thusing, Senior Lead Officer (310-622-3968; 25120@lapd.lacity.org)
- **Western Regional Alliance of Councils:** Mike Newhouse (310-795-3768; mnewhouse@newhouseseroussi.com)
- **PlancheckLA:** VNC Rep Challis Macpherson (310-822-1729; Challis.Macpherson@Verizon.net)
- **LA Dept of Water & Power/Memoranda of Understanding:** VNC Rep DeDe Audet (310-251-1054; daudet@ca.rr.com)
- **Westside Regional Alliance of Councils:** Mike Newhouse, VNC Delegate



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- C Update: Friends of Ballona Wetlands Organization**; David Kay on behalf of the Friends of Ballona Wetlands (626-302-2149, david.kay@sce.com)

Friends of Ballona Wetlands will update the Council on organization status, and positions on the State's wetlands access proposals

5. Announcements & Public Comment on items not on the Agenda

- Jeffery Solomon; fandjeff@gmail.com, 310-396-1585
- Kishan Kasondra; LADWP, kishan.kasondra@ladwp.com, 213-367-4418
- Samantha Page; Patch, Samantha.page@patch.com, 310-741-0210
- Gregory Gaston, RV Owner
- Ian Dean; dt_dawgs@yahoo.com, 310-691-4899
- Yolanda Gonzales
- Lisa Green; lisaverde@yahoo.com
- Diane Butler
- Abraham
- Eden Andes

6. Announcement of Town Halls/Events

- A. 09/23/10 - Councilman Rosendahl's Town Hall - Homeless Issues: Public Invited to Discussion on Enforcement Strategies and Social Services - Westminster School**
- B. 10/21/10 - VNC Town Hall on Inadequate Sanitation in Venice - Westminster School**
- C. Venice High School Drop Out Recovery Day- Friday, September 24, 9-3-** Volunteers needed to go door to door and phone bank to convince students to return to school: contact: Aaron Gross, office of the Mayor: Aaron.Gross@lacity.org 213-595-6762

7. Treasurers Report; Hugh Harrison (10 min)

See Exhibit A

Discussion and Possible Action to approve the documents on VNC expenditures for August 2010. Also attached is a copy of the monthly purchase card billing for the VNC with notations as to the purpose for each expenditure.

ACTION TAKEN Approved

8. Consent Calendar – *items may be removed from consent calendar at request of Board member or public*

ACTION TAKEN Consent Calendar – Approved without objections

- A Declaration-NG=10-280-PL; ENV 2010-715 General Framework Element**; Challis Macpherson

Dear Madam/Sir:

Please extend the time period for public comment on this case for six (6) months to enable the neighborhood councils to respond.

That the Venice Neighborhood Council endorses the resolution to require the Planning Department to:

1. Post all background research documents related to NEGATIVE DECLARATION-NG=10-280-PL: ENV 2010-715 online.
2. To provide full disclosure of the precise text of these proposed changes and how they fit into the General Plan Framework Element.
3. To restart the Negative Declaration process at the time these documents are posted to provide for full review of the Guidelines and the Negative Declaration in accordance with CEQA notification and review requirements.

- B Rate Payers Advocate**; DeDe Audet (daudet@ca.rr.com)

See Exhibit B

I move that the VNC board send a letter to Councilman Rosendahl concerning the selection, duties, reach, and term of a Ratepayers Advocate to monitor the actions of the Los Angeles Department of Water Power in relation to the fees charged for delivery of water and power to the citizens of Los Angeles.



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9. New Business

Land Use and Planning Committee (LUPC)

Jake Kaufman, LUPC Chair on behalf of LUPC (310-463-0299; Chair.LUPC@VeniceNC.org)

A 585 Venice Blvd;

See Exhibit C

Motion to approve a "change of use" to Retail Use from Manufacturing.

Comments from Ron Lasker and Sam Kagen, building co-owners in the property since 1989.

Recommendation from LUPC to approve the project as presented for:

- i. Change of Use form Mfg to Retail
- ii. Change of Use from Mfg to Storage
- iii. Add 5 parking spaces
- iv. Grant the City easement rights to provide the 26' width requirement to provide 30 degree public parking in the public right of way along Venice Blvd.

Approved by LUPC 6 to 0 on Aug 25, 2010.

Public Comment: Arnold Springer; 310-823-5092

Jed Pauker Amendment: The owner has stipulated that there will be no more than one or two tenants, and that his intention is to maintain a low intensity retail use. This change of use cannot be used as a precedent for any future change of use from manufacturing to commercial.

ACTION TAKEN Approved as amended

B 533 Rose (Biga);

See Exhibit D

Motion to Approve the project as presented noting:

- i. Bike rack,
- ii. That the project meet BMP,
- iii. Hours of 9AM-11PM weekdays and 9AM- 12 midnight on Friday and Saturday.
- iv. No deliveries before 8:30 AM on weekdays or 10AM on weekends.

Approved by LUPC 6 to 0 on July 14, 2010; John Reed recused.

ACTION TAKEN JK/IK: Approved 13-0-3

10. Announcements & Public Comment on items not on the Agenda

Nic Hippisley Coxe of Public Safety Committee

Ernesto Guintero; Higher Ground 323-286-2011 (MISSING)

Scott DiDonato; hennascott@gmail.com, 347-623-5752

Claire Gonzalez

Marcia Hanscom; werlandact@earthlink.net

Mario Mantiguaktiro; marioman13@hotmail.com, 310-351-2622

Alex Rosales (MISSING)

David Warren of Sierra Club/Airport Marina Group; davidw20003@yahoo.com

Terry Hendrickson; 323-528-3131



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11. Old Business [Discussion and possible action regarding the following matters]

A Abbot Kinney Parking Report, Recommendations and Community Impact Statement;

Discussion Only: Jed Pauker, Robin Rudisill (310.827.0144; gojednet-parkingAbK@yahoo.com)

See Exhibit E

Abbot Kinney's parking issues are unique to its surroundings. This report is intended to acknowledge and promote Abbot Kinney's eclectic and independent character with practical recommendations to address Abbot Kinney's valet parking and food truck issues.

MOTION: We move that the Venice Neighborhood Council Board of Officers accept the foregoing report and approve the following recommendations and Community Impact Statement, for immediate transmittal to Council District 11 Office and the City Council and LA County Supervisor Yaroslavsky:

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 1) Promote a consolidated valet parking program for the Abbot Kinney area.
- 2) Promote continued communications among involved entities to produce mutually-beneficial initiatives,
- 3) Promote consideration of a parking study to address current and future needs for Abbot Kinney and its surrounding area.
- 4) Support implementing a Business Improvement District to develop community-serving business activity management policies.
- 5) Support County Health Department consideration to provide cleanliness letter grading for mobile catering trucks.
- 6) Where a private location is used to host one or more food trucks, consider regulating the maximum number of simultaneous patrons onsite to protect public safety.
- 7) Where a private location is used to host one or more food trucks in or near a residential area, consider requiring signage near the property perimeter, in obvious, plain sight, advising patrons to consider residential neighbors and citing pertinent noise ordinances.
- 8) Where a public location is used to host a food truck, promote consideration of a permit process, part of whose fees contribute to the Venice Coastal Zone Parking Impact Fund
- 9) Promote inclusion of VNC's recommendations with the City Council's work to address food truck impacts.

VALET PARKING AND FOOD TRUCKS COMMUNITY IMPACT STATEMENT

Venice Coastal Zone parking is at an ever-increasing premium for residents, businesses and visitors alike. Multiple short-and long-term parking restrictions continue to prove insufficient in achieving their collective goal to ease automotive congestion and the inevitable neighbor-to-neighbor tensions it creates. Lack of adequate enforcement of existing regulations combines with the failure of existing regulations to address our changing environment. Only with comprehensive and carefully-crafted initiatives designed to create space where none seems to exist can our community members and visitors hope to regain the full enjoyment of our uniquely diverse and walkable community which was intended by its founder.

General Comment:

Robert Schwan; twschwan@gmail.com, 310-450-1429

Kevin Maloney; kevin@zinsaratrading.com, 310-422-4701

Kim Sharp

Donna Humphrey; donna@zinsaratrading.com, 310-392-6424

Carol Tantau;

Donald Novack; halsbarandgrill@aol.com, 310-396-3105

Matt Geller of SoCal Mobile Food Vendors Assoc; matt@socalmfva.com, 310-666-9950

Ian Dean; dt_dawgs@yahoo.com, 310-6914899

In Favor:

David Ewing; seriousbus@aol.com, 310-392-1365



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- B Motion to approve Community Impact Statement regarding Mechanical Parking lift issue;**
 Jed Pauker (310.827.0144, jed@jed.net): Mechanical parking lifts can benefit the community, but only when they are deployed per approved community planning guidelines. Approving such devices without public input and Planning Department review negatively impacts the community, the planning process, Coastal development and the principles of representative government. A moratorium should be placed on approval of mechanical parking lifts until an ordinance can be drafted to specify proper review and operational standards for such devices in the community.

ACTION TAKEN **Postponed to October 10, 2010 Administrative Committee Meeting**

12. New Business [Discussion and possible action regarding the following matters]

- A Motion to Fund previously approved VNC Board Community Improvement Event from board funded projects;** Alex Stowell (metal.beach@hotmail.com)

I am seeking funding for an all ages metal show at Muscle Beach to take place on Oct. 30 and 31. I was promised \$2000 for this through the VNC neighborhood improvement funding and this commitment was reneged upon. I had followed all the required steps and was never contacted by Ivan Spiegel informing me that the funding could be in trouble. After several failed attempts to contact him regarding the proper process for submitting receipts, I was informed rather casually, that my funding was no longer available. I put my name on this event over a year ago and have over 100 people involved in performance and production. I have already postponed it once. The total cost for the event is going to be around \$4000 and I would greatly appreciate any funding you could take out of this year's allotment and apply to my event. Thank you very much for time and consideration. This event will give young Venice musicians a great chance to showcase their skills.

ACTION TAKEN **KV/CR: Motion to give \$1000 from board discretionary funds approved 10-1-2**

- B Motion to approve Median Strip & foliage for Washington Blvd;** Carolyn Rios: The Neighborhood Committee recommends that the VNC make the following motion in support of Stakeholder John Tabis. (818-560-6107, jtabis1@yahoo.com) **See Exhibit F**

Whereas Washington Blvd is already torn up for sewage work, it is imperative that the final asphaltting plan be changed to include a curb and gutter median strip so that this part of the street (Mildred St to Palawan Way) can be beautified with trees and foliage.

Public Comment: Challis Macpherson

ACTION TAKEN **CR/CM Motion approved 11-0-2**



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C Motion to Approve Agenda Posting Places Marc Saltzberg on behalf of the Outreach Committee (310-892-9660, outreach@venicenc.org)

1) The Outreach Committee was asked to explore and recommend posting sites in order to comply with the new BONC / DONE directive that each NC have at least 5 official posting places in addition to their website. The Outreach Committee discussed suggestions made by the Neighborhood Committee, the Outreach Committee and recommended the following 8 sites and suggests that the VNC Board select the final five sites.

The criteria used to select posting places were:

- The site must be physically within the VNC boundaries (eg. the south side of Washington on County land is out).
- We have to have physical access to the site so that we can post.
- As many as possible (at least 1) should be available for viewing 24/7 (none currently are). The sites should be geographically diverse; there should be a reasonable level of foot traffic; the posting place must have a bulletin Board large enough to hold meeting notices from at least 3 committees simultaneously posting at the site must not present an undue burden on person posting.

The committee recommends the following posting sites to Ad Com for final selection by that committee:

1. Penmar Park
2. Cow's End (note: no bulletin board – windows available)
3. Café Collage (note: no bulletin board – windows available)
4. Whole Foods
5. **Groundworks Coffee - on Rose (note: no bulletin board – door available)
6. **Abbot's Habit
7. **Oakwood Park
8. **Venice Library

** existing posting site

The Committee recommends that the final list of public posting sites be noted on our website and in our literature.

2) **Motion to approve** that Committee Chairs forward all agendas to the VNC Board and the VNC Neighborhood Committees for posting in front of their residences or on bulletin boards in their area. Marc Saltzburg on behalf of Outreach Committee Outreach@venicenc.org

ACTION TAKEN Postponed to October 10, 2010 Administrative Committee Meeting

13. Announcements & Public Comment on items not on the Agenda

[10 min, no more than 2 minutes per person – no board member announcements permitted]

14. Board Member Comments on subject matters within the VNC jurisdiction.

[10 min, no more than 1 minutes per person]

15. Adjourn (approx 10:00PM)



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Exhibit A – Treasurers Report

2010 - 2011 Expenditures to Budget August 2010								
	DONE Category	Current Yr Budget by Acct	% of Bdgt	Amt spent Current Month	Amt Spent in Current Fiscal Year	Amt Available to Spend	% Budget Remain	\$ Moved
Annual Allocation		\$45,000.00						
Rollover		\$5,000.00						
Sub Total-Unallocated Budget		\$50,000.00						
Neighborhood Comm. Projects 10-11		20,000.00						
Total		70,000.00						
Budget								
100 Operations								
Office Supplies	OFF	\$750.00				\$750.00	100.0%	
Copies	OFF	\$500.00		\$23.69	\$23.69	\$476.31	95.3%	
Office Equipment	OFF	\$750.00				\$750.00	100.0%	
Staffing/Apple One	TAC	\$500.00				\$500.00	100.0%	
Telephone Expense	MIS	\$250.00				\$250.00	100.0%	
Storage	FAC	\$2,000.00		\$162.00	\$324.00	\$1,676.00	83.8%	
Board Retreat	EDU	\$500.00			\$241.53	\$258.47	51.7%	
General Operations	MIS	\$1,000.00				\$1,000.00	100.0%	
sub Total Operations		\$6,250.00	8.9%	\$185.69	\$589.22	\$5,660.78	90.6%	
200 Outreach								
Copies / Printing	POS	\$500.00				\$500.00	100.0%	
Facilities For Public	FAC	\$3,000.00				\$3,000.00	100.0%	
Refreshments	EVE	\$400.00				\$400.00	100.0%	
Web Site & e-mail	WEB	\$1,500.00		\$30.00	\$60.00	\$1,440.00	96.0%	
Advertising & Promotions	ADV	\$0.00				\$0.00		
Newsletter Production	NEW	\$1,200.00				\$1,200.00	100.0%	
Newsletter Printing	NEW	\$5,700.00				\$5,700.00	100.0%	
Newsletter Delivery	NEW	\$4,200.00				\$4,200.00	100.0%	
Elections	ELE	\$500.00				\$500.00	100.0%	
General Outreach	EVE	\$750.00		-\$105.42	\$171.79	\$578.21	77.1%	
sub Total Outreach		\$17,750.00	25.4%	-\$75.42	\$231.79	\$17,518.21	98.7%	
300 Community Improvement								
Venice Community BBQ	CIP	\$5,000.00		\$466.47	\$3,521.42	\$1,478.58	29.6%	
Neighborhood Commun Proj 2010-11	CIP	\$20,000.00		\$2,000.00	\$3,504.00	\$16,496.00	82.5%	
General Community Projects 2010-11	CIP	\$5,000.00		\$72.44	\$72.44	\$4,927.56	98.6%	
Neighborhood Commun Proj 2011-12	CIP	\$16,000.00				\$16,000.00	100.0%	
sub Total Community Improvement		\$46,000.00	65.7%	\$2,538.91	\$7,097.86	\$38,902.14	84.6%	
Total		\$70,000.00		\$2,649.18	\$7,918.87	\$62,081.13	88.7%	

It's YOUR Venice - get involved!



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Community Improvement Projects

	Current Yr Budget by Acct	% of Bdgt	Amt spent Current Month	Amt Spent in Current Fiscal Year	Amt Available to Spend	% Budget Remain	\$ Moved
Neighborhood Community Projects		2009-2010					
Friends of Coeur d'Alene Reading Courtyard	\$2,000.00	10%			\$2,000.00	100%	
Master in the Chapel-Concerts	\$2,000.00	10%			\$2,000.00	100%	
Westminster School-Printers	\$2,000.00	10%			\$2,000.00	100%	
Boys and Girls Club-Sewing Project	\$2,000.00	10%			\$2,000.00	100%	
Ballona Institute-Lagoon Restoration	\$1,026.00	5%			\$1,026.00	100%	
Westside Leadership Magnet-Garden	\$1,996.00	10%			\$1,996.00	100%	
Mark Twain-Garden	\$2,000.00	10%			\$2,000.00	100%	
Venice Music Festival	\$2,000.00	10%	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	0%	
Carnevale	\$2,000.00	10%			\$2,000.00	100%	
826 LA-"The Venice Wave"	\$1,470.00	7%			\$1,470.00	100%	
Vintage Motorcycle Rally	\$1,508.00	8%		\$1,504.00	\$4.00	0%	
Total	\$20,000.00		\$2,000.00	\$3,504.00	\$16,496.00	82%	
General Community Improvement		2009-2010					
Total Available	\$5,000.00				\$5,000.00	100%	
Santa Monica Airport	\$850.00		\$72.44	\$72.44	\$777.56		
Total Allocated	\$850.00						
Total To be Allocated	\$4,150.00						
Total Spent			\$72.44	\$72.44	\$4,927.56	99%	

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U.S. BANCORP SERVICE CENTER
P. O. Box 6343
Fargo, ND 58125-6343

CITY OF LA - DONE

ACCOUNT NUMBER XXXX-XXXX-XXXX-1949
STATEMENT DATE 08-23-10
TOTAL ACTIVITY \$ 3,246.36

000016900 1 AT 0.357 106481714816973 P

MEMO STATEMENT ONLY
DO NOT REMIT PAYMENT

HUGH HARRISON
VENICE NC
2808 GRAYSON AVE
VENICE CA 90291-4648

FAC - Storage
Edpa - Refund
Eda - Refund
CIP - 889
CIP - 889
CIP - 889
CIP - 889
CIP - 889
CIP - 889
Copies SM Airport
EVG - Rtn of merch
EVG - Rtn of merch

NEW ACCOUNT ACTIVITY						
POST DATE	TRAN DATE	TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE NUMBER	MCC	AMOUNT	
07-23	07-21	8011 EXTRA SPACE STOR 310-301-7970 CA PUR ID: 20201004 TAX: 0.00	24323000203253202010047	4225	162.00	
07-26	07-21	OFFICE DEPOT #981 CULVER CITY CA PUR ID: 095120100721 TAX: 6.62	24445740204359939230080	5943	74.56	
07-28	07-25	JAMES BEACH VENICE CA PUR ID: TAX: 0.00	24224430209101001576671	5812	152.50	
07-30	07-28	SMARTNFINAL33210303329 VENICE CA PUR ID: 280210621714182 TAX: 0.00	24164070210829100017640	5411	1,353.69	
08-02	07-31	SMARTNFINAL33210303329 VENICE CA PUR ID: 080212546456155 TAX: 0.00	24164070213829080010168	5411	59.92	
08-02	07-31	NOAH'S NY BAGELS #2183 MARINA DEL RE CA PUR ID: 08808122183VP1Y7000051597 TAX: 1.56	24427330213710041440788	5814	45.53	
08-02	07-29	AAA RENTS AND EVENTS VAN NUYS CA PUR ID: TAX: 0.00	24559300211400000755971	5989	570.00	
08-02	07-31	PARTY ON RENTALS LOS ANGELES CA PUR ID: TAX: 0.00	24717050212162124931545	5989	179.00	
08-05	08-04	CONTROL PRINTING INC 310-8277488 CA PUR ID: 054 TAX: 27.01	24901370216118000100027	2741	304.01	
08-08	08-04	OFFICE DEPOT #838 PASADENA CA PUR ID: 083820100804 TAX: 6.44	24445740217378131315072	5943	72.44	
08-09	08-05	OFFICE DEPOT #5125 SIGNAL HILL CA PUR ID: 528275570001 TAX: 5.75	74445740218379550291824	5965	84.71CR	
08-09	08-05	OFFICE DEPOT #5125 SIGNAL HILL CA PUR ID: 528276483001 TAX: 3.82	74445740218379550291707	5965	40.71CR	

Default Accounting Code:

CUSTOMER SERVICE CALL	ACCOUNT NUMBER		ACCOUNT SUMMARY	
800-344-5696	XXXX-XXXX-XXXX-1949		PREVIOUS BALANCE	\$.00
	STATEMENT DATE	DISPUTED AMOUNT	PURCHASES & OTHER CHARGES	\$3,351.80
SEND BILLING INQUIRIES TO: C/O U.S. BANCORP SERVICE CENTER, INC U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION ND P.O. BOX 6335 FARGO, ND 58125-6335	AMOUNT DUE		CASH ADVANCES	\$.00
	\$ 0.00		CASH ADVANCE FEE	\$.00
	DO NOT REMIT		CREDITS	\$105.42
			TOTAL ACTIVITY	\$3,246.38



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Account Name:	HUGH HARRISON
Company Name:	CITY OF LA - DONE
Account Number:	XXXX-XXXX-XXXX-1949
Statement Date:	08-23-10

CIP - B&B
 WEB
 OFF - Copies
 OFF - Copies
 PAZ - Storage

NEW ACCOUNT ACTIVITY					
POST DATE	TRAN DATE	TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION	REFERENCE NUMBER	MCC	AMOUNT
08-09	07-30	UNITED SITE SVCS CA SOUTH EL MONT CA PUR ID: CAROLYN RIOS TAX: 0.00	24445000219380532781313	7349	182.46
08-16	08-13	CONSTANT CONTACT 1 IWAGNER@CONST MA PUR ID: 2375469 TAX: 0.00	24733090225206967109361	5958	30.00
08-19	08-16	OFFICE DEPOT #951 CULVER CITY CA PUR ID: 085120100816 TAX: 1.29	24445740230398356173417	5943	14.49
08-20	08-17	OFFICE DEPOT #951 CULVER CITY CA PUR ID: 085120100817 TAX: 0.82	24445740231397817698967	5943	9.20
08-23	08-21	8011 EXTRA SPACE STOR 310-301-7970 CA PUR ID: 23301004 TAX: 0.00	24323000234253233010043	4225	182.00



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Exhibit B – Rate Payer Advocate

Draft Letter

September 20, 2010

Los Angeles City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl
800 N. Spring Street Rm. 415
Los Angeles, California

Dear Councilmember Rosendahl,

At its meeting on September 21, 2010, the Venice Neighborhood Council endorsed the attached memorandum concerning the selection, duties, reach, and term of a Ratepayers Advocate to monitor the actions of the Los Angeles Department of Water Power in relation to the fees charged for delivery of water and power to the citizens of Los Angeles.

Please forward this communication and the attached document to the DWP Reform combined Rules and Elections and Energy and Environment committees of the City Council for consideration for a ballot measure to be prepared for the March 2011 Election.

Your interest in this issue and your hosting of a meeting in District 11 to receive input from stakeholders has been very helpful.

Thank you,

Linda Lucks
President, Venice Neighborhood Council

CV/da
Attach: Ratepayers Preliminary Term Sheet
CC: R&E, E&E



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Draft
September 1, 2010

Ratepayers Advocate Preliminary Term Sheet

Role

The Office of the Ratepayers Advocate (the "Ratepayers Advocate") will review and analyze the operations, finances, and management, of the Department of Water and Power as well as other matters not explicitly excluded from its role.

Such review and analysis will be done on a timely and continuous basis.

In addition to all matters relating to rates and the reliability and quality of service, the Ratepayers Advocate would have the right to review and analyze, among other matters, DWP's credit rating; its long term strategy; the Integrated Resources Plan; the Urban Water Management Plan; the Recycled Water Master Plan; the state of its infrastructure and information technology systems; its Customer Relation Management systems; the implementation of the recommendations of the IEA Survey and Independent Fiscal Review; the efficiency of its operations; its procurement, contracting, and inventory policies; its relationship with the City and its departments; and all material contracts, including those with the Metropolitan Water District and its unions.

The Ratepayers Advocate will not set rates or policy, will not select the General Manager or any Commissioner, and will not determine the Transfer to the City, but may review, analyze, and comment on such matters. The Ratepayers Advocate will not make management decisions. The Ratepayers Advocate is not required to review individual customer complaints, but may so at its discretion.

The Ratepayers Advocate will not have the subpoena and prosecutor powers of an Inspector General; provided, however, that DWP provides the Ratepayers Advocate with all requested information on a timely basis.

The Ratepayers Advocate will have a "seat at the table" at any meeting of the Board of Commissioners or any of its committee and at any City Council meeting or any of its committees when the DWP is being discussed. The Ratepayers Advocate will be given equal time.

The DWP will cooperate fully with and assist as necessary the Ratepayers Advocate.

The Ratepayers Advocate will be a source of objective information for Ratepayers, the City Council, the Mayor, and other City officials and stakeholders.

Funding

The DWP will provide funding equal to 0.1% of annual revenues, payable quarterly in advance. Funds not used may be accumulated, but shall not exceed 0.3% of annual revenues.



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Additional funds may be required based upon extraordinary requests by DWP or elected officials or their representatives. Such additional funds must be approved in advance by DWP.

Reporting

The Ratepayers Advocate will not report to any elected official or body consisting of elected officials or appointed by elected officials. The Controller, the City Council, the Mayor and the Mayor's office, the City Administrative Officer, the Chief Legislative Analyst, the DWP Board of Commissioners, and Neighborhood Councils are therefore not eligible.

The Ratepayers Advocate will report to the Ratepayers Advocate Board of Commissioners on a frequent basis.

The Ratepayers Advocate Board of Commissioners will consist of five independent members: two homeowners, two from the business community, and one from the rental community.

Commissioners may not be a city, county, or state employee, consultant, lobbyist, or contractor, or any of their employees or union members; any elected politician (or candidate) who has been in office during the last 10 years; and any officer, past or present, of any political party.

Commissioners will be residents of Los Angeles and DWP customers whose obligations are current.

Commissioners will be chosen by the Mayor from a pool of qualified candidates determined by the Neighborhood Councils, the business community, and the multifamily community, subject to the approval of the City Council. There will be three candidates for each position.

Qualified candidates must demonstrate a level of knowledge and/or experience of large organizations, finance, management, and/or engineering.

The Commissioners will serve five year staggered terms. However, the initial commissioners will serve terms of one, two, three, four and five year terms. Commissioners may not be removed unless the removal is approved by the mayor and at least 11 Council Members.

The Commissioners will approve the selection of the Executive Director of the Ratepayers Advocate.

Commissioners will be consulted on the hiring of staff and any consultants.

The Executive Director may be removed if approved by four of the Commissioners and confirmed by the Mayor and a majority of the City Council



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Ratepayers Advocate

The Executive Director of the Ratepayers Advocate will have the necessary expertise and experience to lead an organization charged with fulfilling the role of the Ratepayers Advocate.

The City will retain a qualified executive recruiter to assist the City in finding a qualified candidate.

Outreach

The office of the Ratepayers Advocate will maintain a fully functional website where it will post its findings on a timely basis.

The Ratepayers Advocate will meet at least six times a year with the Neighborhood Councils and other ratepayers in an effort to keep them fully informed about past, current, and future policies of the DWP, especially as it relates to rates and quality and reliability of service.

Location

The location of the Ratepayers Advocate will be determined by the Executive Director in consultation with the Commissioners.

Budget

The Executive Director will prepare an annual budget to be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

The Executive Director will also prepare a multiyear budget.

The compensation of the Executive Director and her/his staff will need to be adequate to attract personnel from the private sector that have the requisite skills.

The Ratepayers Advocate will be required to fund only the normal costs related to pensions and medical benefits.

Charter

The Ratepayers Advocate will part of the City Charter if approved by a majority of the voters in the March 2011 election.

There will be no sunset provisions.

The Ratepayers Advocate will not be subject to the competitive bidding policies of the City.



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Exhibit C – LUPC Staff Report regarding 585 Venice Blvd

Case Activity Detail Report

Report Generated: 09/12/2010

Case No.:	ZA-2010-769-CDP	Status:	Pending
Address:	585 E NORTH VENICE BLVD 90291	Manager:	James Murez
Lat:	33.9888358	Lng:	-118.4631589
Contact:	JOHN REED (310)393-9128	NC:	Venice
Applicant:		CD No.:	11
Description:	CHANGE OF USE FROM MANUFACTURING TO RETAIL AND STORAGE. RELOCATE FRONT DOOR; ADD REAR DOOR; RESTRIPE PARKING LOT; REPLACE EXISTING WINDOWS ALONG VENICE BLVD.	Applied:	03/26/2010
		Revised:	09/12/2010 06:21:43 PM
		Created:	// : : AM
		Access:	Self

Assessor No:	Build Size:	10400	
Zoning:	M1-1-0	Max height:	18 feet
Lotsize:	22487	Units:	0
Parking:	9	Bedrooms:	
Year Built:	01/01/1953	Bathrooms:	
C of O:			
Buildclass:			

Attachments

#1	Letter	08/23/2010	Cover letters	39kb
#2	Application	08/23/2010	Master Land Use Permit Application	46kb
#3	Misc	08/23/2010	Justification	52kb
#4	Application	08/23/2010	Coastal Development Permit	174kb
#5	Misc	08/23/2010	Determination and Findings	192kb
#6	Photograph	08/23/2010	MAP	958kb

Event Schedule

Aug/25/2010 06:30 PM	LUPC Hearing	Oakwood Rec Center, Public Hearing
Aug/19/2010 06:30 PM	NC Outreach	The applicant has planned to display the project to the community and answer any questions that might come up. The meeting will be held onsite. Ample parking is available.

Committee Findings

- #1 Motion LUPC Recommendation - Aug 09/12/2010
 Jim Murez provided synopsis of his report and the public hearing, John Reed presented the project as reported in the documentation.
- The request is to support a "change of use" to Retail Use from Manufacturing.
- Comments from Ron Lasker and Sam Kagen, building co-owners in the property since 1989.
- Motion made by Jim Murez and seconded by Robert Aronson to approve the project as presented for:
- i. Change of Use form Mfg to Retailiii. Change of Use from Mfg to Storageiii. Add 5 parking spacesiv. Grant the City easement rights to provide the 26' width requirement to provide 30 degree public parking in the public right of way along Venice Blvd.



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Continuing Report, Case No.ZA-2010-769-CDP

Generated 09/12/2010

Committee Findings

#2 Motion passed 6/0/0 on Aug 25, 2010
 Finding Summary 09/05/2010
 The application is seeking a Coastal Development Permit for a Change of Use to one of two existing buildings on this site. The present use is 8000 SF of Manufacturing in one structure and 2400 SF of Storage in the second. The proposed new use for the site combines 8000 SF of Retail in what was the Manufacturing building and the 2400 SF Storage structure will remain storage without change.

The proposed Change of Use requires five (5) additional parking spaces be provided that are being addressed on-site. No valet served nor vertical tandem (stacking machines) parking is requested.

This project complies with the Venice Coastal Zone Specific Plan (VCZSP) - no variances are required. No new building square footage is being constructed.

In addition, the owners are offering to increase Public Parking but voluntary granting the City a property easement. The easement will transfer about thirty (30) inches of land along the street side of the property which thereby allows the City to conform to the minimum turning radius requirement for diagonally striped parking stalls. As a result of this gesture, the community will gain five to eight Public Parking stalls.

Nature of Application: Change of Use from an existing 10,400 sq.ft. Manufacturing Use to Retail and Storage. Interior remodel, including demolition of the existing mezzanine and the construction of handicap-accessible restrooms. Update the Venice Boulevard building façade in order to increase commercial display window area and improve accessibility to the building. Improvements to the on-site parking lot, including 5 additional parking spaces, and new landscaping.

The proposed Change of Use appears to be positive asset to the community and does not seem to propose any negative impacts.

#3 Finding Summary - Continued 09/05/2010

Size of parcel:

Irregular Lot - 22,487 sq.ft. 139' x 182', with street frontage on Venice Boulevard and South Irving Tabor Court.

Size of project:

The existing building was built in two phases between 1952 -1983. In 1952 a 8,000 sq ft brick with bowstring truss building was constructed and in 1983, a 2,400 sq.ft. metal building was constructed adjacent to the existing structure. The current Certificate of Occupancies of the two structures are for manufacturing (G-1).

Background Information:

This building is where Samy's Camera was a tenant for 10 years until they moved out in 2008. When Samy's occupied the building they did not obtain a change of use permit for retail - this is one of the reasons Samy's moved out. This application will enable the next tenant to operate legally as a retailer.

In April of 2010, an application was filed with the city, DIR-2010-517-SPP to confirm the change of use from manufacturing to retail and storage complied with the VCZSP. This determination was approved on May 25 of 2010. The next step is to obtain a Coastal Development Permit for the Change of Use.

No additional Square footage or Floor Area Ratio (FAR) increase is proposed for the current project. The proposed project, a change of use, is in compliance with the VCZSP requirements regarding height, access, parking, commercial Development Design Standards, floor area ratio, landscaping and trash



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Continuing Report, Case No.ZA-2010-769-CDP

Generated 09/12/2010

Committee Findings

requirements.

General Plan Land Use: Limited Manufacturing

Legal Description Parcel B of Parcel Map of L.A. Map #4483 Filed in Book 129, Pages 59 & 60

FAR Existing Building FAR (no change) - 0.462 Existing Retail FAR (8,000 s.f.) - 0.356

Loading Zone: The required loading zone is provided adjacent to Irving Tabor Court.

BMP: The applicant has agreed to standard LUPC conditions

A. Parking

The applicant proposed to remodel the existing building, there are 9 existing parking spaces on site, and five additional parking spaces required by the change of use have been provided on site.

Summary of Arguments In Favor of this Project

Retail VS Manufacturing Use. The prior tenant was Samy's Camera that operated a retail store. This application legalizes this retail use so a new tenant can lease the space. "Retail" is an appropriate use for this building given the close proximity to the Abbot Kinney retail uses. One advantage of the retail tenant would be that less employees would be working in the space compared to a manufacturing tenant. As an example a production company would be classified as a manufacturing use and would have 5 times the number of employees as a retail user.

The proposed scope of work includes updating the Venice Boulevard façade of the building, increasing the amount of commercial display window area which essentially enhances the curb appeal of the building's new retail use. A visually appealing front façade creates a more pedestrian friendly feel to this portion of Venice Boulevard, increasing foot traffic to the area.

Neighborhood Meeting - Thursday, August 19th 2010The LUPC required neighborhood meeting took place on Thursday, August 19th, was attended by 7 people, and the general attitude towards the project was positive. What follows is a summary of the issues and the solutions that resulted from this meeting.

Parking:Three different neighbors wanted to understand the new parking layout and parking design. The architect of the project addressed these questions by explaining that:

A. The number of parking spaces for this change of use is in accordance with the parking calculation, approved by the Zoning Engineer. B. That the proposed project increases the existing on site parking requirement by 5 additional parking spaces. C. The proposed parking configuration gives back to the neighborhood the public right of way.

D. The project DOES NOT propose an increase in the building area, but rather the opposite, since a non-permitted mezzanine will be demolished.

E. That the proposed changes to the parking will not alter the existing vehicular access to the lot, which means that cars will access the parking lot through the same existing driveway apron.

A request was made that the owner of the project have the surveyor paint the property line on the existing pavement, the location of the two front corners, as well as the front property line. This was done and helped to address the public right of way boundary and subject site.

After listening to the solutions offered in the project regarding parking, the neighbors seemed pleased with the project and, in general, supported it.

Building facades and building access:Another neighbor asked about the improvement to the front façade and the building entry. After showing him the comparison of the existing and proposed architectural elevations, and after explaining that a new access entry was being proposed in coincidence with the



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Continuing Report, Case No.ZA-2010-769-CDP

Generated 09/12/2010

Committee Findings

building axis, this person seemed satisfied with the changes and supported the project.

Future TI configuration: Three neighbors enquired about the expectations in regards to future tenants, to what the architect responded saying that the owners expect to rent the space preferably to a single tenant that would relate to the neighborhood in a similar way as Samy's Camera. There was discussion regarding dividing the space in 6 to 10 individual spaces, which according to their point of view would make more sense from a economical stand. While this solution would be possible by opening a new entry point alongside Tabor Court, the architect addressed this suggestion clarifying that a multi-tenant configuration will imply the construction of more restrooms and more ADA provisions. For the architect, the character of the building is more suitable for a single open space. Also, since a swap meet configuration is not permitted, the more logical configuration would be to use the building with only one / two retails.

The owner added that he and his partners are not in the real estate business and that they are not interested in acting as landlords, but rather would like to keep things simple and have a single, long term, stable tenant.

The number of tenants did not raise objections nor affected the support of neighbors to the project.

Voiced Opposition: There was NO strong opposition voiced in regards to this project at the August 19th neighborhood meeting. All discussions were positive and seemed in favor of this project.

#4 Finding Also see ENV-2010-518-CE, 04/01/2010

This project was assigned to me, Jim Murez since John Reed who is also on LUPC is the architect and contact for the case.

Also see case ENV-2010-518-CE and DIR-2010-517-SPP

Stakeholder Comments

09/04/2010	Other	General Comment	System Administrator
I attended and found the property lines to be in question. Others were concerned about dividing up the space into several smaller retail shops although the applicant said they had no plans to do this.			



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Exhibit D – LUPC Staff Report 533 Rose (Biga)



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LAND USE AND PLANNING

COMMITTEE STAFF REPORT

Submitted to LUPC July 14, 2010

Submitted to VNC Board of Officers

August 17, 2010



Case Number:

ZA-2009-1115-CUB-CU-CDP-SPP-MEL – (Previous VOID case number:
APCW-2009-1115-SPE-CUB-CU-CDP-SPP-MEL)

Name of Business:

Biga Restaurant

Address of Project:

533 Rose Avenue, at Dimmick Street

LUPC MOTION:

Motion to recommend approve the project as presented noting the bike rack, that the project meet BMP, and hours of 9AM-11PM weekdays and 9AM- 12 midnight on Friday and Saturday. No deliveries before 8:30 AM on weekdays or 10AM on weekends.

Made by Susan Papadakis, Seconded by Kelly Li/Rob Aronson.

Approved (6-0-0) John Reed recused. Date of Motion: July 14, 2010

PROJECT SUMMARY TO VNC –

Biga Restaurant – 533 Rose Ave the NW corner of Rose and Dimmick.

This existing building, vacant for 4 years, is being transformed into a 1,264 s.f. gourmet pizza kitchen. The entire building is being renovated. The project has overwhelming neighborhood support, not only complies with required parking requirements but provides additional on site parking and bicycle valet. A CUB is being requested to allow the on-site sale of beer and wine in the restaurant with a 373 s.f. service area accommodating 32 patrons indoors.

The floor area of the existing building is being decreased to add parking on site, 383 s.f. in the back of the building is being demolished.

The use of the existing building consists of retail, office, and a dwelling so a Coastal Development Permit (CDP) and Change of Use is requested to allow the restaurant use. The Los Angeles Housing Authority (LAHD) has determined the are no affordable units on site and has cleared the project pursuant to the Mello Act. This project complies with the VCZSP.

Staff Report Follows:



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LUPC STAFF REPORT

SYNOPSIS: This is an application for a Change of Use from an existing 1,630 sq.ft. mixed use building - Retail, Office and Dwelling Unit - to a 1,264 sq.ft. restaurant. The building size will be reduced as 383 s.f. of the existing building will be demolished to allow for additional parking over the required parking for this change of use. The new CUB is to allow the on-site sale of beer and wine in conjunction with a proposed 1,264 s.f. restaurant with 373 s.f. of service area accommodating 32 patrons with only indoor seating. The proposed hours of operation are from 9:00AM to 11:00PM weekdays and 9AM-12 midnight on weekends.

NOTE: LAHD determined no MELLO Act violation. Generally favorable reaction from local residents at neighborhood meeting July 5, 2010.

Size of Parcel: 2,979.5 sq. ft. (according to ZIMAS)
Corner Lot with street frontage on Rose Avenue and Dimmick Street.

Size of Project: 4,435 sq. ft (according to permit application)

PARKING: VCZSP Section 13. D., Entitled "Parking," requires one parking space for each 50 square feet of Service Floor: Restaurant, Night Club, Bar and similar establishments and for the sale or consumption of food and beverages on the premises. One space for each 50 square feet of Service Floor with 374 sq.ft. of service floor area equals 7 required parking spaces

Assessed Land Value: \$760,000 (according to ZIMAS)

Last Owner Change: July 30, 2009

Project Description: A Change of Use from an existing 1,630 sq.ft. mixed use building - Retail, Office and Dwelling Unit - to a 1,264 sq.ft. restaurant. The new CUB is to allow the on-site sale of beer and wine in conjunction with a proposed 1,264 s.f. restaurant with 373 s.f. of service area accommodating 32 patrons with only indoor seating. The proposed hours of operation are from 9:00AM to 11:00PM weekdays and 9AM-12 midnight on weekends.

Venice Subarea: North of Rose (NoRo)

Zone: C4-1

Date of Planning Report: TBA

Date of End of Appeal Period: TBA

City Planning Report

Prepared by: TBA

LUPC Staff Report Done By: Challis Macpherson

Applicant: Jackie Harris - Paul Shoemaker



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Address: **Jaclyn Theis, 533 Rose LLG**
606 South Olive Street, #600, LA 90014

Representative: **Noel Fedosh - Reed Architectural Group**
 NOTE: an associate of the company making presentation.
 657 Rose Avenue, Venice, California 90291

Contact Information: 310.393.9128, info@reedarchgroup.com.

Date(s) heard by LUPC: **July 14, 2010**
Zoning Administration Date: **TBA**
Applicant's Neighborhood Mtg **July 5, 2010, Monday**
WLA Area Planning
Commission Dates: **TBA**

ARGUMENTS FOR THIS PROJECT:

After listening to neighbor concerns, the applicant amended the original application deleting the request for a specific plan exception and parking variance. The applicant proposes to demolish 18 feet from the rear of the existing building to accommodate more on-site parking and has designed the rear half of the property to accommodate the 3 required parking spaces, one additional standard parking space, one non-required additional compact parking space and a on-site loading area which can be used by the required parking attendant for an additional parking space parallel to the alley when not being used by delivery trucks. Whereas the code requires the applicant to provide 3 parking spaces, in reality they are providing double that amount for the proposed restaurant.

The proposed project is keeping in scale with adjacent neighbors. With the rear 18 feet of the existing building to be demolished, the proposed building volume will be perceived as actually reduced in scale.

The proposed restaurant has been coined a "community restaurant," who's primary goal is to serve gourmet **pizza** to the local neighborhood. The applicant is not a popular chain restaurant and their goal is to provide an intimate and personal dining experience. They are hoping to generate pedestrian traffic and bicycle traffic to their restaurant. To encourage such they **suggested** implementing a relatively new idea called "bike valet." Downtown LA is implementing this idea to "allow those who bike into downtown to easily drop off their bikes when they dine and shop in the area." (LA Times, July 2, 2010) At 533 Rose, the applicant will be installing a vertical bike rack system that will be able to handle a greater load of bicycles in a much smaller space. It is a goal that this pro-bicycle attitude will help reduce the strain on what the neighbors might call a "parking problem."

The neighborhood meeting, which took place on Monday, July 5th, was well attended (39-40 people stopped by throughout the evening) and the general attitude towards the project was incredibly positive. Several people had been quoted saying "this project is exactly what this neighborhood needs." Most everyone commented that a restaurant such as this fits with the overall vibe of Venice: "personal," "unique," and "charming."



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ARGUMENTS AGAINST THIS PROJECT:

Parking:

Two members from the NoRo Association stopped by the July 5th Neighborhood Meeting and brought up a couple concerns with parking on Rose and its connecting streets. The first concern was regarding the lack of parking on street sweeping days (Monday and Tuesday). Since only one side of the streets is open for parking between 8AM and 10AM, the amount of available parking in the neighborhood is essentially cut in half. The NoRo Association's suggestion was to open the restaurant later on street sweeping days, if the applicant's original intent was to be in operation before 10AM on these days. The second issue brought up by the members was the fact that two-hour public parking is only available along Rose Avenue, and these spaces are extremely limited. After expressing their concerns over general parking issues these neighbors seemed pleased with the on-site parking to be provided and, in general, supported the project.

Noise:

The issue of noise was brought up by 3 to 4 different people, specifically in reference to existing issues with Venice Beach Wines, just two properties to the west along Rose. They stated problems with people loitering on the sidewalk throughout the evening, hinting to issues of the wine bar being overcrowded and unable to handle the capacity of patrons which dine there on the busier weekend nights. They also had problems with the noise that comes from the wine bar having an outdoor patio. In addressing the neighborhood's concerns from the original submittal, the applicant has chosen to remove the outdoor dining component of the proposed project. All diners will be required to eat within the building envelope. However, this is a commercially-zoned area, and residents should expect noise typically associated with retail and restaurant use during reasonable business hours. The applicant made it clear to most everyone in attendance that their hours of operation are relatively flexible.

Voiced Opposition at the July 5th neighborhood meeting: There was really only one resident that had true opposition to this project, who briefly stopped alongside the meeting in his car to voice his concerns. He stated that there is currently an extreme shortage of street parking in the immediate vicinity of his residence, which is located on Dimmick Avenue just a short distance from the proposed project. He noted that he had 4 friends over on the night before the meeting (4th of July) and they all had difficulty finding parking. He made it clear he was opposed to the project due to parking concerns using the popularity of Venice Beach Wine bar as an example for lack of parking.

SYNOPSIS OF PUBLIC COMMENT:

All public comments at the 7-14-10 LUPC meeting were in support of the project. Discussion by the board brought up future use of patio area. Patio seating is not included in the project.

LUPC Report compiled by:	Susan Papadakis & Challis Macpherson
Estimated number of hours of staff time:	7



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Exhibit E – Abbot Kinney Parking Report

In pursuing our assignment to investigate, report and recommend on the issues of food trucks and valet parking, we focused on the following questions:

- o Do our recommendations enhance the mission of the VNC?
- o To what extent, and for how many stakeholders, can our work improve the quality of life?
- o What City resources are likely to be readily available, and for what resources may we have to petition?
- o What VNC resources, both technical and human, does our work require?
- o How much public meeting time is our presentation likely to require?
- o How soon must the Board act in order to move forward most effectively?

Our Neighborhood Council is, first and foremost, the messenger of our community's voice to the City. Recommendations on these issues are designed to speak as broadly and directly as possible for the benefit of all Venice stakeholders, whether homeowner, renter, entrepreneur or visitor. We must speak to the City mindful of its current financial destitution, as well as its mandate, in any case, to represent our community's will. Understanding that this is a time of transition to a new VNC Board, we planned our work to use the least possible personnel resources while making the best use of available technical tools. We expect to require no more than twenty minutes of Board meeting time to present our findings and recommendations, and for Board consideration. Because these issues are as rapidly-moving as are their proponents and regulators, promising benefits that far outweigh current detriments, we recommend that the Board act with all due haste.

To date, our work has included: Research on recent local food truck and valet parking history; outreach to CD11 and CD4 staff, LAPD, the Fire Marshall, LADOT, local food truck vendors and their representative, local residents and entrepreneurs for direction, information and general issue discussion; research on the food truck industry's nationwide emergence; analysis of valet parking issues and existing models; and, finally, First Friday field work on Abbot Kinney Boulevard.

RESOURCES

Online

Research materials are posted here: <http://venicenc.org/parking-abbotkinney>.

Survey

The community continues to provide survey input. Designed as a door-to-door poll of the area immediately encircling the most-impacted Abbot Kinney area, our VNC survey also received input via email from as far away as the Milwood walk streets, and at least one response to date arriving via US mail. The strict quantification of replies to “Yes/No/Don’t-Care” questions regarding food trucks and valet parking belies the remarkably holistic range of thoughtful comments, questions and suggestions provided by stakeholders from both the residential and business communities.



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This said, the nominal numbers follow:

Food Truck Operations

31% Positive - I welcome them.

54% Negative - I want them gone.

15% Neutral - They don't affect me.

Valet Parking

5% Positive - I welcome them.

52% Negative - I want them gone.

43% Neutral - They don't affect me.

Survey considerations and highlights:

While at least one respondent reported an altercation with a valet parking worker, some others reported no awareness that valets parked cars on their streets. Still others reported frustration with valets parking on their streets, while one expressed no concern about parking congestion, offering her family's acceptance of scarce parking as a de facto condition of moving into the area. More than one resident expressed a sense of unfairness about grandfather parking rights for restaurants at their expense.

Whereas the VNC survey pertained to both food truck and valet parking issues, the Abbot Kinney business survey, generously compiled and provided in the aggregate by Carol Tantau, pertained strictly to Abbot Kinney food truck operations and, for the most part, their First Fridays experiences. As such, valet parking opinions were not available from Abbot Kinney businesses. While the vast majority of Abbot Kinney business operators were critical of the presence and some practices of food truck operators, many comments showed both tolerance and business benefits from food truck operations on Abbot Kinney.

Note: Survey answers were provided per the promise of anonymity for respondents. Some stakeholders chose to receive further information about these issues, and some signed up to receive regular VNC mailings.

While the surveys show respondents' opinions, they do not address resolving our fundamental challenge: automotive congestion.

Studies

In addition to the variety of nationally-based online resources developed since May, we received a report from a local group that had commissioned a 2009 parking study for Lincoln Boulevard. Two graduate students from UCLA's Department of Urban Planning, under Professor Donald Shoup, studied parking along Lincoln Boulevard between Machado Drive and Venice Boulevard. The study's recommendations were "intended to foster a less auto-dependent and more pedestrian-, bike-, and transit-friendly Lincoln Boulevard." The study included summaries of results in other cities that have



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realized benefits from parking congestion-relieving initiatives, some of which would merit consideration for Abbot Kinney.

On August 11, the City Council Transportation Committee, led by Councilmember Rosendahl, held a public hearing, at which a multitude of City, County, restaurant and mobile food truck operators and representatives convened, to share analysis, reports and wide-ranging testimony on the history, growth and subsequent management challenges for the City's mobile catering truck industry. A wealth of valuable data, including examples of traditional business groups working with mobile food truck vendors, was made available to the public at this meeting.

Outreach

Our outreach and research efforts dovetailed with stakeholder survey input to inform our recommendations. Senior Lead Officers Thusing and Skinner were always willing to answer our questions about codes and practical enforcement challenges, also arranging for a police helicopter to estimate the crowd size on September 3 (approximately two thousand). LAFD Inspector Nealy provided deep perspective based on his safety and crowd assessment work. Council District 11 Office staff Arturo Pina, Laura McClennan and John Gregory each provided direction and contact information for various entities. DOT's Mo Blorfroshan provided helpful direction regarding signage. Finally, our own Past-President Emeritus DeDe Audet and Liz Wright provided direction, as well as offers to help with orange safety vests for our work!

More than one survey respondent mentioned self-regulation. Discussions with representatives of Abbot Kinney vendors and food truck operators have produced ideas and initiatives, at least one of which is active now and more of which are in the planning stages. These initiatives include, but are not limited to, exploring new parking options, increasing frequency and scope of trash collection, direct outreach to Abbot Kinney businesses, relocating food trucks to low-impact areas, designating specific areas for multiple trucks and partnering between food truck and business operators to provide incentives to residents.

Given that some new regulation is likely inevitable, our efforts must focus on continuing positive dialogue and transparently-vetted goals.



Venice Neighborhood Council

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Exhibit E2 – Councilman Rosendahl re: Valet parking and food truck issues

Draft letter:

Councilman Bill Rosendahl
City Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Bill,

The Venice Neighborhood Council passed a resolution at its meeting on September 21, 2010, approving a report and recommendations regarding valet parking and food truck impact issues in and around Abbot Kinney Boulevard.

As you know, Los Angeles lacks a centralized valet parking program, leading to valet practices that include cordoning off zones which may not belong to their clients and negatively affecting already-congested residential parking areas in Venice's Coastal Zone. In contrast, many adjacent and nearby cities enjoy regulated valet parking services, with predictable and enforceable operating rules and permit requirements.

We understand that the City Attorney has been directed to prepare an ordinance to establish a citywide valet parking permit program.

As we all know, the dynamic and exciting explosion of the mobile food vendor industry also brings unexpected and unwelcome impacts, which risk overshadowing this industry's innovative and community-building effects on our social and economic landscape.

We applaud your Transportation Committee's public dialogue on the issue. We believe Venice's broad experience with both issues, both as to current impacts and emerging initiatives, is critically relevant, and will help you inform this dialogue for the benefit of all parties.

We therefore request your cooperation in bringing the Venice Neighborhood Council's recommendations to this dialogue's discussion table. We are prepared to provide the resources necessary to engage fellow participants for the purpose of providing the comprehensively-crafted solutions these issues deserve.

Thank you in advance for your expeditious response to your community and, as always, your good works.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Lucks
President
Venice Neighborhood Council



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Exhibit F – Median Strip & foliage for Washington Blvd *Draft letter*

September 14, 2010

Los Angeles City Councilmember Bill Rosendahl
800 N. Spring Street, Rm 415
Los Angeles, California

Dear Councilmember Rosendahl:

At its meeting on September 21, 2010, The Venice Neighborhood Council passed the following motion:

Whereas Washington Blvd is already torn up for sewage work, it is imperative that the city stop the final asphaltting of the Washington Blvd sewage project and instead install a curb and gutter strip so that this part of the street (Mildred St to Palawan Way) can be beautified with trees and foliage.

A center divider would separate the two sides of the street, slow traffic a bit, and be more pedestrian and user friendly. This is a purely residential area, and yet the street is wide and unwieldy and not as attractive as it could be. By putting in a barrier we would reduce noise, and have a chance to beautify this stretch. Since the sewer construction has ripped up the center of the road anyway, this is the perfect time to make this change.

Thank You,

Linda Lucks
President
Venice Neighborhood Council