



Venice Neighborhood Council

PO Box 550, Venice, CA 90294 / www.VeniceNC.org
Email: info@VeniceNC.org Phone: 310-421-8627



November, 21, 2011

Councilman Bill Rosendahl
City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Councilman.Rosendahl@lacity.org

Dear Bill:

At its regularly scheduled meeting on Nov. 18, 2011, the VNC Board passed the following motion endorsing an effort to review and revise unfair rate hikes for low income people.

Motion: the Venice Neighborhood Council requests that Councilman Bill Rosendahl hold a community forum to allow for resident input on the recent rate increases of the solid Resource and Trash fees by the Department of Water and Power and Bureau of Sanitation.

The material below my signature reflects the issues raised by Venice residents, low income seniors, who are rightfully upset and endorsed by this NC. We welcome an opportunity to work with you to convene a community forum at your earliest convenience.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Linda Lucks
President

DWP Fee Increase for Low-Income Seniors/Disabled Residents

Between January 2011 and October 2011, Los Angeles residents who are low-income seniors and/or persons with disabilities on the Lifeline Program have seen the "Solid Resource Fee," also known as the "Trash Fee," on their DWP bill increase by between \$17 and \$25 per month as the result of an ordinance passed by the City Council in November 2010. This fee increase is unaffordable for the majority of those affected, who live predominantly on fixed incomes derived from Social Security or Disability payments from the Federal Government.

Prior to the City Council's passage of this Ordinance (#181410), no public hearing was held, as required by Prop 218 for any fee increase on property owners, nor were those residents who would be affected consulted or surveyed to evaluate the potential impact on this population.



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Councilman Bill Rosendahl, who prides himself in being a champion for the poor and for senior citizens, was one of the City Councilmembers who chose to vote for this fee increase on this vulnerable population, and thus far Mr. Rosendahl and his office have failed to respond to community members' requests to address this problem.

Now, several Venice residents, in partnership with a city-wide community organizing group, are leading an effort to seek fair treatment of those affected by this fee increase by mobilizing low-income seniors, people with disabilities and their supporters and allies to demand that the Bureau of Sanitation and City Council hold a community forum on this fee increase that will allow those impacted to have a voice.

We ask that the Venice Neighborhood Council endorse this effort