



PROTEST

Rita Moreno <rita.moreno@lacity.org>

Fwd: The Venice BID: Since you don't want to meet, here's my form letter plus some (my part is in yellow)

Miranda Paster <miranda.paster@lacity.org>
To: Rita Moreno <rita.moreno@lacity.org>
Cc: "Hinkson, Rosemary" <rosemary.hinkson@lacity.org>

Thu, Aug 18, 2016 at 9:44 AM

Hello.

Did you receive this protest?

C.F. 16-0749

Thanks.

—— Forwarded message ——

From: **Holly Wolcott** <holly.wolcott@lacity.org>
Date: Mon, Aug 15, 2016 at 8:28 PM
Subject: Fwd: The Venice BID: Since you don't want to meet, here's my form letter plus some (my part is in yellow)
To: Miranda Paster <miranda.paster@lacity.org>

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2016 AUG 18 PM 1:33
CITY CLERK
BY: [signature]

—— Forwarded message ——

From: "Kevin Ragsdale" <kevrags@mac.com>
Date: Aug 15, 2016 8:27 PM
Subject: The Venice BID: Since you don't want to meet, here's my form letter plus some (my part is in yellow)
To: <mike.bonin@lacity.org>
Cc: <Mayor.garcetti@lacity.org>, <Holly.Wolcott@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.ryu@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.koretz@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>, <Councilmember.fuentes@lacity.org>, "Taylor Bazley" <taylor.bazley@lacity.org>, <tricia.keane@lacity.org>, "Debbie DynerHarris" <debbie.dynerharris@lacity.org>, "Marietta Toriente" <marietta.toriente@lacity.org>

Dear Councilmember Bonin and other City leaders,

RE: CF 16-0749 (CD 11)

I am writing to strongly oppose the establishment of a Venice Business Improvement District at this time. **I urge you, at a minimum, to postpone the final vote by the LA City Council on August 23** to give those directly and indirectly affected an opportunity to learn what a BID is and to meet with you next week or as soon as possible.

Actually, I know exactly what a BID is, what purpose it serves and who it really benefits.

My name is Kevin Ragsdale and I am a 20 year Venice resident and a Venice property owner for over 16 years. My property is located at 1322 Innes Pl. and is where my wife, Leela, and I have raised our son, Tyler, for his first five years. I have a decade old production company with my brother, Rich. I will not mince words - I am furious at the deceitful tactics used to push this BID through and of labeling a tax as an assessment just to avoid having to go through the proper Democratic process to reach your end. That you, Carl Lambert, et al did this with zero transparency and without the input of those people who will actually have to PAY for it is not only insulting, but flies in the face of what and who you are supposed to be standing for and by. If I am not mistaken, Mike, you have are a Harvard educated Democrat. You should know better.

I am assuming that you are aware that these BIDs perpetuate bigotry and racism within a community in the name of profits and inflated property values. That kind of greed goes up and beyond what a rational person could consider simple ambition. It is a form of illness and a true sign of emotional and spiritual bankruptcy. You have chosen a strange bedfellow in Carl Lambert, a real estate speculator of questionable ethics, under indictment and who doesn't even reside in Venice. There is still time to right your wrongs and postpone this vote and remove the gerrymandered public space that you included.

I have made several failed attempts through your office to get a meeting to not only discuss these issues with you, but also hear your rationale and motivation for pushing the BID through in the covert fashion that you have. I realize that

accountability can be a frightening and uneasy prospect for any of us and that one does not normally like to have to own up to one's own motivations, but I assure you that I and the other property owners are only interested in civil discourse. Let's get together and come up with some better solutions to our community issues instead of huddling together with a few individuals who don't have a clue as to what the spirit of Venice is about. Let your real estate cronies get their own private security force and clean off their own part of the sidewalk. I don't want to pay for it.

Call me anytime.

The utter lack of a democratic process or transparency is shocking, unacceptable and disturbing coming from you.

I learned at a meeting of concerned resident/property owners on Saturday, 7.23 that property owners have a right to form a BID. I learned also that the only public presentation was on April 19 at the Venice Neighborhood Council in a 5 minute presentation by your District Director, Debbie Dyner-Harris (CD 11). But NO opportunity for questions and answers was permitted and the only information reported was a verbal approximation of the area included: no maps or materials were provided.

At this point, the idea of a VERY small group of property owners who may be handed \$1.8 million dollars a year for five years with NO oversight, even by the City, is frightening and not appropriate unless and until we know more and have some say in the process that may well drastically change the face and character of the Venice we know and love in the name of profit making and creating a private police force. The consequences of this action without careful analysis will be profound and must be discussed in a wider audience of people, who also include the majority of property owners who have to pay and those who have more at stake than a desire to clean up Venice Beach to make more money.

The city owns a lot of property within this proposed gerrymandered BID and is liable for up to 25% of the proposed bid to make it viable but that enormous amounts public space and resources will be privatized. It also has a very high publicly funded price tag. There must be a public process to spend our tax dollars on public property to create a private police force!

I ask that you **postpone the scheduled vote, meet with a group of us** and establish a public process to engage the entire Venice community **before** any further action is taken on this proposal.

Finally, two main proponents of this BID listed as signers, are Carl Lambert, immediate past president of the Venice Chamber of Commerce and his predecessor as Chamber president, Andy Layman. On June 22, City Attorney Mike Feuer filed a civil case against Lambert and Layman, both Venice "owners and operators of apartment buildings each subject to the City's Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO), alleging that the property owners are illegally operating and advertising as hotels."

It is an indication of a troubling dynamic in Venice business and politics that Mr. Lambert has a leading role in the BID process. He has turned 5 entire apartment buildings in Venice into de facto hotels.

These are the very people who stand to benefit most from this privatization.

This is not the time to endorse this proposal.

Sincerely,

Kevin Ragsdale

Contact info:

1322 Innes Pl., Venice, CA 90291

kevrag@mac.com

Phone:

[310-237-8865](tel:310-237-8865)

—
Counting my blessings - Sing and be Happy Today!



Rita Moreno <rita.moreno@lacity.org>

Fwd: Stop the BID in Venice

Miranda Paster <miranda.paster@lacity.org>
To: Rita Moreno <rita.moreno@lacity.org>
Cc: "Hinkson, Rosemary" <rosemary.hinkson@lacity.org>

Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 9:57 AM

FYI - sb considered a protest.

—— Forwarded message ——

From: **Holly Wolcott** <holly.wolcott@lacity.org>
Date: Tue, Aug 2, 2016 at 1:55 PM
Subject: Fwd: Stop the BID in Venice
To: Miranda Paster <miranda.paster@lacity.org>

C.F.

16-0749

PROTEST

—— Forwarded message ——

From: **Okulick, Marlene** <marlene.okulick@sothebyshomes.com>
Date: Tue, Aug 2, 2016 at 1:54 PM
Subject: Stop the BID in Venice
To: Mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, Holly.Wolcott@lacity.org, Councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, Councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, Councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, Councilmember.ryu@lacity.org, Councilmember.koretz@lacity.org, Councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, Councilmember.fuentes@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org, councilmember.englander@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, taylor.bazley@lacity.org, tricia.keane@lacity.org

Dear Councilmember Bonin, City Clerk Holly Wolcott, Mayor Garcetti and other City leaders,

RE: CF 16-0749 (CD 11) - Opposition to the Establishment of Business Improvement District(s) in Venice

Dear City Officials,

We are writing to oppose the establishment of the proposed Venice Beach Business Improvement District. As longtime residents, property owners, business owners and stakeholders, we are concerned about both the Business Improvement District (BID) process and potential implementation. We oppose for many reasons, including:

1. The process for establishing the BID has not been public or transparent. None of the details or documents about the potential Venice BID have been made public, including the proposed area of coverage, the bylaws or other governing documents, the process for membership, the results or timing of any petitions or ballot processes, and other relevant information.
2. Business Improvement Districts in the City of Los Angeles, and particularly the security forces they hire, have a history of hostility toward homeless and low-income residents resulting in several lawsuits since their inception in the late 1990s regarding unconstitutional practices.
3. Business Improvement Districts are a way to put the control of public spaces and services in the hands of private, commercial property owners that disenfranchises or harms those that don't own commercial property and limits democratic control over resources.

BY _____
CITY CLERK
DEPUTY

CITY CLERK

2016 AUG 18 PM 1:33

CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

4. Business Improvement District assessments are not feasible for all businesses or property owners to pay, particularly non-profits and small business owners. Additionally, non-profits and small businesses that rent their properties are likely to have to pay their portion of a BID assessment without any voice or vote in the approval process.
5. The founding premise for the Business Improvement District is at fault. It is claimed that a BID is needed because the City of Los Angeles is not providing the proper public services. While the city is not currently providing all needed services, the solution is not giving grossly disproportionate control of public spaces to the select few who own businesses in a neighborhood. We vehemently oppose any privatization of our public spaces and services. The city is responsible for providing the necessary budget to provide these services.
6. Currently, and for at least the past five years, some of the wealthiest global technology corporations such as Google and Snapchat have enjoyed an 80% tax break from the City. Simply requiring these companies pay their fair share would help properly fund our needed public services.
7. Residents, small businesses and other stakeholders in and near the proposed Venice Beach BID are not in favor of the BID, yet have no voice or vote in the process. A petition documenting the opposition is attached.

For these and other reasons, we urge that any proposal for a BID in Venice be denied.

Sincerely,

Marlene and John Okulick

604 Hampton Drive

Venice, CA 90291

Marlene Okulick

310.890.4498 Cell

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Nothing in this email shall be deemed to create a binding contract to purchase/sell real estate. The sender of this email does not have the authority to bind a buyer or seller to a contract via written or verbal communications including, but not limited to, email communications.



Rita Moreno <rita.moreno@lacity.org>

Fwd: Opposition to Venice BID & Relevant Questions

Miranda Paster <miranda.paster@lacity.org>
To: Rita Moreno <rita.moreno@lacity.org>
Cc: "Hinkson, Rosemary" <rosemary.hinkson@lacity.org>

Thu, Aug 4, 2016 at 10:46 AM

Please check to see if these people are in the boundaries. Please do not respond to the email.

Thank you.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Holly Wolcott** <holly.wolcott@lacity.org>
Date: Tue, Aug 2, 2016 at 10:00 AM
Subject: Fwd: Opposition to Venice BID & Relevant Questions
To: Miranda Paster <miranda.paster@lacity.org>

C.F.
16-0749

FYI

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **MaryAnn Dill** <maryanndill@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Aug 1, 2016 at 10:39 PM
Subject: Opposition to Venice BID & Relevant Questions
To: mike.bonin@lacity.org
Cc: Mayor.garcetti@lacity.org, Holly.Wolcott@lacity.org, Councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org, Councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, Councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org, Councilmember.ryu@lacity.org, Councilmember.koretz@lacity.org, Councilmember.martinez@lacity.org, Councilmember.fuentes@lacity.org, councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org, councilmember.price@lacity.org, councilmember.wesson@lacity.org, councilmember.englander@lacity.org, councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org, councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org, taylor.bazley@lacity.org, tricia.keane@lacity.org

PROTEST

BY
CITY CLERK
2016 AUG 18 PM 4:33
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

Dear Councilmember Bonin and other City leaders,

RE: CF 16-0749 (CD 11)

I am writing to strongly oppose the establishment of a Venice Business Improvement District at this time.

I urge you, at a minimum, to postpone the final vote by the LA City Council on August 23

to give those directly and indirectly affected an opportunity to learn what a BID is and to meet with you next week or as soon as possible.

I have lived or worked in Venice since 1975, for many years I did both.

My husband Guy Dill has been in Venice since his art school days in the late 60s.

His studio which he built in 1987 is on Innes Place, a two block long street between Pacific and Main and Westminster on the north and Market on the south.

There is absolutely no commercial activity at all on Innes Place.

We were outraged to receive a BID proposal that is assessing our property for over \$9,000. in addition to our property taxes for services that we do not want or need or agree with.

It is a huge financial burden for us and something that we have never heard about,

and have never had a voice in. It is very clearly taxation without representation. It appears to have been put together secretly by a group of large landowners and developers who stand to gain by forcing us to financially support their vision of Venice. This is unacceptable in every way.

There was no democratic process or input from the neighborhood that was unwillingly drafted into the BID.

Why weren't the majority of property owners that are expected to pay for the BID included in discussions from the onset.

The BID petition materials that were sent out were misleading.

We weren't informed that the city had already committed 25% of the votes supporting the BID making it an unfair ballot process from the very beginning.

I have been hearing from different neighbors and Venice residents that BID proponents were at the recent city council meeting last week talking about how the BID is 'already done' and they expect to have funding in place by next spring.

'Already done' with the vote still three weeks away.

How is that possible?

The city should refrain from voting on this BID.

It is clearly a conflict of interest and unfairly weights the vote toward BID passage.

The city property was gerrymandered into this and it's questionable if it can be justified as the best use of public resources and revenues.

Venice Blvd. is parking lots, no businesses. The dog park and empty bus depot have no businesses.

Why would they be included in and paying for a business district? How is this legal?

The BID is intended to clean up Ocean Front Walk and the area around Google.

Those property owners deserve better service from the city, especially with the amount of property

taxes that are being collected in Venice these past years. It is however completely unfair to put this burden

on the other property owners who are unaffected by problems on the Boardwalk, as the vast majority of services will go to those areas. I believe it is privatizing the benefits while socializing the costs.

We are strongly against the creation of a private police force on the Boardwalk or anywhere else in Venice.

I ask that you postpone the scheduled vote, meet with a group of us and establish a public process to engage the entire Venice community before any further action is taken on this proposal.

Also, is it true that two of the main proponents of this BID and listed as signers, are Carl

Lambert,
immediate past president of the Venice Chamber of Commerce and
his predecessor as Chamber president, Andy Layman. On June 22, City Attorney Mike Feuer
filed a civil case against Lambert and Layman, both Venice "owners and
operators of apartment buildings each subject to the City's Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO),
alleging that the property owners are illegally operating and advertising as hotels."

There is so much money in Venice now and so many competing interests.
We need to know exactly what the parameters are for this BID. Who and what organization will
be administering and managing this
very large budget. It is an indication of a troubling dynamic in Venice business and politics
that Mr. Lambert has a leading role in the BID process. He has turned 5 entire apartment
buildings in
Venice into de facto hotels. These are the very people who stand to
benefit most from this privatization. This is not the time to endorse this proposal.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,

MaryAnn Dill
1321 Innes Place
Venice 90291
maryanndill@gmail.com
310 913-1397



Holly L. Wolcott

Email: holly.wolcott@lacity.org
Phone: [213-978-1020](tel:213-978-1020)

City Clerk

City of Los Angeles
200 North Spring Street, Rm. 360
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Counting my blessings - Sing and be Happy Today!

Frank Lutz
P. O. Box 1078
Venice, CA. 90294 – USA
frankalutz@gmail.com

PROTEST

C.F. 16-0749

BID, Venice -
August 8, 2016

Dear Council President Wesson and Councilman Bonin,

I am opposed to the BID proposal for Venice for several reasons. I am a 48-year resident, property owner and property manager in Venice. I also own a business that I operate in Venice.

During my time here in Venice I have seen it all, including some virtuous proposals and some rife with shenanigans. It seems to me that given a proposal beset with such serious implications as has the BID proposal for Venice, that protocol and precedent demand thorough public education and proper discourse before any action or implementation can be taken. Our neighborhoods near the beach are cauldrons of rumors as to how such a proposal as this one would work, and with little actual knowledge as to how it might implicate us. My understanding is that the self-proclaimed "business leaders" behind this proposal, none of them, live near or on the Ocean Front Walk (OFW) area, and indeed, some do not even live in Venice. So they do not have to deal with the commotion here, now or in the future.

I live now, and have lived for 48 years, right adjacent to Speedway Avenue, the transit alley about 100-feet from OFW. Currently I live in and manage an apartment building I used to own at the corner of Speedway and Westminster Avenues. My tenants, neighbors, and I all regularly hear and experience the late-night disturbances on OFW, and those caused by the local short-term (AirBnB, etc.) apartment house hotels such as the one located at 5 Westminster Ave.

It is my understanding that the BID proposal is loaded with self-interest on the part of the people who are pushing it. The recent take-over of the Venice VNC, via questionable and unethical voting practices by members of the property developer community and their minions, has the potential to change the character of Venice to anti-resident and anti-community. If the BID people are trying to take control of the social atmosphere here, and want their own form of hegemony over the neighborhood, then alarm bells have already begun to sound. What is their plan? What are their goals? With questions such as these, a long and thoughtful pause must be taken.

In the meantime, if their concerns are mainly with the homeless problems we have here, then join the crowd. Many of us, regardless of political affiliation, have tried for years to come up with creative solutions, only to be met with sluggish responses from the City of LA, and a local judiciary that seems to stifle the attempts of LAPD to enforce local health, safety, and on-street habitation codes. On the other hand, if their desire is to change the OFW into a 24-hour Disneyland on the Pacific, and line their own pockets at the expense of our quality of life – well then, we shall see just what kind of turmoil that objective will create for them.

I am asking you to delay any decision on the BID Venice proposal until thorough public discussion of it by a substantial number of local residents, including landlords and tenants, can be accomplished. Thank you, and sincerely yours,

Frank Lutz, Venice

The Morrison Building
14 Westminster Avenue
Suite C
Venice, CA 90291

CITY CLERK
2016 AUG 18 PM 1:33
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CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

PS: As this letter is being written, the City of Santa Monica is distributing flyers in public places, and advertising – and soliciting for attendance – a public meeting to be held on August 13, 2016, in a local venue. The purpose of the meeting will be to gather public opinion from residents as to how the next chapter in Santa Monica's continued revitalization should be handled, how its history can be preserved, how its character can be safeguarded.

FL.