

# Venice Stakeholders Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Venice Residents Oppose Rosendahl Motion to Legalize Living in Vehicles on City Streets and Parking Lots

(Venice, CA/January 12, 2009) The Venice Stakeholders Association has submitted to the Mayor and City Council a letter petition, with over 237 Venice residents' signatures, opposing City Councilman Bill Rosendahl's Motion to legalize living in vehicles on City streets and parking lots and County beach parking lots.

Calling the Motion "seriously flawed," the residents called upon the City Council committees reviewing the Motion to return it to Rosendahl for re-drafting to address the following concerns:

1. Any solution to RVs camping in urban neighborhoods should be Citywide in design; the Rosendahl Motion leaves the decision to designate RV campgrounds to each councilperson, which could result in RVs being shunted to just two or three council districts.
2. Under the Motion, there is no limit on length of stay in urban campgrounds, which would lead to warehousing of these RV dwellers instead of transition to affordable housing.
3. Under the Motion, there is no requirement for the legal disposal of human waste. The current practice of many RVs dwellers is to dump waste to the street and storm drain, which runs ultimately to the ocean.
4. The Motion would allow tourists in RVs who now pay for camping spots through-out the County to park in new designated lots for free.
5. No study of RV dwellers has been undertaken, so it is unclear what economic or health hardships these individuals may be facing, so it is difficult to craft programs to assist them. A citywide canvass should be conducted; none is called for the Motion.
6. Staffing, security and social services for any campgrounds designated for RVs should be in place before a facility is operational. The Motion is silent on this point.
7. Any parking lots designated for RV use should be permitted under a standard conditional use permit with conditions imposed to address quality of life issues, night time security and disposal of waste.
8. Establishment of urban campgrounds where RVs will be accommodated, if only overnight and for short durations, is fundamentally a land-use decision and the Motion should be referred to the City Council's Planning and Land-use Management Committee and the Los Angeles Planning Department for review.

The residents suggested the Motion should be withdrawn by its author and re-written to address these points.

Attachments: Letter to Mayor and City Councilmembers, Signature pages, Copy of Rosendahl Motion (CF 08-3125)