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The FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD is published monthly by the Beachhead Collective as a vehicle for the people of Venice to communicate their ideas and opinions to the community at large. The Beachhead encourages anyone to submit news stories, articles, letters, photos, poetry or graphics of interest to the Venice community.

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To submit material, include your name and telephone number. Anonymous material will not be printed, but your name will be withheld on request. No payment is made for material used.

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Against The BID Business Improvement District

Notes from the neighborhood meeting.

Dear Venice Friends and Neighbors Opposed to the Venice Private Police Department (BID):

THANK YOU for spending Saturday morning together, and raising the important questions and concerns about the proposed Venice Beach BID. Based on the meeting's discussion, we have summarized the follow up information and actions below. Please let us know if there are questions, or other information you'd like to share with the full group.

Action Items:

1. Attend the City's "official" public hearing on the BID (Venice Beach Business Improvement District):

Tuesday, August 23rd

10:00 am

City Hall (Council Chambers, room 340) 200 S. Main Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012 (Call Councilman Bonin's office 213-473-7011 to ask for a free parking pass for City Hall to speak on the issue. Give your car make, model and license plate number.

Directions: Drive to the West side of Los Angeles Street between Temple St. & 1nd Streets; enter from Temple Street to midway down the block on the west side; stop at the kiosk to announce yourselves and pull in underground to parking Level P2. Park and take to elevator to the 3rd floor, walk across the bridge to City Hall; show your ID to guard, get a visitor pass and enter Council Chambers, also on Level 3)

Prior to the hearing, engage in these actions:

2. Contact property owners within the BID and urge them to vote NO. If they've already voted yes, they can withdraw that vote and change it up until the end of the August 23rd public hearing. (See attached Map of the entire proposed BID District which is gerrymandered and includes Westminster Park, School and the Venice median strip at Pacific, and the Venice Library).

a. As we do not yet have a full list of property owners, contact Tara Devine, the BID's consultant, who has been identified as the point person for information. The BID ballot mailing list was requested from her, with no response. Email her to request the mailing list and/or list of owners: tara@devine-strategies.com. Attached is a partial list of property owners that we do know to date. If you know others, please contact them and send the contact information back to us.

3. Contact the California Coastal Commission about the proposed BID's impact on coastal access and urge them to intervene by placing this item on the next agenda. The next meeting is August 10-12 in Santa Cruz. Are you able to go to give public comment? Possibly an attorney could attend on our behalf. Volunteers? At the very least, letters should be submitted prior to the meeting (See contact information below): The next local meeting will be September 7-9 in Newport Beach

Send inquiries to the CA Coastal Commission to:

Teresa Henry, South Coast District Manager South Coast District Office 200 Oceangate, 10th Floor, Long Beach, CA 90802 562-590-5071 562-590-5084 Thanks for your generous donations! Linda Albertano

لو The Beachhead is looking for a few good do-gooders, people whose path will take them to study the world, listen to what people say, take pictures and tell the story. Artists with Photoshop and Indesign interest, and with talent and energy to learn more, from us. Students looking for an internship in journalism or design. Retirees looking to do some hell raising on the way there. People who give a damn about the striving and thriving creative community of Venice.

a. LA Times: Gale Holland (gholland@latimes.com) and the editorial board (Carla Hall)

b. Argonaut: gary@argonautnews.com; Venice Update: retamoser@gmail.com; the Free Venice Beachhead; Curbed LA; LA Weekly; KCET Departures; Steve Lopez, LAT: slopez@latimes.com; Gayle H

c. identify BID as "Private Police Department" d. other?

I have not shared your names and contact information and will not unless you give permission. Please contact me with any questions and with feedback on your efforts.

Warm regards,

Linda Lucks Co-Founder, Venice Design Series Community Outreach & Special Events Direct Line: 310-526-3857 Cell: 310-505-4220

Venice Community Housing 720 Rose Avenue Venice, CA 90291 Direct Line: 310-526-3857 Cell Phone: 310-505-4220 www.vchcorp.org

Help A Free Press Survive: Annual Sustainer: \$100. Individual Subscriptions: \$35/year Institutional Subscriptions: \$50/year Mail: Beachhead, PO Box 2, Venice, CA 90294

₩......

email: Teresa.Henry@coastal.ca.gov; cc: Jack.Ainsworth@ coastal.ca.gov; Chuck.Posner@coastal.ca.gov

Website: http://www.coastal.ca.gov

4. Contact Councilmember Mike Bonin and other City Councilmembers to voice opposition, demand a delay in the voting processes, and increase the public participation in this process.

a. Kevin Ragsdale-(kevrags@mac.com) will request a meeting with Councilmember Bonin for our group.

b. Everyone can call and email him: Telephone: 213-473-7011 Email: Mike.Bonin@lacity.org : DRAFT Letter attached – please personalize

5. Explore legal options and possible lawyers to work on the issue:

John Raphling, Mike Rapkin. Other? a. Submit public records requests – to City Clerk, Mike Bonin, City Attorney- Who will do this? Need help? b. Continue legal research

6. Contact media and get media coverage

WARNING

New hard to read signs installed on Ocean Front Walk

> From midnight to 5am City is threatening to take belongings The city insists Venice Boardwalk (Ocean Front Walk) the Beach and grassy areas are subject to a curfew and belongings are subject to "impound"

SO TAKE CARE! Charge your cell phone cameras Protect your belongings

PLEASE Text or Email Pictures and Statements to HumanRights@freevenice.org 310-365-0985 Venice Justice Committee

The Theory of Evolution Is False

by Jon Wolff

As the theory goes: A long time ago, a man named Abbot Kinney came to the West Coast, dug canals, built a little city with attractions and amusements, and called it Venice. Then the economy went bad, Los Angeles took over, and everything got real cheap. In the '50s and '60s, the Beatniks and the Hippies appeared and made a lot of art, music, and poetry. Eventually, the real estate speculators came in and the property values went up. Nowadays, the rent is too astronomical for human beings to afford and everything nice has to get torn down and replaced with the ugliest concrete cubes the world has ever seen. Soon, Venice will be paved over and a wall will be built to keep out all the non-millionaires. It can't be stopped. The End.

This is the Theory of the Evolution of Venice and it's absolutely ridiculous. There is nothing natural about the causes of events over the last hundred and ten years or about the current state of things in Venice. The problems that Venice has faced throughout her history and the problems of today are all man-made. They are not caused by any law of physics or natural order. No force of nature causes the problems. Bad individuals and companies cause the problems and Venice people are solving them.

There is before us now a plan by commercial property owners to establish Business Improvement Districts, called B.I.D.s, around parts of Venice. These are privately and publicly funded areas of authority wherein the wealthier business owners get all the votes and the average citizens get none in the administration of services. Officially, these services are called "security" and "sanitation". What they really mean are armed goon squads who get paid to harass houseless people and anyone else who isn't dressed fashionably. This is the Private Police Force that consists of the shock troops of gentrification. But it's not an eventuality; it's a move by really awful businessmen to gain private control over access to public space. They're proposing it and good people are opposing it.

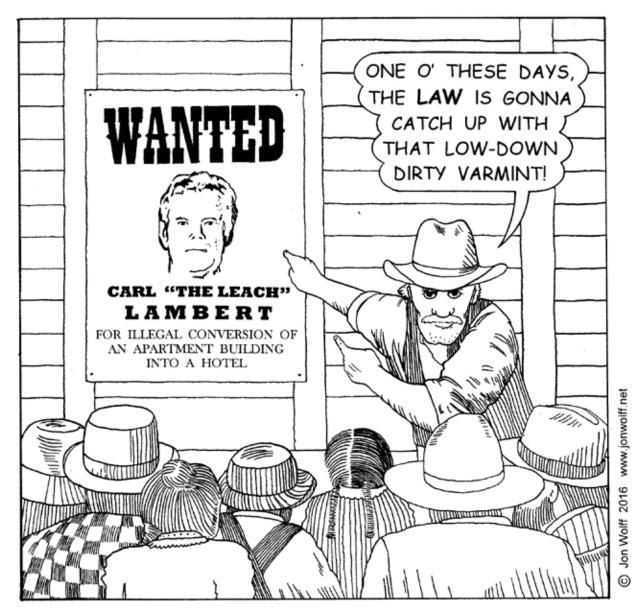
Already, there have been meetings of Venice citizens to convince the L.A. City Council to oppose the B.I.D. There is an outreach effort to get local business owners to oppose the B.I.D. There is a petition drive to have residents oppose the B.I.D. The B.I.D. will fail because the people will prevent it from coming into existence.

As building owners are illegally converting apartment buildings into hotels, there has been pushback from Venice people and that pushback has resulted in government opposition to the conversions. Most of us have heard that Carl Lambert and Andy Layman are being sued by City Attorney Mike Feuer over the illegal conversions. Understand that a smart elected official performs his duty as he believes the voters would have him do it. Popular opposition to illegal conversions compels the City Attorney to uphold the law. The law-breaking building owners will fail because the people will bring them to justice.

Airbnb removes affordable rental units from the market. Longtime Venice residents are pushed out of apartments in favor of short-term vacation renters. Recently though, San Francisco Chinatown residents put up posters and stenciled sidewalks with images shaming the Airbnb offenders in their city.

Surely, Venice can do as well, if not better, in this medium. Already, "Stop gentrifying Venice" stickers have appeared around Venice. Would posters, public art, and anti-Airbnb murals be out of the question? Believe that the short-term rental phenomenon will vanish from Venice if Venice is known as a place hostile to such practices. Very little effort is required to change opinions about a product or service. If tourists perceive Venice as an area where Airbnb can't operate efficiently, they will just go somewhere else.

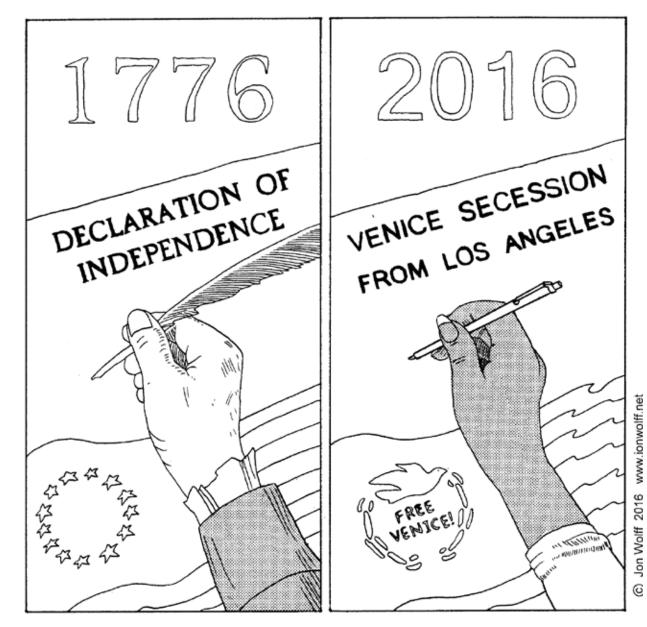
Along with this, progress has been made by many city governments around the world to crack down on short-term rental companies. Activists in Venice are relentlessly gaining ground to secure L.A. City support in this effort. The end of Airbnb's dealings in Venice is



neighborhood councils that don't represent the issues that L.A. deems appropriate, couldn't the people of Venice cause the Venice Neighborhood Council to cease to exist by reason of obsolescence? The V.N.C. is not permanent. When it fails, it will fail because the people will do better.

The word "Gentrification" has been around for over fifty years but it's used more today because it's happening everywhere. An article by Hillel Aron appeared in the July 22 - 28, 2016 issue of the L.A. Weekly entitled "Are Art Galleries Gentrifiers". It is subtitled "Boyle Heights activists demand that all galleries get the hell out of their neighborhood". This is a spirited battle-cry and the activists in Boyle Heights mean it. The article sites a National Endowment for the Arts paper that says that galleries and related businesses "function as a 'colonizing arm'" for gentrification. The article reports a meeting where the gallery operators faced a hostile crowd of a hundred residents and one gallery owner requested that her name be withheld for "fear of retribution". The people of Boyle Heights intend to win their fight and their brothers and sisters in Venice applaud them. But what about Venice?

Venice today sees many "colonizing arms" reaching to strangle her into submission to gentrification. We have B.I.D.s, criminal building owners, short-term rentals, and a neighborhood council holding the window open for the arms to come in. We have developers, tech companies, and overpriced bar/restaurants and boutiques to keep us busy. The bad guys would have you believe that all this is inevitable and that they're part of some predictable Social-Darwinist melodrama. Absurd. No greater nonsense has ever been postulated. The people of Venice will win because the people have the power to choose the destiny of Venice. No law of nature commands us. We are free.



imminent. Airbnb will fail because the people will push them out forever.

The recent election to the Venice Neighborhood Council of members more sympathetic to the agendas of developers and less to those of actual Venice citizens should be cause for great concern for anyone who really cares about Venice. Undoubtedly, the new members of the V.N.C. will bring irreparable harm to Venice. There's no denying that. But their presence is, in no way, a permanent problem. Councils come and councils go.

Many in Venice will remember that, back in the '70s, a body called the Venice Town Council would meet regularly in the auditorium that holds Beyond Baroque events. Members would gather to discuss and decide issues pertinent to Venice and also issues of world importance. Venice was a city of activists and the local T.V. news media would send camera crews to Venice Town Council meetings. The L.A. Times would print articles and photos reporting scuffles at the meetings. The Venice Town Council was made of women and men who represented the people of Venice and who were, in no way, beholden to the City of L.A.'s rules and regulations. Is such a council possible today?

If and when a People's Council is formed it will take on a prominence that will overshadow the Venice Neighborhood Council. Since the City of L.A. has dissolved

What are Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) and Why Should Venice Community Members **Be Concerned?**

What is a BID?

Business Improvement Districts ("BIDs") are public-private partnerships, established under State and local laws that give Cities the power to form districts in which all businesses in the district pay assessments to supplement municipal expenditures. More recent statutes greatly expanded the power of BIDs, including authorizing expenditures on private security and sanitation services. Since 1994, BIDs have grown into a powerful force in urban regions that most often has prioritized the interests of commercial property owners over those of low-income and homeless people, and other community residents and stakeholders.

California BIDs are established under state laws, none of which authorizes expenditures on lobbying or policy advocacy. Los Angeles-based BIDs have promoted policies that escalate gentrification, advocated for increased criminalization of poverty, and vehemently opposed State homeless rights legislation over the past three years.

"What was once an emergency measure by

business owners in cities with a diminished

tax base has become a power play for the

interests of small business owners as well as

property owners can remake a neighborhood

future of urban space. By removing the

community members from the equation,

as they see fit. Already these actors wield

enormous power, but have had to deal with

democratic mechanisms that would temper

their vision. If the BID model continues to

proliferate, the commons that make a city

great could be completely at the disposal of

a single class, one that's inherently opposed

BY MAX RIVLIN-NADLER, Article in New

Districts Ruin Neighborhoods, Feb 19, 2016

Republic: Why Business Improvement

to discourse and organizing."

What Do BIDs Do?

BIDs are supposed to provide services above and beyond what the City provides. The Venice Beach BID proposes to spend 73 percent of its annual budget of \$1,875,628 on Safe & Clean Programs, with 7 percent on District Identity & Special Projects, and 20 percent on Administration and Management. While the Venice Beach BID Clean and Safe Program has not been described in detail in public documents, in other BIDs this generally is comprised of street cleaning services and private security forces in public spaces.

BID security teams often collaborate closely with local police departments. In a public records request of LAPD's Central Station, hundreds of pages of emails were released with communications between police and BID representatives, many of which focus on homelessness, reports about specific homeless people engaged in the "crime" of sitting on the sidewalk, and complaints about community organizers who were promoting the civil rights of homeless residents. In fact,

BIDs in the City of Los Angeles, and particularly the security forces they hire, also have a history of hostility toward homeless and low-income residents, resulting in several lawsuits against both the City and local BIDs since their inception in the 1990s regarding unconstitutional or illegal practices.

Why Property Owners Should Vote NO to the Venice Beach Business Improvement District

Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) are, by design, controlled by a very small group of commercial property owners, excluding the voice of most paying into the BID and completely excluding residential property owners, tenants, commercial operators who lease their sites, and other stakeholders in Venice. Venice Beach has long been a center for democracy and diversity in views and a BID reduces democracy and participation in decisions that impact our community.

First and foremost, there are no "voting rights" for those that have to pay for the BID after the BID is created, or other mechanism to directly impact the decisions and actions of the BID. Instead, BIDs are controlled by a non-profit organization, with no clear mechanisms to ensure ongoing accountability to commercial property owners in the BID who are all required to pay assessments, nor to the City, which controls almost 25% of the property assessments in the BID.

The materials received with the BID petitions are misleading, and make promises to commercial property owners that cannot be upheld. For example,

- "The Venice Beach BID will provide services the City doesn't, such as homeless outreach..." In fact, the City and County provide resources for outreach to homeless residents and more outreach will not help move people into housing. The City and County, as well Venice stakeholders, need to fund and advocate for more housing solutions so that people can move off of our streets and sidewalks. Until we increase housing supply, more outreach will just duplicate services, waste resources, and not produce any visible change in homelessness in our community.
- "The Venice Beach BID will work with the City to make sure limited City services are delivered more consistently." BIDs do not have any unique mechanism to make this happen and, in fact, watchdogging the City is one of the key reasons neighborhood councils were formed. This purpose is duplicative and likely will not make any impact.

7.25.2016 Personal Letter to Mike Bonin in Opposition to the Venice BID- Business Improvement **District (aka Private Police Department)- Please** revise and edit as you like:

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.

Introduce yourself, your stake in Venice and/or other Council Districts. Especially add if you live in or near the proposed BID and if you have been issued an assessment without prior knowledge- equating it to taxation without representation.

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,

Name Contact info: Address Email address Phone:





"This stability can protect your investment and attract additional investment to the neighborhood." Venice has seen some of the greatest increases in property values and commercial investment in the region over the past decade, without a BID.

Commercial property owners in Venice have long supported the culture and character in Venice. And, in fact, have profited from being a part of the largest tourist attraction in the City of Los Angeles for decades. BIDs have completely changed the character of communities throughout Los Angeles and the state, leading to displacement of small businesses, locally-owned businesses, and residents.

The Venice Beach BID is overly reliant on City land and funds. The City owns substantial land, and is also taking on the cost of assessments for the State-owned land in the area, totaling more than 25% of the annual budget, resulting in more than \$450,000 in general fund dollars each year dedicated to this BID. BIDs were intended to be mechanisms for private owners to vote to assess themselves, not to utilize public funds in an unaccountable structure.

A majority of private property owners did not submit petitions to move the BID to this final vote. At the City hearing, only 53% of assessment values were represented in the petitions and, since the City represents 25% of that vote, only about 30% of the votes in support came from private businesses.

BID activities have led to numerous lawsuits against the BIDs and the City of Los Angeles for improper, illegal and unconstitutional activities, and the legal fees to defend against a lawsuit can add up. Property owners' assessments could go to pay legal fees for activities that they may not even support and over which they had little or no say.

The Bill Would	The Bill Would Not
 Protect homeless people's right to move freely, rest, sleep and pray and be protected in public spaces without discrimination 	Permit anyone, homeless or not, to harass people on the streets or maliciously block sidewalks
 Prevent homeless people from being unfairly targeted by police and private 	Allow people to urinate and defecate publicly
security just for appearing homelessRight to occupy a legally parked	 Allow homeless people to harm or interfere with local businesses' operations
vehicleRight to share food and eat in public	Grant homeless individuals "special
Provide homeless people the right to counsel whenever the District Attorney is in court to prosecute them	rights" over all other citizensInfringe on anyone's property rights
for infractions Right to 24-hour access to hygiene 	 Allow homeless people to act with impunity and disregard for local laws
facilities to be provided by local municipalities according to their infrastructure	 Prevent enforcement of laws that protect public health and safety
 Prohibit discrimination based on housing status for government services 	 Legalize drug dealing and use or public intoxication

Sample Letter to Oppose the BID

July 26, 2016

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:

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Listen! This is a Really Loud Alarm Bell! The BID is Coming

- From http://imaginevenice.org/

An entity called a 'Business Improvement District' or BID is almost here. The City Council will meet and vote on its creation in late August. What? You don't know anything about it? You and just about everyone else in Venice. This is one very big secret.

Here's what it is. A specific 'district,' run by a public-private partnership, whose boundaries have been gerrymandered to include properties owned by the pushers of this entity and large swathes of city property. Boundaries include Ocean Front Walk from North Venice to Barnard Way, includes part of Rose, touches parts of Main St., 4th, Sunset, Abbot Kinney, and Windward. It's a large area. See the map for a better picture of its reach. The public relations put out by supporters is that they are goilng to make our world in Venice cleaner and 'safer.' I think we are hearing that line right now on our national political scene. Who doesn't like 'safe?'

Proposed Venice BID Map with BoundariesThis proposed BID will be run by a public-private partnership which will receive funding from the City estimated to include about \$450,000 from the General Fund, to run the proposed 'clean and safe' services. There appears to be little accountability and oversight built into this process. The assessments on the owners (don't call it a tax) will filter into the coffers of the partnership. We are talking about millions of dollars. Property owners who vote for the BID, will have no say in what goes on with this entity unless they somehow get on its board. Fat Chance! The gerrymandered district includes a huge amount of city-owned property. It is estimated that the assessment from city property will comprise about 25% of assessment monies collected and, in turn, the manag-

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

Sincerely, Your name (s) Organization if applicable Address City Email Telephone

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ers of city land will have 25% of the vote for or against a BID. You already know how the city will vote on this. The deck is stacked in favor of a 'yes' vote for a BID.

This new group will create its own quasi police force complete with batons, pepper spray and uniforms to keep 'order.' Call them green shirts, call them brown shirts — we all know what they are: minimally trained 'officers' who will attempt to assert their newly acquired authority over the residents and whomever else (think the poor and the homeless) crosses their path, get in their way or those who just don't look like they 'belong.' They are the Deciders. Sounds scary, right? You should be scared. BID's are supposed to keep the place cleaner too — now that's not scary, right? Who doesn't like clean? So remember the BID mantra — 'clean and safe.'

We have not read a public statement from the council office on this BID creation. BID's seem like an elegant way to outsource the City's job and many of its responsibilities. Cities seem to love BID's.

Last but not least, we should tell you that this very quietly forming BID is being pushed by some property owners who are the most interested in controlling OFW — owners who have stealthily converted many of our residential units into short-term rentals —entire buildings we should add, are pushing for a BID formation. Some of the BID pushers are now being investigated by the LA City Attorney for illegal conversions of rental units. This was announced in the LA Times.

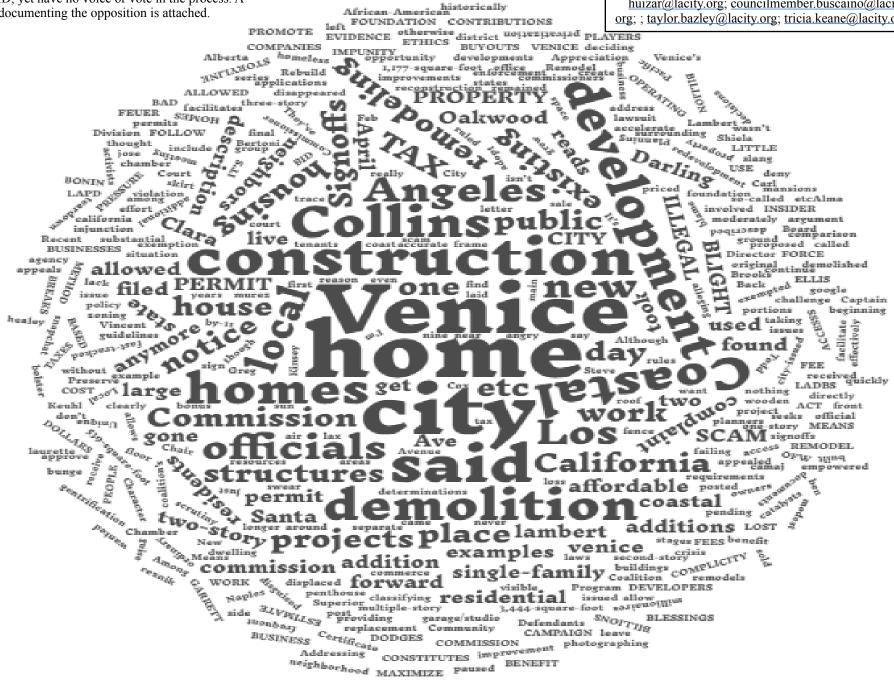
Gentrification on OFW will be a by product of this entity as it has been in other BID's in other cities. While there may be a lot in this BID for the big property owners, there is nothing in it for tenants who will have absolutely no say in the BID forming around them and their businesses. No vote, nada. In no way is a BID a democratic process. Tenants can expect the property owners to pass on the costs of the BID to them.

If you want this BID, stay quiet. If you don't, say something. Make 'big noise.' There are many lawsuits already filed against BID's all over the city, your big noise will be in very good company.

Tara Devine is the BID's consultant and point person for information.

Her contact is: tara@devine-strategies.com

EMAIL ADDRESSES: 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



6 • August 2016 • Free Venice Beachhead **Running VenICE** by ICE

As far as my run, well, like I said it is a daily 10 mile trek along sun soaked Venice Beach and the Santa Monica shoreline filled with my many little sacred rituals and traditions. Running to me is a celebration of life. Of spirit. Of breath. Of health. Of Living in the bliss of NOW. Running is an exercise in discipline and dedication. Mostly though, it is super FUN!

The beach is my cathedral, a temple, and also a home to so many diverse souls. My run is a pilgrimage, a prayer, a meditation of many colors from gratitude, humility, to singing cheering and cultivating our collective energy. It changes day to day moment to moment depending on awareness, focus, and how much pain I can tolerate because running requires oneself to deal with pain. Running for me is a life metaphor, I guess.

The Venice skateboard park and the beautiful ever-changing graffiti wall for artists to express themselves is a true inspiration I love so dearly. The piers, both Venice and Santa Monica, are two of my many touchstones along the way. Both standing strong in the bay with so many people visiting from around the world for a front row seat to our sandy circus show.

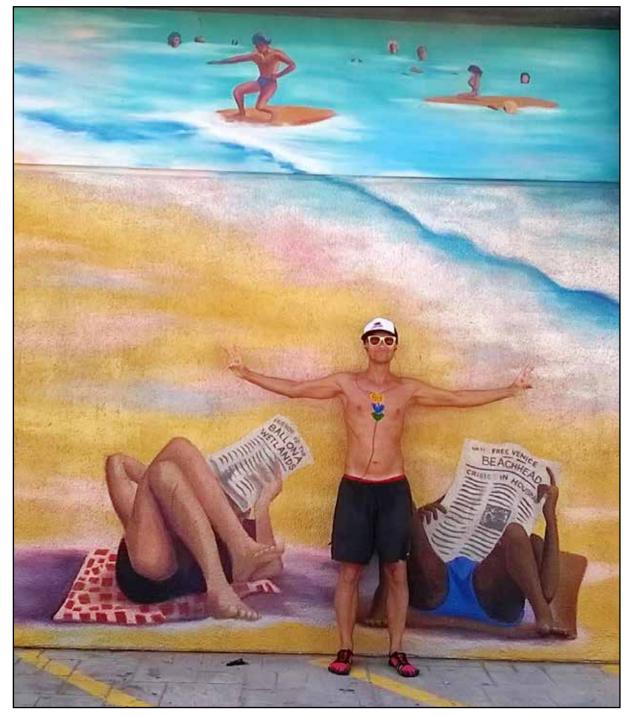
Like the Santa Monica "Ink Well" Rock says, "pain and celebration." That is running. And like California's own Van Halen affirms in one of their many anthem songs I use as part of a running soundtrack says "Unchained ... hit the ground running. Change - nothing stays the same." Yes, it is true - the power of Van Halen (with Dave) can heal you - the greatest American hard rock band EVER! 'Nough said:-)

The ENDANGERED SPECIES mural is a midpoint pause where I touch a tiny drop of paint on the concrete which represents everything in the universe to me from the infinitesimally small to the infinitely immense.

That one tiny little speck of paint connects and shows me how something like the mural was created out of seemingly nothing. That hand reaching out from underneath the tank in the mural is also my most solemn touchstone. We must end war is my cry.

As far as the upper body part of my SpiritRun well, I realized my arms did nothing while my legs did all the work so at first to save time I started doing yoga while running. But soon that became "a thing." A series of now choreographed movements - Heart Menders. Peace Up's. Chi or Qi Raisers. Freestyle Love Sign Windmills. A sort of simulated swimming with arms extended and peace or love signs flashing. You know when you see me.

Hopefully you could hear our conversation on your



phone and this helps you with the piece. Thanks and good luck Saffron, Danny or... I.C.E. Incredible Caucasian Emcee

Photos: Above, ICE in front of Emily Winter's Endangerd Species Mural at OFW and Park. To the right, , Frisbee at it's finest. By Minister Saffron

Known Property Owners within the Proposed BID Area:

Roger Webster/Bernard Perloff Perloff Webster Werner Sharf Foundatin/ General Real Estate/Ann Everest Mark Sokol/Hotel Erwin Jordan Monkarsh/Jody Maroni's **Brad Neal/Gold Coast Realty** Carl Lambert/Venice Suites/Waldorf, etc. Andy Layman/Venice Beach Suites Larry Fields/Google Steve Blanchard/OFW **Presbyterian Church** Ben Schoenbrun, Attorney/ OFW Frank Murphy/SeaBreeze Development/OFW Gary Harris/OFW Jose Bunge/Figtree Cafe, Su Casa Suites Steve Heumann/Sidwalk Enterprises/Jay Goodfader/,Mary Goodfader; Jack V. Hoffmann MA Tony Bill Marlene & John Okulick



Proposed Venice Beach BID





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"40 mgs. of bliss" review

Min. Saffron

Truly Happy Capsules took me by surprise. This sexy little tablet packs a smooth punch. I'm usually not into edibles because they make me drowsy so I reluctantly popped this pretty purple pill one afternoon and took a stroll around Venice. The fun part for me was forgetting I had taken it and then having all these "oh yeaaah" moments.

*Budtender Kelsey would like patients to know that T.H.C. is made with Coconut containing a high quantity of *MCT oils that is easily absorbed into your endocrine system, which makes for faster and longer release of canna input into your body.

release of canna input into your body. The suggested donation is \$30 for 5 capsules and the effects last for about 6 hours. T.H.C. is available in *indica and *sativa and is great for patients who don't wish to smoke or eat edibles. Find it at The Rose Collective, 411 Rose Ave., Venice, CA. 310 392-3890

*Budtender: A person who dispenses medicinal marijuana.

- *MCT: medium-chain-triglycerides
- *indica: provides a deep relaxation feeling.
- *sativa: energetic and uplifting.







8 • August 2016 • Free Venice Beachhead

Excerpt from Eli Elliott's book

"You Can Check Out" available at Elienation.com)

"The whole place could go up in smoke in ten minutes. That's the charm of Los Angeles" -William Burroughs

"You can check out any time you like, but you can never leave" -Eagles, "HOTEL CALIFORNIA"

AN EARLY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA morning in July and I pull into the familiar beach parking lot that I used to spend my everydays at over 5 years ago, living in my van. My old unofficial spot near the Mexican Fan Palm tree was vacant. But there was no Suzanne and 5 cats in big pickup truck with wood cabin on back. Nor was Carol present in her camper van (I would learn later that Carol had recently passed away). Earl from Oregon and his big RV were gone too. Other once familiar rigs were nowhere to be seen either. There were a few fresh faces, but the absence of the regular crew made it feel strange and lonely.

I thought about how everyone had moved on from "The Lot", and yet here I was, returning to it.

Nevertheless, there was a familiarity which felt OK. The mighty Pacific was only a few hundred yards away, and I looked forward to what would turn out to be a daily baptismal ritual of bodysurfing, underwater immersion, and bitterness bleaching of the mind; a much needed cleansing from the previous three and a half months of mental misery living under a bridge in Northern California.

Even though the lot was depleted of the once regular vehicular vagabond comrades, there were still many friends here, and this was reason enough for returning to Los Angeles, specifically the Westside. And naturally, Venice.

I HAD CHECKED OUT OF LOS ANGELES over 5 years ago as it was clear in my mind that this place was going to collapse, and collapse quick. Going North, somewhere smaller and more sustainable was clearly the way to go as this over congested cesspool of ego-filled fame seeking, energy wasting, industry addicted polluters was headed towards complete and catastrophic self-inflicted destruction.

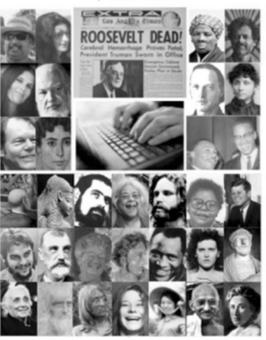
But now, upon returning, L.A. seemed to be more active and vibrant than ever. More energy and chaotically controlled activity permeated throughout. And despite the disgusting, puke-inducing gentrification laced with the new Snooty Chat Goggle head monster elite and their neo-Venician bobble head drones (all seemingly with little sense or care of Venice history and vibe), the entirety of LA was still carrying on. Fossil fuels hadn't run dry and in fact there was still enough in the tank to support even more unsustainable growth as homes grew taller, artificial communities bred, and Lincoln Blvd. turned into a parking lot. Nevertheless, the city had not, yet, imploded on itself.

I had to embarrassingly admit that over the last 5 years, it turned out that the only thing that had ended up really collapsing was the relationship with the woman I had been living with up North; the chaos and confusion of an over congested city of 10 million people, is no match for the conflict and clashing of 2 individual egos.

If The Dead Had Email

Poems and Photos from Venice California

by Jim Smith



Tony Says: I'm always here for ya.

August is Venice Poetry Month

Get If The Dead Had Email

Poems & photos by Spirit of Venice awardee Jim Smith. New 2016 edition - enhanced color photos & new binding.



58 poems and 49 color photos recap a life lived within the sound of the sea and in that peculiar place called Venice.

Pick it up at Beyond Baroque Books, Small World Books or Brentwood's diesel books. Give the gift of Venice poetry to a friend • VeniceWest@freevenice.org • Hecho en Venice





Nutritional Warehouse (310) 392-3636 2118 Lincoln Boulevard Venice, California, 90291 Whey Protein 2 LBS \$15.99

Pre-Workout Gaspari Superdrive \$9.98/oz only \$4.23/oz with this ad.

Virgin Organic Coconut Oil 14oz \$7.99

Kombucha Mix Case of 12 \$36.00

Real Water Case of 12 one liter bottles \$16.99

Venice, Yes!

By Jim Smith, from "If The Dead Had Email"

Yes! Venice is a beach town Not a highfalutin suit-and-tie town

The waves come and go 'cause they're free, and, yes indeed, so are we.

Yes! It's a pleasure to live by the ocean blue but that don't mean you can't come too.

Our friends drop by when they please there's no need to R-S-V-P

Yes! come on down and you shall see Venice, the greatest place there'll ever be

It's goin' on now, and 24/7 in our little piece of heaven

Yes! We'll make new friends every single day if we just loosen up and share the right-of-way

Dear neighbors don't hide behind fences ever so high Don't drive away Venetians and visitors between 2 and five.

Yes! So visit often and bring your board, or kids, a picnic lunch, your drum, and a little fizz

Come escape that summer nighttime inner-city heat Swing shift workers head for the beach, what a treat

Yes! Watch that Moon over Venice sink into the sea Sit on the sand while the stars shine oh so bright, whoopee!

Come one, come all, rich and poor, beautiful people of the rainbow, LBGT and otherly abled, come see Venice before it's just a fable

Give me your tired, your poor, Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, The wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, Hift my lamp beside the golden door! -Emma Lazarus, poet and playwright (22 Jul 1849-1887) [from a poem written to raise funds for building the pedestal of the Statue of Liberty]

Lost.

Lost Days turn into Lonely Nights. Alone. To Be Alone. What is it? To Feel Alone? How do we Forget our loneliness? When it is puncturing the skin with its relentless pricks? Leaving marks and scars. Prying, Scratching.

Hurdles have been set before us. How do we jump? If our legs have lost motion. If our feet are stationary. Toes cramped? How do we swim through waters of rage to reach the shore of enlightenment If our ligaments have lost ability of movement? Our Brain - cognitive function?

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MOTHERS ARE CRYIN (after the recent terrorist attacks) marty liboff Mothers, fathers & children are cryin everywhere loved ones dyin. Terrorist monsters human trash from dumpsters. Everywhere killers & nuts tryin to blow up people's guts. **Bullets flying** innocents dying. The world has gone crazy & mad our future is getting hazy & sad. Fundamentalist creeps the 4 Horsemen reaps. Evil religious nuts want rivers of blood & guts. Politicians & religious leaders all lie when they tell you to kill & die. Christians, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus, Jews everywhere wars in the news. Bigots & warmongers preach hate, hate, hate I hope its not too late. Bombs, missiles, guns & knives everywhere refugees run for their lives. Mother Earth gets more & more scary so many babies to bury. We spend all our money on soldiers and war only creates more hate to even the score. The military-industrial complex gets all our bucks while for the poor & sick it sucks. Warmongers yell let's go & kill they think its a football game & a thrill. Anytime we drop bombs from the sky little babies die. The blood of children on your souls you'll never be on heaven's rolls when the end tolls. World War 3 we'll see the end of all humanity. Please listen to my song didn't ya hear killin is wrong. Give the the helpless a hand instead of shootin play music in a band. Write a poem & do your art be conscious, aware & smart. Stop the murder, fightin & division instead have mercy, caring & compassion. We've risen from a beast & animal but with self awareness we can be reasonable. Everywhere wars, starvation & hunger our planet is doomed unless we learn to love one another. Give peace & freedom a chance let's all sing & dance. Kindness, forgiveness & togetherness is the way only peace & love will save the day...

THIS

PAPER

POEM



Perched from this window I see life a relentless dream. Looking through mesh screen, to a world beyond. A world not mine to hold. So close and yet such a distant yearning. To be a part of that world. To understand oneself in the uncertainty of this life.

> With Love, Maríka

'Homeless Bill of Rights- Dignity Without Bigotry' by Ronnie Goodman

10 • July 2016 • Free Venice Beachhead

beyondbaroque.com

3 August, Friday – 8:00 PM

MASON'S NOISE PARLOUR Our young adult variety show curated and hosted by Mason Summitt. Regular admission.

4 August, Saturday – 8:00 PM

LOVE, TRANSMUTATION, AND TRANSLATION: Jeanne Heuving & Jill Levine The Transmutation of Love and Avant-Garde Poetics proposes that the engagement of sexual love and its energies is the source of the creative power in some of the most interesting poetry written in the past one hundred years, asserting the value of a projective love and libidinized field poetics. Regular admission

5 August, Sunday - 5:00 PM

Our popular monthly open reading. Features this month, TBA. Hosted by Steve Goldman. Sign-ups begin at 4:45 PM. Five-minute limit. Free, but donations always appreciated.

11 August, Thursday – 8:00 PM

HOTEL ERWIN: BDAY LITPARTY - Celebrate with Beyond Baroque, Punk Hostage Press, and Viviana Hewitt at THE HOTEL ERWIN to Celebrate the Birthdays of Jon Hess and Quenting Ring. Jon is a writer, a New Yorker, who calls LA home, a dog owner, a father, a frequent reader at venues in and around Los Angeles and Vancouver BC. Jon directed WATCHERS for Universal Pictures and EXCESSIVE FORCE for New Line Cinema. He developed and co-produced AMERICAN HISTORY X for which Edward Norton was nominated for an Academy Award.

12 August, Friday – 8:00 PM

ELLYN MAYBE & ROBBIE FITZSIMMONS ALBUM

FUNDRAISER - a poetry and music duo whose fusion blurs together into something novel yet familiar, powerful yet vulnerable, heartbreaking and humorous. Skywriting with Glitter. Join them as they perform original works with the help of dancers and other performing acts including Rome da Luce and Dream Upright! Suggested donation \$25

Saturday 13 August, Saturday - 7:30 PM

THE PHILOMENIA - The annual birthday honoring of the Zen-Beat poetry and person of the late-great Philomene Long with song, film and readings of her glorious poetry. Readers include Holly Prado, Harry Northup, Linda Albertano, Susan Hayden, Pegarty Long. Suzy Williams and Karin Spitzer sing original musical adaptions of Philomene's poetry. Wine, libations and fun! All FREE! Although donations happily accepted. Hosted by Pegarty Long.

26 August, Friday - 8:00 PM

WHITMAN BIRTHPLACE POET IN RESIDENCE GEORGE WALLACE - George Wallace is writer in residence at the Walt Whitman Birthplace, author of two dozen chapbooks of poems, editor of Poetrybay and associate editor of Great Weather For Media. A New York City poet, he travels throughout the US and Europe to perform poetry and teach writing workshops. His work is alternately intimate, pierci ng, and humorous. Regular admission.

27 August, Saturday – 10:00 AM

WORKSHOP WITH GEORGE WALLACE - Wallace will lead the group in stimulating exercises based on re-<iiscovering and using imaginative skills that enhance your brain's 'muscle memory ' to result in improved writing. Learn to use wordplay to activate the inherent energy in language and come up with the initial ideas you are looking for to write poems. Imagination -based poetry gives the writer permission to create space for the imagination to explore, invent and roam. \$35.00 members, \$50.00 non-members.

Limited to 12 participants .

27 August, Saturday - 5:00 PM

Beyond Baroque stalwart Peggy Aylsworth reads from her new book of poetry, Under the Unwed Moon, published by Letters at 3AM Press. Regular admission.

laughtears.com

Sept 6 TUES 6pm McLuhan-Finnegans Wake Reading Club MDR library 4533 admirality way

Sept 10 SAT 4-6pm **MESS** – Musician Michael Weber interview at unurban 3301 pico http://laughtears.com/ mess.html

Sept 12, MON, 6pm **MOVIE MUSIC FILMS** - from Erik Satie to Bernard Hermann at Unurban 3301 pico blvd, free and FJJ - Free Jazz Jubilee from 7:30 - 8pm = http://www.laughtears.com/freeJazzJubilee.html

Sept 13 TUES, 7pm: **SUZY WILLIAMS** jazz-blues-Dannys 23 windward av venice ca FREE

Sept 17 SAT 6-9pm **POP UP POP** art show at Electric Lodge 1416 Electric Ave, Venice, CA 90291 FREE - Facebook = https://www.facebook.com/ events/627034930806257/

Sept 21, Wed, 6-9pm: **MOM- MEDIA DISCUSSION** at beyond baroque 681 venice blvd venice cahttp://venicewake.org/Events/current.html

Sept 25, SUN from 10am - 1 **The Backboners** Santa Monica Farmers Market Ocean Pk & Main St, free

Sept 25, SUN - 7pm - **THE OTHER SIDE: A QUEER HISTORY'S LAST CALL** at beyond baroque 681 venice blvd venice ca (2013, 60 minutes) - Jane Cantillon's (in person) emotional documentary about the last gay piano bar in the director's neighborhood of Silver Lake, FREE

photo by Eric Ahlberg

Laundry Love Venice Beach

Last Monday of each month. at 402 Rose Ave, Venice, Ca 90291, We provide quarters, soap, and dryer sheets, no one is turned away

Maximum 5 loads per person, from 6pm to 9pm last load at 8 pm. Arrival before six can line up on 3rd and Rose Ave.

Volunteers contact vanessa@thas.org Donate soap and supplies at www.amazon.com/gp/ registry/wedding/3EMM12E6EOYPK

RON KOVIC and ROBERT

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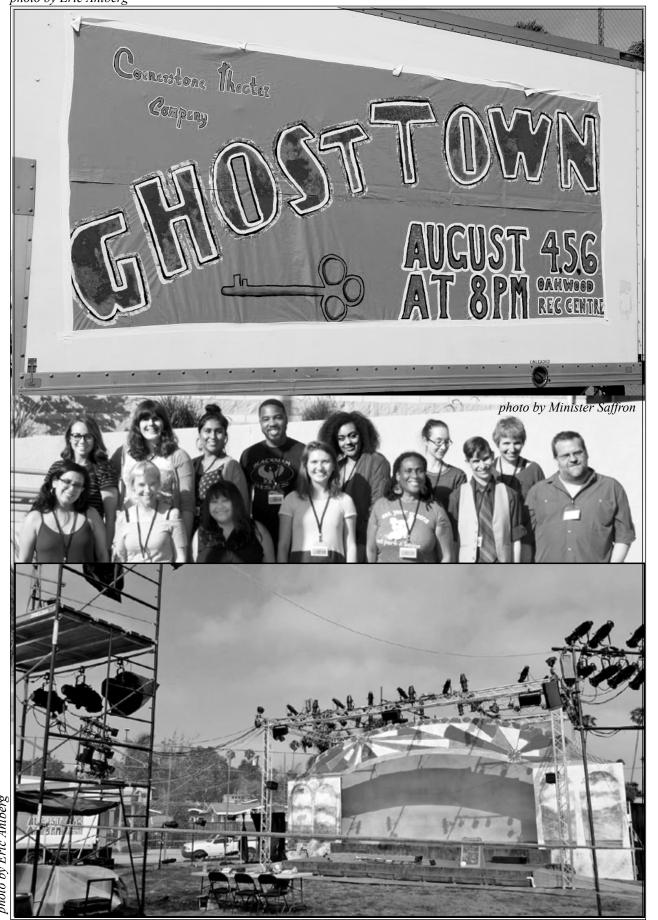
SCHEER IN CONVERSATION with PAUL JAY, of The Real News Network, marking the publication of Ron's new book, Hurricane Street and celebrating the 40th Anniversary Edition of his iconic anti-war book, Born on the Fourth of July, with foreword by Bruce Springsteen.

7 August at 16:00–19:00

Robert Berman Gallery 2525 Michigan Ave, Santa Monica, California 90404

Price of Admission: Bring or buy one of Ron's books, available for purchase onsite

Sponsored by Akashic Books, Truthdig, and The Real News Network



27 August, Saturday – 8:00 PM **FICTION SHOWCASE: VICTORIA LOOSELEAF ISN'T RICH?** - Les Femmes Fatales: Los Angeles will seduce us with a noir cocktail of literary violence, eroticism and trenchant humor drowning in a deeply disturbing need for romantic connection. Please join award-winning arts journalist and cultural provocateur Victoria Looseleaf ("Isn't It Rich?"), author and actor Mary Woronov ("Swimming Underground: My Years In the Warhol Factory"), glam-pop poet Kate Crash ("Plush Novel") and slammin' bassist Benny Reitveld (music director, Santana). Publisher Gordy Grundy will roll out the bloody red carpet for this onenight only belletristic event. Hosted & Curated by Richard Mediano. Regular admission.

A Visit with Victor Frankl by Cliff Johnson Join us for a dramatic reading by actor Arnold Weiss of Cliff Johnson's Play. Learn about Frankl's experience and beliefs as found in his influential book, Man's Search For Meaning. Thursday August 11, 6:30 PM. Fairfax Branch Library, 161 Gardner St, LA, CA, 90036, 323-936-6191

jhoto by Eric Ahlberg

Ongoing Events RADIO VENICE

4:20-6:30pm Sundays (not in August) Live Music Webcast from Breakwater Studios, : www.radiovenice.tv/

live/ OCCUPY VENICE BEACH

• 8:30 pm Sundays People's Potluck at 3rd & Rose. Feed the People. Volunteer or donate - 424-209-2777. General Meeting After.

COMPUTERS

2:30pm, Mon-Fri. Student/Homework Zone. Computers, iPads, homework resources and a trained computer aide to assist students grade 4-12. Free Printing. Abbot Kinney Public Library.
Tues/Weds 8:30-6pm, Thurs/Friday 8:30-5pm. Free Computer Use. Vera Davis Center.

FOOD

• Free Food Distribution. Tuesdays 10am, Thursdays 12:30pm, Fridays 1pm. Vera Davis Center.

• Sign up for Food Stamps (EBT Cards).

Vera Davis Center. 310-305-1865.

• Free Vegetarian Food Saturdays through Wednesdays 4:00 PM. OFW & Dudley.

• Mar Vista Farmers Market. Sunday 9:00AM - 2:00PM 3826 Grand View Boulevard.

• Venice Farmers Market. Fridays 7-11am, 500 North Venice Blvd.

KIDS

• 11:30am-noon Wednesdays. Toddler Storytime. Abbot Kinney Public Library. Free.

MUSIC

• 9pm Wednesdays, Venice Underground Comedy, Townhouse, No Cover

• 11pm Wednesday - Burlesque, Townhouse, No Cover

8pm Saturdays, Brad Kay Regressive Jazz

Quartet, Townhouse. No Cover

• 2pm Sundays, Almost Vaudeville W/ Brad Kay at the Unurban

• O'Brien's Irish Pub Live music most nights.

• 1:00-4:00 PM Every Saturday and Sunday Free Live Music, Fisherman's Village, 13755 Fiji Way, MDR 90292

MISCELLANEOUS

9-4pm, 2nd and 4th Saturday, every month. Venice High School Flea Market. 13000 Venice Blvd.
4:15pm, every Thursday – Chess Club. Ages 6-15. All levels welcome. Abbot Kinney Library.
11:30am-2:30pm, every Sunday, weather permitting. The Venice Oceanarium (a museum without walls). Venice Pier. Free.
8:30am, 2nd Fridays. Bus Token Distribution. First 40 people in line will receive a free bus token. Vera Davis Center.

• 5:30pm, Sundays. Open Mic Night. Twentieth Church of Christ, Scientist. 132 Brooks Ave. Free. • 7-10pm, 3rd Wednesdays. MOM: Meditations

On Media. Beyond Baroque. Free.

• 10am Sunday Morning Gatherings of Creative community. http://goo.gl/BbsDV2

YOGA AND DANCE

• Mondays 8-9am Heal One World: Community Yoga, The Electric Lodge - Free

• Mondays, 1:30-2:30pm Dancing Through Parkinson's, Electric Lodge, Donation.

• Thursdays 11:15 AM-ish Yoga in the park at 4th and Strand, Ocean Park, 310-306-7330 - Gerry and Suzy. AA

Saturdays Midnight at Beyond Baroque Sundays 9:30am, Beyond Baroque Theatre.

Sundays 9:30am, Beyond Baroque Theatre. Thursdays 7:30PM Mike Kelley Gallery, Beyond Baroque.

Location Guide

• Abbot Kinney Public Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd. 310-821-1769, fovl.org

• **Beyond Baroque**, 681 Venice Blvd. 310-822-3006, www.beyondbaroque.org

• Dannys 23 Windward Ave Venice 310-566-5610

• Electric Lodge, 1416 Electric Ave. 310-306-1854, electriclodge.org

• **G2 Gallery,** 1503 Abbot Kinney Blvd. 310-452-2842, theg2gallery.com

• Pacific Resident Theatre, 703 Venice Blvd, 310-822-8392, pacificresidenttheatre.com

• SPARC - Social and Public Art Resource Center, 685 Venice Blvd. sparcmurals.org

• Townhouse. 52 Windward.

• Venice Arts 1702 Lincoln Blvd, Venice, California 90291

• Venice High School 13000 Venice Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90066 (310) 577-4200

• Vera Davis Center, 610 California Ave. 310-305-1865

• Westminster Elementary School, 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. (enter auditorium from Westminster Ave) 310-606-2016

• Unurban Coffee Shop - 3301 Pico Blvd, Santa Monica, 310-315-0056

Pacífic Resident Theatre Ongoing Production

THE ECCENTRICITIES OF A NIGHTINGALE. The play centers on the complex relationship

between a sensitive and lonely young woman, and a young doctor. Her touching attempts to sway his emotions and his uncertainty as to where his heart should lead him take the audience on a moving journey.

August 19 My Girlfriend is an Alien opens, all shows. Show Times: Thu, Fri & Sat at 8pm

Sun at 3pm – \$18

LA Louver Gallery David Hockney The Yosemite Suite, Heather Gwen Martin

Monday - Friday 10am-6pm Wednesday 10am to 8pm

Saturday/Sunday Closed.

G2 Gallery Nature and Environmental Photography Supporting Art and the Environment. 100 Years of National Parks: The Midwest Moths at Large American Grandeur Monday – Saturday, 10 am – 5:00 pm, Sunday, 10 am – 6 pm Until October 2nd.

11 • July 2016 • Free Venice Beachhead



Sara Omari

In my last article, in the July issue, I ran off topic a bit, reminiscing about The West Side Tenants Union etc., but will stay on topic this time, I promise!

This series I am writing centers on Elder Abuse, or at least, my experience with Elder Abuse.

The Call Button is a devise/contraption that is slightly bigger than a bar of soap. It is held in one hand. It is used to call the Nurse's Station, for help.

By pushing the red light button, the nurse's station microphone is activated. Someone on call at the nurse's station receives notice. Whomever is available answers and may possibly say any of the following (or worse):

"How may I help you?!"

"What do you want Ms. Omari?!"

"What is it NOW ?!"

"How may I help you NOOOOOOOWWWW?!"

"We were just there a minute ago!"

"What can I do for you?!"

"What NOOOOOOWWWWW?!"

"What do you want SARA?!!!"

"NOOOOWWWWWW????!!!!!"

One night I called for help. The person at the desk said, 'NOOOOOWWWW WHAT?!" Another staff member asked her "Who is calling?!" The person who answered the call said, "342R, Sara". The other staff member then replied "Oh Shit!" I replied, "I heard that....."

The device call button also allows you to hear the conversations and/or gossip of the staff members if the microphone is accidentally left on at the nurse's station. I have heard a lot of gossip I would rather not have heard over the years.

Sometimes the call button is answered in 5(five) minutes – 30(thirty) minutes. One time it was almost 3(three) hours! Approximately 3 years ago, I was trying to turn over in bed by holding onto the rail with my good hand. My leg went over the bed, which in turn pulled my body on to the floor. I am glad the bed was low to the floor, which prevented a bigger accident. I had to lay there for over 2 hours before anyone came.

I have great fear around the call button issue, because I am helpless, being partially paralyzed. I need assistance very often. Falling, diabetic reactions, the "trots", even just turning over in bed, are a few of the instances I really depend on the help.



Venice Local Coastal Program (LCP) Public Meeting

Please Join the



Date: August 3, 2016 Time: 6:30-8:30 p.m. Location: Westminister Elementary School 1010 Abbot Kinney Boulevard Topic: Venice Land Use Plan

Contact us by email: venicelcp@lacity.org or by phone: Hagu Solomon-Cary 213.978.1394 or Tony Isaia 213.978.1353

Los Angeles Department of City Planning



God damn Sara you should not be so negative!

Please join the upcoming public meeting regarding the Venice Local Coastal Program (LCP) on Wednesday, August 3rd from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Westminster Elementary School.

The first portion of this meeting will include a presentation on issues identified at the open house on April 27, 2016, the current Venice Land Use Plan and its update process, as well as regional sea-level rise analysis relevant to Venice. The second portion of the meeting will be dedicated to hearing from attendees, so come with comments, input and questions focused on the Local Coastal Program and/or the Venice Land Use Plan. To that end, the current Land Use Plan is posted on the project website for your review. Come ready to share your thoughts and comments on the current or future land use policies that can shape the future of Venice.

Simply go to venicelcp.org and click on Plans>Venice Coastal Zone Land Use Plan (LUP).

August 27, 2016 Windward Plaza 1 Windward Ave Venice 90291 11:00 am to 7:30 pm



Performers: Willie Chambers, Barry "The Fish" Melton and Friends, Meet Me At The Pub, Cubensis, Ann Cohen, Ya Harissa Bellydance Theater, Lili Haydn, Jah Faith And The Royal Lineage, James Booth, and Samba Da Mudança with Samba 4 U Artists: Ra Ra SuperStar, Audrey McNamara, Luciano Mota, Elisa Garcia, Wing Yee-Lee, Jediloves, Dunkoes, Debbie Pauketat, Yanessa Y. Gonzalez, and Jessica Alfieri

