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Support
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Journalism

September 2021
#467

DEPUTIES GIVEN PERMISSION TO RUN ROGUE IN VENICE TO GENERATE PUBLICITY FOR THE SHERIFF'S RE-ELECTION CAMPAIGN

by Garry Featherstone

It's plain to see, but there are those who wish the homeless out of VENICE regardless of the cost. For weeks now the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department have been in VENICE, and its not to help the homeless. That was a smoke screen, and it worked beautifully. The real reason is to garner up publicity and support for the Sheriffs up and coming election. Plain and simple. Look at what the Sheriffs Department have done.

Deputies have made numerous arrests, and each time they make an arrest, the media is notified, and it seems as though everybody else jumps on the wagon. There is no lack of reporting. The only problem with the arrest and the story, it's always wrong. The arrests are bogus, constitutionally flawed, and border on criminal. Do you think the Los Angeles Police are just sitting by and not arresting people? No, but there is a big difference. The Los Angeles Police Department has to follow the rules and laws set forth. The Sheriffs Department ignores the rules and laws, and do things their way.

The Sheriffs Department have made several arrests, but they do so by violating the law they swore to uphold. Illegal Stops, Illegal Searches, Illegal Detainment, and giving out false information. Let's start by examining the arrest of the owner of HOMELESS ENTERPRISE. People are so eager to get rid of the homeless, they have not took the time to analyze what is going on. There are several stories about what occurred with the owner of HOMELESS ENTERPRISE, but the Sheriff's Department did not tell you everything, which is what I'm getting ready to do. But first, please review a complaint submitted on July 12, 2021, against the Sheriffs Department, authored by the owner of HOMELESS

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ARE YOU HUNGRY? FREE FOOD AT VENICE BEACH

(times and places occasionally change)

*Hope for the Hearts of the Homeless- Pam & Joel and friends. Coffee, pastries, sandwiches. Thursday 9.Am. North Ocean Front Walk near Ozone. Sunday by the pagoda near the beach, south of Rose Ave.

*You Matter with Michael and friends- Tue. & Thur. Around 11am. Hot dogs, burgers, fruit, snacks. North Ocean Front Walk near Ozone Ave. Also Sat. around 8:30am near Windward Ave.

*Oasis Network Inc. with Dan & friends- various groceries, bread, fruit, vegetables. Sat. & Sun. around 9am. Ocean Front Walk by Dudley Ave.

*Venice Equity Alliance- fruit & vegetables. Wed. 12:45pm. 132 Brooks Ave.

*St. Joseph Center- their clients, To-Go Meals. M-F 9:30am-12pm. 663 Rose Ave. Also weekly food if you register at (310)396-6468 ext.313

* St. Mark Church Free Food Pantry
Every Saturday from 11am to 1pm
940 Coeur d'Alene Ave, Venice 90291 (entrance Garfield Av) Vegetables, fruits and other food items. No registration needed. Drive-thru and walk-in options. Call St. Mark Parish at 310-821-5058 or email us at loavesandfishes@stmarkvenice.com

:::(These organizations all need your donations and help)::: THANKS

Leave Mike Bonin Alone!

By Pat Raphael

Why? 'Cause he's a valuable asset in the goal of social justice in government? Naw, not really. Leave Mike Bonin alone 'cause they're coming for him, and the ones who are coming for him want to take his seat as the Los Angeles City Council representative for District 11, and turn it over to someone more receptive to their campaign of hate around the issue of homelessness. The energy of discontent that started to brew about a year ago around Mike Bonin came from the local haters who saw that he was not being tough enough in addressing the growing population of street people in the district. Their campaign sought to paint Bonin as a radical activist, whose record proved that he was participating in some sort of homelessness containment strategy for here in Venice. To not let Venice become a containment zone, they want Bonin to back policies that would make it harder to be a street person in Venice, so people magically decide to stop being attracted to living on the beach in the most popular destination in the county.

So who the hell is Mike Bonin? Why should we give a damn that an organized group of neighbors are coming for him? Let's use my friend David Busch's definition to peg Mike down.... David sees Bonin as a reliable politician who can be counted on to show up whenever there's a stand to grand upon. He'll come, tell you what you wanna hear, earnestly look you in the eye and feel your pain. But often that is the sum of what to expect from him.... and he goes around doing this to all sides. Maybe that's what he learned from his mentor, Bill Rosendahl. Bonin was Rosendahl's Chief of Staff for many years -- Rosendahl, for whom we have that commemorative rainbow lifeguard tower to honor him as the first openly gay member of the city council, hand picked Bonin to replace him as the rep for CD11. It was a natural and likely promotion for Bonin, who is also a proud member of the LGBTQIA+ community, to come into this seat held by such a popular councilman, when Rosendahl gave him an endorsement.

By many conventional accounts, Bonin enjoys broad support. When he first won in 2013, his 60 percent of the vote was the highest margin of victory for any sitting member of the city council. Then in 2017 he won with an even bigger margin -- 71 percent of the voters backed Bonin -- a margin that usually spells job security and political dynasty. That 71 percent apparently did not include Heidi Roberts and the coalition of haters she wrangled together to recall Bonin in 2018. After they spent all their money and brought their foamy mouths to all of Bonin's public appearances, their recall effort could not garner widespread community support, and Bonin easily survived that attempt to take his job. That waste of time and money should have been enough for the Bonin haters to take a note and seek other ways to influence the politics of our council representative. Yet here Mike stands again, fighting back another recall effort.

Heidi Roberts comes from a marketing background, so she knows how to create a narrative. And sometimes a narrative is even more powerful

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SAVE VENICE IS FOR THE COMMUNITY

By Jon Wolff

The following is from recent conversations with members of the Save Venice Community Organization about the organization's four-year fight to save the First Baptist Church of Venice.

Jon Wolff: Can you describe Save Venice as an organization?

Lydia Ponce: Save Venice is an organization that is a lifeline to the old school Community that has deep roots in the rich history and the truth of Venice, having the legacy of the ancestors that came before to build Venice. Those stories and lives have complemented the changes that happened, until recently in the last twenty-five years. They came to an abrupt stop when there was an overwhelming "gentri-fuckation" of Venice. Save Venice came up on its feet, head held high, with a strong heart and is combating the changes that oppress and are racist and classist and that don't benefit anyone. No one in Save Venice profits off of Venice. We don't pimp Venice. Venice's spirit is gritty and spiritual and creative and beautiful. It's not neatly packaged with a ribbon. That's what Save Venice is to me.

JW: What's Save Venice working on right now?

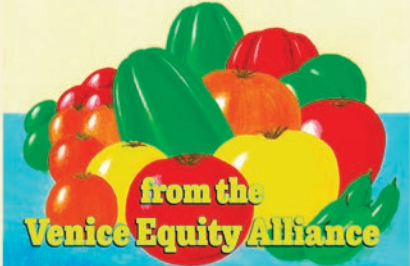
LP: We're working on saving the church. It's always been about the church. It's the First Baptist Church of Venice. If you know the story from the past to the present and to what the future looks like, then you know that this encompasses everything about equity and the 2021 paradigm. It's a revolutionary shift that we have to make together as a Community, and what we should be to each other: kind, compassionate people from all walks of life. We have to defend this church. It's a symbolic struggle for what we're trying to prevent from happening, because it's privatization into someone's personal home of 1400 square feet.

Jon Wolff: Tell us about Save Venice and your involvement with it?

Ed Ferrer: It's about the First Baptist Church of Venice and the attempt to bring it back. C.J. Gronner sent me over there and I met the whole crew. It's been my re-introduction to Venice. I've lived in Venice since the early '70s. Laddie [Williams] has taught me a lot about Venice history. She's a historian. Every time she tells me something I say, "Wow."

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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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LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR
August 19, 2021

On Thursday, August 19, 2021, was supposed to be a regular day of clean up, when the Los Angeles City sanitation comes and picks up the trash. We had no idea that the City had others plans, because they failed to notify us that they were confiscating homeless people’s property. They did not post any signs stating their intentions.

On this morning, several unhoused individuals approached me and explained that the City Sanitation Workers were confiscating their property. I thought it was a mistake so I went over there. The first thing I saw was a crane lifting property off the ground and dumping it in a dump truck. The second thing I saw was a tractor lifting property and trash off the ground and dumping it in a dump truck.

I asked to speak with the City Official in charge, which was Dexter. I asked Dexter why they were confiscating property and he stated that he was giving the homeless 15 minutes to move their property so they could clean up. This statement was not true. First of all, the Crane and Tractor were still at work, dumping. Second, to many unhoused individuals were complaining about their property being confiscated.

I then called a Community Activist name Naomi Nightingale, who responded to the scene immediately. She Talked with Dexter and it was determined that the city sanitation crew may have overstepped their bounds. Ms. Nightingale contacted Councilman Bonin’s office for clarification. To make a long story short, the Sanitation Department must post signs, inform people about what is going to occur. You cannot sneak upon the homeless and just confiscate their property.

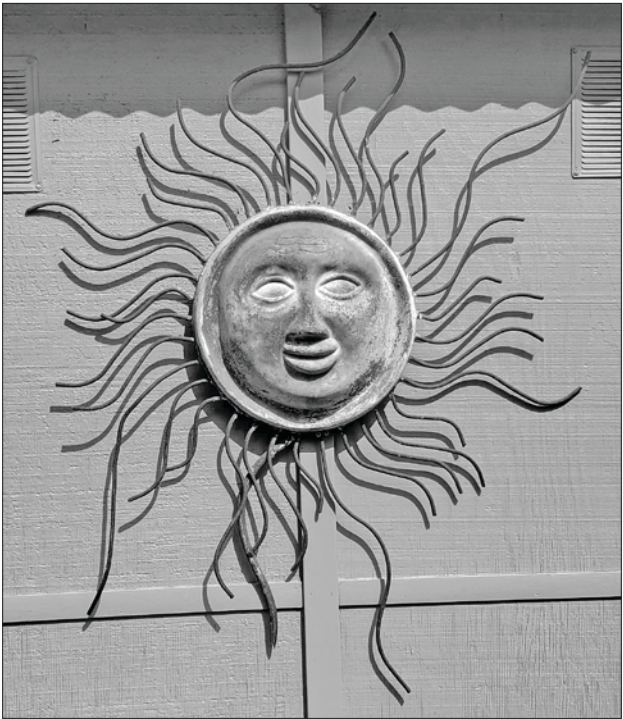
It has come to my attention that The City may have been operating on directions from Google and Gold’s Gym. If that is the case, I can assure you that any legal action taken will include Google and Gold’s gym.

Please take notice that when this was occurring, there was an attorney present. Some of you already talked with him, and anyone that has their property confiscated, should talk with him. Here is his information:

Weston Rowland
Attorney-At-law
725 Arizona Ave. Suite 300
Santa Monica, Ca. 90401
424-744-8703

This should be a warning to those who think they can take the law into their own hands like the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department. That lawsuit is forthcoming. To those who think they can run me away, I’m not going anywhere. Use any tactic you want, but expect the same in return.

Garry Featherstone



*You know
you're
from Venice
if/when..*
...You had a spool table in your yard.



SAVE VENICE GROUP DISMISSES MIGUEL BRAVO FOR ADMITTED IMPROPRIETY

With great regret Save Venice group must share with our community that on Tuesday, July 13, 2021, in a zoom meeting to discuss the establishment of a nonprofit organization, Miguel Bravo informed members of the Save Venice group that he had spent for his personal use a total of \$9,631.00 of funds donated through the GoFundMe account. The GoFundMe account was created in 2017 to solicit contributions for legal fees to help fight for the preservation and historic designation of the First Baptist Church of Venice. In 2019 after the Rally for George Floyd at the Church, contributions increased to \$9,631. As a consequence of this shocking and reprehensible act, Miquel Bravo is removed from any association, representation, leadership or spokesperson role or responsibility with the Save Venice Group and savevenice.me.

Unfortunately, he has sole access to the Save Venice social media platforms with which he was entrusted and now continues to post as if he is still with Save Venice. He is not. Attempts are underway to regain possession of these sites or to establish new ones. In the interim, please know that Miquel no longer represents Save Venice in any form.

Multiple attempts were made to receive a full accounting of the funds. Multiple opportunities were extended to give time to submit a promised repayment plan and to be publicly accountable to the community for the indiscretion. All requests have gone unanswered, and Save Venice was compelled to file charges with the Los Angeles Police Department. Steps have been taken to reinforce our accountability mechanism to ensure this does not happen again.

Please know that the mission of Save Venice remains the same. The theft of the funds has not affected our ability to advocate for the Church and the community. The reprehensible act of this once trusted individual does not threaten or diminish the significance of the First Baptist Church of Venice. its worthiness of historic designation or our resolve to continue to serve the Venice community.

An investigation by the LAPD is underway and Save Venice respectfully requests that further inquiries are withheld until the investigation is complete.

Submitted by The Save Venice Group
August 26,2021
#VeniceLIVES #savevenice

Complaint Against The Los Angeles Sheriffs
Department

Location, violations, deputies involved:

Lincoln Hardware
1609 Lincoln Blvd
Venice, Ca. 90291

- 1. Unlawful detained Deputy Rojas
- 2. False Statements from Deputy Rojas Deputy Loera
- 3. Unlawful Detention Team Sergeant
- 4. Illegal Search and Seizure Narcotics Sergeant Zimmerman, Narcotics

WITNESSES: Paxton Benmis, Kenneth Gardner
To Whom It May Concern:

On July 12, 2021, at approximately 1900 hours, Garry Featherstone drove his car to the Lincoln Hardware Store to get his generator repaired. Featherstone entered the parking lot and parked next to a van that belonged to a man named Paxton Benmis, who was going to repair the generator. Pat works out of the parking lot, and he is the security for the Hardware Store.

Featherstone and Pat were attempting to fix the generator part when two (2) Los Angeles County Sheriff's Deputies pulled up in the parking lot. Both deputies approached Featherstone and Pat as they were working on the generator part. Officer Rojas asked, "What are you doing.?" Featherstone replied, "We are working on this generator part. At that time, Officer Rojas stated that they were investigating Burglaries, and that we were in a high crime area. Officer Rojas then ordered Featherstone, Pat and ken to walk over to the police vehicle and placed their hands on the hood of his car. Featherstone immediately asked Deputy Rojas to contact his Supervisor. Featherstone had to ask several times before Deputy Rojas complied with the request. Featherstone asked Rojas why he was searching them because Featherstone had did nothing to warrant a search. Featherstone told Deputy Rojas that he could pat him down for weapons and no more.

Deputy Rojas proceeded to search Featherstone. He placed his hands inside of Featherstone's pockets, and removed Keys, money, wallet, etc. I repeat, Deputy Rojas put his hands in Featherstone's pockets and removed items.

After Deputy Rojas completed his search, Feath-
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Leave Bonin Alone. – continued from page 1

than the truth. What they have been tying to Bonin to weigh down his popular support is a feasibility study that the City Council commissioned -- which Bonin spearheaded -- that sought to study the possibility of using parking lots and other under-utilized open spaces to create tiny home villages on the west side. Bonin did not propose that we turn our beaches and parks into tiny home villages. He only backed a feasibility study that would consider the possibility from many angles, then offer a report to rank the different west side sites where these tiny home communities are logistically possible.

Remember the NIMBYs opposing the bridge house on Sunset & Main? These haters have the same alarmist rhetoric and are always pronouncing doom. They're not proposing solutions nor offering alternatives. They just know how to scream NO NO NO. Don't forget, Venice is full of rich people who are used to throwing their money around to get what they want. These haters really come across as spoiled children -- worse than Veruca Salt in the chocolate factory. So most likely this second recall effort is also going to fail.

But leave nothing to chance. Let us back Bonin now, and be very vocal about wanting him in that seat over any other hater that the NIMBYs wanna put forth. Let us make it clear to Bonin that his political future is in our hands, and let's insist that he gives us more than political lip-service. Let's take a page from David Busch's approach of eliciting conversation over condemnation. Being just a politician can sometimes come across as a slur, but at least with a politician you know what you are getting. Let us use the jeopardy that Mike Bonin now faces to reorient his focus toward substantial conversation with the community, so that in keeping his seat, he knows where his support lies. And Mike (or whichever low-level staff you have reading these articles), if there's anything we street folks can do to help with messaging, don't hesitate to come find me on the boardwalk.

JW: What would you like to see accomplished?

EF: I would like to see the property preserved as a historical monument to the early culture of Venice. That building was a Baptist church. But it was used by all Black People from around Santa Monica to wherever, because it was the biggest. Whenever there was a big wedding or a big funeral, that building was used by the Community. And it would be nice if we could have a meeting place like that for the Community.

Jon Wolff: What have you experienced working with Save Venice for the past few years?

Eileen Archibald: I've been involved with Save Venice since about 2016, and active on a lot of issues related to the property of the church. We've worked to get the historical designation set for the property. I've experienced the Venice family collaborating and working together for the common purpose.

JW: What do you see for the future of the church and for Save Venice?

EA: Save Venice Community Organization is a non-profit. As a broader outreach, we will further develop that. My vision is one of a community space there at some point. I envision a community center where people can worship. We can have classes for children, and a good environment for our children which will include a lot of different activities. Because it's across from Oakwood Park, they can participate in sports. That property is designated for the Community.

The Eviction Of The Homeless Campers
From Venice Beach

by Eric Ahlberg

Praise be to Tony Vera and Peggy Kennedy for their vigilant witnessing of the eviction of the homeless campers from Venice Beach.

Tony Vera, AKA The Venice Owl, was and is committed to being out on OFW at 3am with his camera to record the eviction of homeless people from Venice Beach camping. He has made a few dozen videos about this. Cameras can deter bad behavior on the part of the evicters, and fascists who come out to scorn the homeless people. He documents what the LAPD, Park Staff, St. Joseph's Staff, The Bureau of Sanitation, County Sheriff, and politicians, have been doing. He is friendly with the cops and the other staffers. He shoots raw feeds, sometimes hours long. This is a genre of street video, you turn the camera on and witness, with minimal edits. He has caught some amazing interviews of homeless people who faced this crisis.

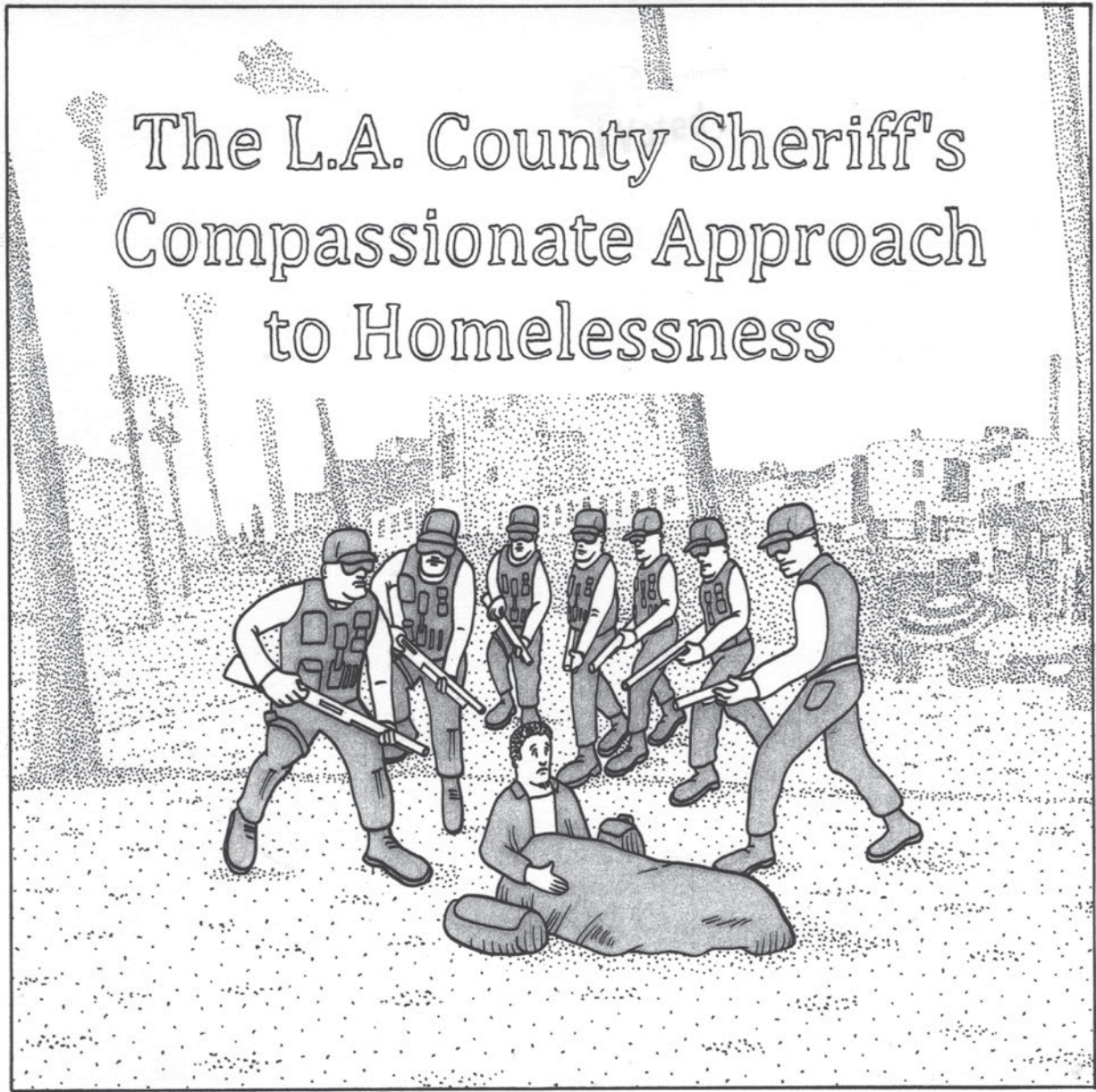
Peggy Kennedy was also there to witness, and to support homeless people's rights.

Mike Bonin reported 211 people were helped off the beach. There were 20 staff and 4-6 vehicles every 3am for 10 days, and they would comb through the tents convincing people to leave and go to temporary or permanent housing, offering vouchers and getting some into permanent housing.

This looks like the Social Services housing shuffle, where people are just moved around, away from places which generate heat for the politicians, toward places less visible. A net decrease in one location means a net increase somewhere else. I hear that people were driven across town for housing, but just dropped off and then were unable to enter the building and then got mugged for their stuff.

Did this happen because Bonin was getting hammered in the press with stories about "skyrocketing crime" in Venice, in a way that looked short on facts and high on shade. The three most famous viral stories were fake news, yet they went viral internationally.

The first fake news story was the firebombing of a
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Big Bad Bill Is Sweet William Now by Gerry Fialka



Front cover photo by Myron Rosenberg.

Venice's own Sweet William got his nickname from the song Big Bad Bill Is Sweet William Now, which was written in 1924 by Jack Yellen, music by Milton Ager. Cover versions have spanned decades including Peggy Lee, Merle Haggard, Ry Cooder, Leon Redbone and Van Halen. The lyrics describe a man "in the town of Louisville..." who was once a fearsome and rough character known for getting into fights, who, after getting married, becomes a peaceable person who devotes his time to domestic activities such as washing dishes and mopping the floor. Our "Sweet William" devotes his time working to protect the public domain, documenting Venice's storied history, writing social commentary holding public officials accountable, and even working with Marshall McLuhan. Definitely, my kind of community activist to champion..

Sweet William spoke at the Venice Film Fest at Sponto Gallery years ago. In the important documentary, "Feeding the Sparrows by Feeding the Horses" by Moritz Borman, Sweet William poked fun at Mercedes Benz consumers as he paddled a low-brow rowboat down Linnie Canal. It is always grand to see the old veteran jogging alongside the ocean, something he did for 39 years. I recently asked him a few questions about his own history in Venice and his current activities.

GF (Gerry Fialka)-What brought you to Venice?

SW (Sweet William)-Following Robert Kennedy's murder in 1968 I joined University of California's newly formed Urban Crisis Program. The statewide effort at all six campuses was started in response to the Kerner Commission's 1968 Report on the causes of America's Urban Violence of 1967. As to solutions, the Commission urged universities and colleges to join in the battle to counter racism and urban poverty.

UCLA's Institute of Industrial Relations had a project in Compton helping the white Fire and Police Departments make the transition from white to black employees as the former white residential community of Compton turned into a primarily black community, not to mention an emerging presence of Latinos. It was a long ways to Compton from UCLA. I worked with the Welfare Rights organizers trying to get the City to create a way for poor citizens to cross the Compton canal. Compton had hired the first black City Manager west of the Mississippi. He was no more attentive to the complaints of those poor mothers than a white city manager would have been. I decided this was not the place UCLA should call its 'community problem solving laboratory' to get students and professors involved helping. The drive from UCLA was 45 minutes each way.

Our nascent Department of Urban Affairs had already decided on helping the Pico-Union Neighborhood Council in downtown LA. Deputy Director of the Kerner Commission, Victor Palmieri was lending his developer skills to the community/university effort to help the low-income Latin community and the organization survive an urban renewal program (LA Convention Center).

When I discovered that Venice was the only census tract in all of West Los Angeles to be a "poverty" census tract, I decided to see how UCLA could get involved in Venice, a turn of the 20th century beach city of worldwide repute that the City of LA had gobbled up in the mid-20s. The orphaned community had now fallen into disrepair, its canals polluted, it had become home to the poor — minorities, seniors, criminals, and

addicts.

I hired a young Venice Chicano, a member of BALA (Bay Area Latin Americans), to be a part-time community aide. He was a good guy who worked long hours and in staff and planning meetings he'd nod off...

It wasn't long before I realized, as did Dr. Gloria Powell of the UCLA Medical Center, that Venice was in the midst of a heroin epidemic. There were old school black and brown addicts from before World War II, and modern day white junkies that came to Venice, meeting at Brooks and the beach to score. But even more pressing were the Vietnam vets who returned home addicted to smack.

I remember meeting in a little office on Indiana near Lincoln when Jesse Pratt, a reformed Venice heroin addict who had helped Synanon, the anti-alcohol treatment program get started, spoke to a group who wanted to help provide resources to the addicts. At the door, half in, half out, was Dr. "Jolly" West, Dean of UCLA's new Neuropsychiatric Institute, who infamously overdosed an elephant with a huge dose of LSD. Eventually the Dept. of Psychiatry and the Dept. of Urban Affairs signed off on a \$400,000 government financed heroin treatment and research program between Venice & UCLA.

First in Venice, UCLA's Dept. of Dentistry had an outpatient office on Lincoln. UCLA's embracing of the



Bare butts photo: back cover: Venice Of America By Lance Diskan

Venice Family Clinic, thanks to the indefatigable Irma Colen and her allies, brought critically needed health-care resources to Venice's poor.

In those days community action agencies were funded from D.C. only if local authorities would sign off on the project. Projects that threatened local politicians for whatever reason did not get approved. The approval of the UCLA/Venice project had to be from either City of LA or City of Santa Monica. No chance in hell Mayor Sam Yorty's conservative beliefs would allow a project treating minorities to get City of LA approval. It was down to City of Santa Monica. We sat around a table of 16 people; City of Santa Monica's Police Chief ran the meeting, heroin use being a crime. He said, "There's no reason Santa Monica should get involved with Venice's social problems. Even if they're veterans, they all live in Venice. Out of our territory," the Chief grumbled.

Then Jesse Pratt spoke, a buddha-shaped black man with a polished pate, a Venice heroin addict for 14 years, who had made his living dealing cards at a gambling enterprise in Oakwood. Now, clean for 14 years, he had his own ideas about rehabilitating heroin addicts, which worked for Synanon and at the present time he was working in South Central at a drug treatment program for the County of Los Angeles. Jesse had plans and he had experience.

In a raspy voice Jesse told the Police Chief that many addicts have a \$100 a day habit. That means most of those addicts to pay for such an expensive habit end up stealing from somebody, every day of the week.

The Chief said, "So?" Well, that's when Jesse said, "Robbery for those addicts living in Venice is a wasted effort. There's no one in Venice with any money or anything to steal. In fact, all Venice addicts go to the Santa Monica Mall in hopes of scoring their daily fix.

Hugely successful program. Dr. Tom Ungerleider, Dept. of Psychiatry took over the lead. I was awarded with my dream job of being a social program evaluator, which I passed on to UCLA statistician Ken Sirotnik. Between us, and our wildly different educational backgrounds, we were able to create a fabulous

system of heroin treatment and its evaluation. Ken was a genius.

UCLA wasn't smart enough to keep a hold of him and he left for University of Washington. Governor Reagan killed our Department of Urban Affairs as Nixon was re-elected President of the United States.

Jesse's creation, Tuum Est (It's Up to You), created in 1969 by Venice addicts, UCLA nurses and doctors, and business people, was eventually folded into Phoenix House, a national drug rehabilitation program.

GF- Why did you write your first book on Venice?

SW- In 1970 I moved into Venice and raised my family on a North Beach walk street. Elected to the original Venice Town Council in 1973, I soon realized poverty communities don't get any press unless its minority murder related. I then began to write free-lance social commentary which were published in LA Times, LA Free Press, New West, California and other local pubs. When I went looking for a publisher for a Venice book, the publisher at Capra Press in Santa Barbara said, It's a regional book. Do it yourself. We did, Venice of America — The American Dream Come True (81 photos), a publishing project of Constitutional Capers.

We moved into Venice because we wanted our children to live in a diverse community. That we scored a Walk Street home, 1/2 a block from the beach, making life at the beach a never-ending adventure, was a bonus.

My first story for LA Free Press "136 Neighbors Dropped By Today" was about Election Day and our house was the Polling station and I noticed over 50% of Venetians in our precinct were not born in the U.S., most were European Jews who didn't fit in with the Fairfax crowd....

Venice used to be the Number One Entertainment Stop in the World and in its demise 50 years later Venice of America triggered the appearance of a totally diverse image of America that our manufacturers and broadcasters have been all too happy to share with the world. It was all magical, a city (now a section) devoted to having a good time, even for no cost. 1905-2005. Then Snap shit hit town and Venice has never been the same...

GF- Why did you write your new book?

SW- My new book is about the idealism of the Sixties and the Kennedy Brothers push for peace and



how that affected me and my contemporaries. JFK & RFK Made Me Do It: 1960-1968 by Sweet William 2021 by Peace Corps Writers & Constitutional Capers. It is due out soon. Amazon Kindle and more...

JFK & RFK Made Me Do It: 1960-1968. (c) 2021 Peace Corps Writers & Constitutional Capers.

GF- How do people connect with you?

SW- Sweet William, Constitutional Capers, Box 1050, Venice, CA 90294 concapers@sbcglobal.net

GF- Thanks for all your fine dedication to community. Your literary character of Thomas Pleasure gives rise to the ideals of one of our mutual heroes, Thomas Paine, whose democratic impulse nurtured both the purpose and promise of America. With a modern day tie to Paine, we can draw his ideas, inspiration, and encouragement from your work. What does Venice mean to you now?

SW- Diversity Works. Money Does Not Create Character. Actions Speak Louder Than Words. For example, Mt. Wilson, named after 19th century Indian Killer Benjamin Wilson, should be re-named in honor of Venice's founder, Abbot Kinney, California's 1st Forester and founder of California's 1st city dedicated to entertaining the public, originally proposed 100 years ago. ~

SWEET WILLIAMS BOOK is now available
<https://peacecorpsworldwide.org/sweet-william-publishes-jfk-rfk-made-me-do-it/>

VENICE AMERICA

By Stan Mitchell, Part One

By Enyaj Pitchford

I sat down to have a chat with Stan Mitchell, creator of the award winning Venice America film. I was delighted to find Stan to be a great historian and orator about the local history and realized I needed to introduce a chapter of Venice history that has been erased, outside of his documentary gem. So I will present part one of this conversation, focused on the events that inspired the film: a history of Venice that must be told. I will get more into the details of the film, including the many celebrities that supported it, next month. Stan Mitchell will prepare a showing/fundraiser to finish this staggering film, either through zoom or at a live venue, depending on how the Covid situation pans out in the near future. Not to be missed!

Stan began working on his movie in 1995 at Lisa Bonet’s Venice Heart Cultural Center, then located at her home on Milwood ave. in Venice. He wanted people to know the history of what was known locally as “The War”. This was an ongoing violent gang war between the local Black and Latino residents. People who had played in sandboxes together, played on the same baseball and football teams, went to the same schools, suddenly shared a deep seated hatred for one another. It was deemed the ‘gang war’ by the media but was different in that it lasted for nine months without ceasing, except when the Northridge earthquake happened and gave it pause for two weeks. “The earthquake kind of freaked them out.” Stan explains. “ It was the most killing and shooting that the neighborhood had ever experienced in our lifetime, before and since.” This was in a neighborhood now called Oakwood but then was locally known as “Ghost Town,” By the way it was given the name “Oakwood” by the Pacific Division police; they named it after the park where the youth and community hung out to distinguish it from the rest of Venice and to criminalize the area. Oakwood is the area that borders Abbot Kinney blvd. and Lincoln blvd., Rose Ave and California It was originally a neighborhood allocated for the local black servants/ domestic workers of Venice, Santa Monica, Pacific Palisades. Stan explains how that expression “the other side of the tracks’ ’ was born of this area which was on the other side of the tracks going down Electric Avenue, parallel to Abbot Kinney. Brooks becomes Lake street once you cross Lincoln blvd. That was to create a clear boundary as to where the residents of Oakwood were supposed to stay.”

So Oakwood was the “crime area” of Venice. While in reality, there were, and are, crimes all over Venice. Just like many focus on the homeless being on drugs while the whole city is on drugs all day long, Opiates is a crisis because it’s a rich White problem; crack is a criminal offense and dangerous because of the poor and Black that are it’s recipients. Stan Mitchell called his film Venice, America because “Venice is just a microcosm of what is going on all over America”. “Venice has a long history of embracing everyone from all over the world.” Stanley explains. “There are no misfits here. There are gangsters, houseless people. Black, White Asian, Native American, criminal youth, housewives, they fit. You might see a gangster talking to a movie star but they are cool with it because they see each other casually and may even speak to one another because they are part of the same hood.”

The gentrification of Venice started in the 70s. Reagan didn’t want the government affordable apartments to be here. He didn’t want the black people to settle into that area for generations. California was growing fast. The state colleges were free here. The realtors saw that as a great selling point that one could live by the sea and get their children a free education at a quality school. A lot of white America started coming here for that and the weather. Venice was particularly interesting for the real estate market as it was the only “ghetto by the sea”. It was poor, minority owned, so the real estate was cheap. One pocket, the cheaper area, was just black people, Oakwood: to get that area would be a gold mine! Hence the push began. California’s growing and white people want to live by the beach. Stan says “when he

was in school on a football team his coach, way back in 1974, said to the black kids on our team “One day Venice is going to be all white.’ We looked at him , and paused, we couldn't process it at the time and just went back to playing ball. It seemed unimaginable back then. When I was twenty, about ‘83, then I began noticing what he meant; starting with Dennis Hopper. He and his friends would create mansions disguised as apartment buildings so that no one would notice. But we all knew where Dennis Hopper lived back then.” {I actually lived in a van across the street from his place in the nineties and saw that his place had a long hall with rooms on each side of it just as if it were separate apartments.)

Stan continues “When the war hit, the cops allowed us to be killed. During this time, ‘Ghost Town’ was constantly patrolled. The cops were not more than a minute away at any time. So when people were getting shot, there were many instances where the cops wouldn’t show up until after 20 minutes”. He recalls an ambulance being right up the street from the scene of a shooting , with a young black man, an innocent man, lying on the ground bleeding to death. But the ambulance driver said when approached. “We’re not allowed to come without a cop escort” Stan recalls that “ The cops were around the corner but didn’t come for 20 minutes. They let him die. That’s when we knew that the police were working with the developers to take over the neighborhood. They want this real estate. They didn’t care about the bodies piling up. That’s what made me want to do the documentary. They’re killing us; they’re letting us kill each other, all because of the real estate.”

I inquired why the cops behaved like they did; so discriminatory. He had an intelligent response.

“The cops come here with an agenda. They are from a certain kind of people. It doesn't matter if you're white or black if you're not from the same kind of people they come from, you’re not their kind of people whom they serve and protect. Before they are cops, they come with their own psychology. You can’t undo their psychology in six months of training.”

I inquired about, how did the hatred between the black and brown come to be? “We have two groups of oppressed people. Like two abused pitbulls sharing the same yard. Eventually, they are going to go at each other.”, (Two dogs fight the third dog gets the bones. The third dog is the wolf, the developers.) But despite this reckoning in the film, Stan stays positive. He goes on to explain that “ our culture of Venice America has a motto called “Culture Heals”. The reason the film was made was that this pathology of violence in America was in Venice and a lot of people didn't know it was happening. Venice was the biggest tourist attraction next to Disneyland!. People knew about BayWatch. “ No one knew that a few blocks from the beach was an urban area that was just like any other urban area and was full of violence and people being killed every day. Just like any other inner city, just by the beach.”

I asked him if the Other Venice Film Festival ever saw his work? He says, with a slight smile,”A friend of mine entered it before I felt it was ready. I was surprised to learn that it l won best short. And I had the longest Q and A of any other film. They had to cut it off because people were so curious and asking so many questions. And it was heated because people had strong opinions. Many times the crowd was debating with each other because someone would ask me a question, and someone in the audience would answer it.” He says the crowd was mostly white, with a few black people at the festival, but it was hippie, Asian, Mexican, rich , poor, and conservative. In that way it was mixed. He found it a “very emotional experience!”

He saw that the “people were passionate about it and got something out of it, even though it wasn’t finished. So that was encouraging”.

But in the midst of doing it , there were a lot of trials and tribulations for Stan. It contributed to his breaking up with his first wife. He suddenly had their three kids for the entire first six months until she found a place and they shared them four days on and off. Stan explains that “ For me psychologically

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it was a big adjustment. It made me more empathetic with women, to mothers, because I never spent that much time and energy on my boys alone before.” He said he began to realize that he was actually depressed, despite enjoying his time with his boys. It wasn’t easy knowing their mother was with another man when she was away. Then he had trouble with the production company he was with, and he felt they were trying to sabotage the film, so he had to pull away from the project. But now he feels ready to move forward. His boy even helped him with the project, so it’s a true family affair and coming back on a high note.

I’ll have more on the film Venice, America next issue. Meanwhile you can see some clips on YouTube at Venice America.





The Nest is Expanding!



SPY is excited to announce the expansion of The Nest, our housing program that serves pregnant and parenting youth between the ages of 18-24 who are experiencing homelessness. The new site will house previously unhoused young adults with their children, ages seven and under.

“Young people who are parents or are becoming parents, have a unique set of needs. The Nest Family Housing program addresses these by providing care and services to support both young parents and their children. We’re thrilled to expand The Nest. Last year, our pregnant and parenting program was instrumental in helping house 93 children and 118 young people,” said Iberia Calix SPY’s Director of Housing.

Parents receive no-cost housing for up to 36 months. SPY staff will also provide personalized case management, education and employment training, and supportive family services that are necessary to permanently exit homelessness and transition into a healthy, stable life.

The expansion of this program was made possible thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, SPY Board Member, Sally Paquette, and partnerships with Set For Life, Inglewood and Westchester Rotary Clubs, Baby2Baby, and Honest Co.

This month, Governor Gavin Newsom made history by signing a series of key bills for California’s state budget - the largest investment in youth homelessness in the state’s history

- The Budget includes:
- \$2 billion for flexible homelessness assistance to local governments over two years. Ten percent is reserved for youth experiencing homelessness.
 - \$8 million in ongoing funding for the Transitional Housing Program (THP) for youth ages 18 through 24, with priority given to former foster and probation youth.
 - And \$5 million for the Housing Navigators Program (HNP) for youth ages 18 through 21, with priority given to non-minor dependents.



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Painting by Frank Strasser. Electric Avenue.



Michael Wilson original doll maker on VB OFW. Photo by Enyaj Pitchford.

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WOMEN’S
LAW CENTER

Pursuing Justice for Women and Girls

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LEGAL HOUSING CLINIC

EVERY TWO WEEKS

November 7 and November 21

10:00am - 12:00pm

CALL FOR SCHEDULING

1-800-541-9913

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are available to discuss your legal housing needs, including questions about emergency measures related to COVID-19.

To receive free legal assistance please contact cwlc@cwlc.org or (323) 951-1041 to schedule your reservation.





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Landscape Architecture & Garden Coach



PATRICIA "SUGAR" WITHERSPOON'S BIRTHDAY

On August 21, 2021 a large gathering of well-dressed locals and supporters joined in Oakwood Park to celebrate the birthday of Venice Elder Patricia "Sugar" Witherspoon. Music and food was enjoyed by all at this "Function at the Junction" outdoor party in the heart of Venice. Ms. Witherspoon received a Los Angeles Certificate of Recognition from Councilman Mike Bonin for her decades of work with at-risk youth and underserved populations in Venice.

Ms. Witherspoon has volunteered with Common Ground doing street outreach to unhoused women. She was hired as a Needle Exchange worker and she has provided HIV testing and education to at-risk people in the Venice Community. She has worked for Venice 2000 and H.E.L.P.E.R. Foundation as a case manager, and she has led Common Ground's cutting-edge prevention program for Black women.

Ms. Witherspoon is the treasurer of the Ship of Zion Christian Center and she serves on the Pastor's Aid Committee. As of this day, she celebrates thirty years of sobriety. In her address to the audience, she said that "People fall to the left or the right but God keeps me standing."



Photos by Paulo Freire Lopez



A New Book Called “Venice Beach”

Reviewed by marty liboff

The Beachhead received a book for us to review called, **Venice Beach, by William Mark Habeeb, copyright 2021.** Thinking it was a book about Venice Beach I read it. It is well written. This is a fiction novel set in what was supposed to be Venice in 1968. It is the story of a 13 year old boy who runs away from Ohio to escape abuse from his father and older brother. His uncle raped him. His mother had become a drunk and couldn't help him. The kids at school bullied him because he was small and not athletic and different. Finally he got on a bus and headed for sunny California because all the TV shows were from here.

Very soon he was hungry and homeless on the streets of LA. In a couple years he is drowned in every deep ocean of sorrows you can imagine. He quickly starts smoking pot and being involved in pot sales. He learns to drink beer. Goes into a shelter. Lives with a couple lesbians and one of their sons. Has both homosexual and female fantasies. Has recurring nightmares. He goes with a young girl who had been repeatedly raped by her step father. He has his first sexual encounter. Fathers a baby. And along the way his close friends get sick with cancer and aids. If you want a cheery, happy story, don't read this! I was very depressed while reading one miserable event after another. The author, Mr. Habeeb, was trained in psychology and he seemed to want to throw in every problem he could think of! YOW!

Despite it being so depressing, the story is hard to put down. It made me think of my own life mistakes and painful memories. The one big thing the book lacked was the reason I started reading it in the first place is “Venice Beach”. Much of the story was supposed to take place at Venice Beach but the story has very little to do with Venice other than mentioning a couple places like Mark Twain and Venice High where the main character Moon or Charlie went to school. He supposedly hangs out some on the Ocean Front Walk but there is little to no actual places he talks about. I feel the author was not here in 1968. The book could have been in Anyplace, USA. I was born here and was here in 1968 Venice. I was hoping he would at least mention some of the cool Venice places like the Cheetah Club, Comeback Inn, Fox Venice Theater, the Lafayette Cafe or even the bakery my mom ran. He could have even mentioned the Beachhead! So why did he name his book, VENICE BEACH?

This is Mr. Habeeb's first novel. He has written several non fiction books. He teaches in Georgetown's University School of Foreign Service and lives in Virginia. He has degrees in International Relations and studied psychoanalytic theory with the Washington Center for Psychoanalysis.

From the jacket: “What a relief it is to see an adolescent song that does not partake of sensational rhetorical exceptionalism of some sort—speak like Twain, Salinger’s Holden’s Tourette’s—for its effect. A crime common if not endemic to the form, of which I am guilty. Venice Beach portrays a sad tough boyhood, not reaching for cuddly surrealism. The story is compelling for what in it feels completely true, and not pushed or forced.”

—Padgett Powell, author of Edisto, The Interrogative Mood, and Indigo

“Heartbreak, passion and mystery abound in this powerfully moving coming-of-age story that captures the crazy, vibrant essence of pre-gentrified Venice, a place that pulsed with creative energy. Venice Beach in 1968 proves to be the perfect place for a troubled young runaway to discover who he is and what his life is all about; a transformative personal journey that is powerful, heartbreaking, and ultimately hopeful.”

—John O’Kane, author of Venice, CA: A City State ofMind, A Venice Quintet, and Jukebox Confessionals

Beach Camping Evictions — continued from page 3

guard dog which was barking constantly. The police had not determined who did it, but the headlines were basically homeless criminals fire bomb a dog.

The second fake news story was the alleged attack on Councilman Buscaino at his press conference on OFW where he was signaling to the public that he was in favor of jailing the homeless criminals. Angel, a homeless woman dropped her knife, picked it up, and then got jumped by the police and her knife was taken away. It became too good of an opportunity for Buscaino’s supporters to swear that Angel attacked Buscaino. A video recording disproved their claims and she was released.

The third fake news story involved the bust of Garry Featherstone, detailed elsewhere in this newspaper.

This is basically an issue of rights, the right not to be arrested if you don’t have any money to afford a place to live. Now LA has passed new prohibitions on camping in parks. “Draconian is definitely the correct word,” said Pete White of the LA Community Action Network. “I think it’s impossible to comply.”

Videos About Homelessness

I have put all these videos into a youtube playlist, here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLI-JW8bXRpaV7SAU9rdviLVzd6yLfr35HN>

Tony Vera

Also known as the Venice Owl , Tony is a Paparazzi, usually seeking celebrities at LAX but he loves his Venice Beach People and he knows what it is to be poor. His videos are long for with few edits, but he lets people talk.

3AM evictions LA sanitation with LAPD Home-

less encampment enforcement at Venice beach

Eviction Day LAPD Homeless encampment enforcement at Venice beach

Sheriff Villanueva Tells Fox and friends and ABC Victory over Homeless encampment at Venice beach

Gary Featherstone talking about the False Arrest by Sheriff

This LAPD pacific Division sergeant knows how to treat the public and Media at Venice Beach

Big Lie on homeless woman named Angel Joe buscaino running for mayor she was Falsely arrested

Invisible People

Homeless Woman Doesn't Drink or Use Drugs. In a Tent for 8 Years.

Los Angeles Homeless Man Produces Podcast with his Cellphone

Homeless Woman Has a Masters in Mathematics and Engineering

Vice News

What Happens When Cities Make Homelessness a Crime: Hiding The Homeless


Austin Residents Can’t Agree on How to Fix the Homelessness Crisis

PBS

In LA, poverty on Skid Row defies US’ humane reputation

Brave New Films

Nowhere To Go But Jail? • OverCriminalized: Homelessness



NOTICE: RESUMPTION OF NORMAL OPERATIONS ON July 30, 2021.

USE OF TENTS IS PROHIBITED. TRESSPASSING AND STORAGE OF
PERSONAL PROPERTY AFTER CLOSING IS PROHIBITED.

PLEASE OBSERVE ALL POSTED SIGNAGE.

PLEASE REMOVE ALL PERSONAL PROPERTY FROM THIS
BEACH PARK EACH DAY PRIOR TO CLOSING.

Personal Property cannot be stored in any City of Los Angeles park (Los Angeles Municipal Code Section 63.44.(B)(26)(f) and 63.44(l)(13(f)). Personal Property remaining in the park after hours is being stored in this park in violation of Section 63.44 and may be removed by the City. Any Personal Property stored in violation of this LAMC Section will be collected by the City, identified, bagged, and stored at Chrysalis (The Bin), 507 Towne Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90013. If the impounded property is not claimed within 90 days, the property may be discarded by the City. Information about the location and retrieval of any impounded property, or about voluntary storage can be obtained by calling 844-475-1244 or visiting lacitysan.org/livability.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSONAL PROPERTY TO BE REMOVED:

All personal property remaining anywhere on the beach after 12:00 am or anywhere on Ocean Front Walk or any pier after 2:00am each day, including, but not limited to, tents, tarpaulins, bedding, chairs, backpacks, clothing, documents, and medication, may be removed and stored, as indicated.

All items that pose an immediate threat to the health or safety of the public may be immediately removed and discarded.

POSTING LOCATION: ~~3400 Ocean Front Walk~~ Venice Beach

POST DATE: ~~7/29/2021~~ , TIME: 11:15 AM , SR NUMBER #: ~~00000000~~ J E R K A N

ROGUE DEPUTIES. — continued from page 3

erstone was handcuffed with his hands behind his back, and placed in his patrol car. After Featherstone was secured in his car, and other Deputies had arrived on the scene, Deputies began to walk around Featherstone’s car looking into the windows looking for something to give them probable cause to search the car. They seen nor found anything.

After approximately 10 minutes, Deputies began to search Featherstone car. They looked everywhere, even under the hood. Please take note of the photos. Featherstone is not on Probation nor Parole.

Featherstone did not give permission to search his car.

Approximately 15 minutes later the Sergeant came and informed Featherstone that he had contacted another Sergeant who was coming to talk with him. As stated, a female Sergeant came and talk to Featherstone. She stated that the parking lot had been under surveillance for drug trafficking. Featherstone then asked her if she had seen him and she stated, yes. Featherstone then asked her what was he doing, and she responded by stating, “you were working on something.” Featherstone’s question to her was if this was a narcotics investigation, why did Deputy Rojas claim it was a burglary investigation, and he was searching me for burglary tools?

After Featherstone’s car was searched over and over again, he was finally informed that he was free to leave. Featherstone had been detained for over an hour. The other two men were released also.

Please take note that the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department has invaded the city of Venice, claiming they were addressing the homeless problem. Please take note that this is not entirely true. They have gone out of their way to make arrests, but every arrest comes with civil rights violations. The following are men and women that were arrested in Venice by the Sheriff’s Department:

1. Russell Zayas Arrested at his Job on 3rd street. No probable cause to search or arrest.
2. Brandon George Arrested on 3rd street. No probable cause to enter this mans tent.
3. William Cook Arrested on Vernon Ave. No probable cause to search.
4. Dawn little Arrested for possession for sale. No probable to search.

This is only a few of the arrests the Sheriffs Department have made, and every one of them is faulty with 4th amendment violations. Intentional 4th Amendment violations. It seems as though the Los Angeles County Sheriff has instructed his department to affect arrests by any means necessary.

The Los Angeles County Sheriff has used the homeless problem as a political issue. He is not trying to help the homeless situation. He’s using this as a platform for his re-election campaign. No Law Enforcement Department can accidentally make this many bad arrests in such a short period of time.

Featherstone is requesting a full investigation into the stop, detainment, and the search of Featherstone. Please take note that the Sheriffs Department is intentionally hiding information. For example, rather than call for a supervisor over the communication radio, they do so by using their cell phone. The Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department do not wear body camera’s, and it is for this reason they are allowed to get away with all of these violations. Unlike the Los Angeles Police Department, the Sheriffs Department has no accountability. Citizens have no access to communication tapes, because there is no communication. Citizens have no access to body camera footage because there is none.

Injured Person:
Garry Vincent Featherstone

Checking/Savings Account History					
STATEMENT MAILING NAME: GARRY VINCENT FEATHERSTONE					
Show 10 entries			Search: made in a		
Date	Description	Image Available	Check Number	Amount	Balance
08/28/2021	WITHDRAWAL MADE IN A BRANCH/STORE	Yes		7,500.00	12,897.88
Showing 1 to 1 of 1 entries (filtered from 101 total entries)					

Phone 424 414 8637
cc: Los Angeles County Inspector General
County Board of Supervisors
News Outlet

On July 22, 2021, the owner of HOMELESS ENTERPRISE was driving his car down Vernon Ave, when Deputies boxed him in and removed him from his vehicle. He was handcuffed and placed in the back of a patrol car. Deputies transported him down the block to his cousins house. Deputies asked him if he lived with his cousin, and he told them no. The deputies told the owner of HOMELESS ENTERPRISE that because they seen him in his cousins yard, they assumed he lived there, and they got a search warrant for that location. Please to notice that the owner of HOMELESS ENTERPRISE lives on 3rd street, which can be verified by the Los Angeles police Department.

Deputies executed a search warrant on the HOMELESS ENTERPRISE OWNERS cousins house. Please take note, the search warrant contained no name, nor did it specify what they were looking for. Deputies took a battering ram and knocked down the door. Made entry and searched the house. The owner of the house was at work, who just happens to by a 40 year employee of the County. After searching her house, they called in a K-9 to search the house again. There was nothing found at this location. How do you serve a search warrant on someone when you don’t even specify a name, or what you are looking for. I’m attaching a copy of this bare bone search, warrant.

When they found nothing there, they transported the owner of HOMELESS ENTERPRISE TO 3rd street, where his business is located. People please pay close attention to what i ‘m saying. Like the house on Vernon, the search warrant had no name, nor did it specify what it was searching for. When they went to the tent, and a employee was in the tent. They cuffed him and placed him in a patrol car, then started searching the tent. When they did not find anything in the tent, they called in another K-9 to search the place. Please keep in mind, the search warrant was for the tent, and tent only. When they completed the search, they found nothing. However, like the Sheriffs Department has been doing since in Venice~, they ignored the instructions in the warrant, and started searching other stuff outside of the tent. They searched along a wall, under tables, and even went into another tent, and through that tent to the other side. I’m told that during this extra search, they found some PCP, which was not in the tent. They also claim they found some meth, but they led you to believe that it belong to the owner of HOMELESS ENTERPRISE. They found the meth in a woman’s purse, and that woman took responsibility for it, and received a ticket.

Now, whoever is reporting that the Sheriff’s department found \$15,000 worth of PCP, you are a liar, and you’re lying intentionally. Ask the sheriffs department to show you \$15,000 worth of PCP. This is to hype it up and make the Sheriff look good. Ask yourself, how do you charge the owner of HOMELESS ENTERPRISE with PCP that you found in a common area frequent by homeless people every-day. Oh, they did not tell you that.

Let’s get to the money. All this money the Sher-

Checking/Savings Account History

STATEMENT MAILING NAME: GARRY VINCENT FEATHERSTONE					
Show 10 entries			Search: withd		
Date	Description	Image Available	Check Number	Amount	Balance
07/12/2021	NON-WF ATM WITHDRAWAL AUTHORIZED ON 07/11 910 LINCOLN BLVD VENICE CA 00581192500306355 ATM ID KR002676 CARD 6007	No		403.25	9,120.56
06/28/2021	WITHDRAWAL MADE IN A BRANCH/STORE	Yes		7,500.00	12,897.88
06/28/2021	ATM WITHDRAWAL AUTHORIZED ON 06/27 170 PIER AVE Santa Monica CA 0005014 ATM ID 9899U CARD 6007	No		700.00	20,397.88
05/03/2021	ATM WITHDRAWAL AUTHORIZED ON 05/01 170 PIER AVE Santa Monica CA 0006416 ATM ID 9899U CARD 6007	No		600.00	259.42
Showing 1 to 4 of 4 entries (filtered from 101 total entries)					

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iffs were suppose to have found, that’s a lie to. The owner of HOMELESS ENTERPRISE was in the process of buying a catering truck, so he withdrew \$7500.00 from Wells Fargo Bank. Also, while at the Hollywood Park Casino, he hit a jackpot and his take was \$8600.00. What the Sheriff’s a Department is not telling you is when they stopped him the first time at Lincoln Hardware, the owner of HOMELESS ENTERPRISE had some of that same money in his possession. They knew it because they took it out of his pocket and counted it, and gave it back. We will be posting the receipts for this money on Monday. The owner was charged with, ‘possession for sale of PCP, and cited out of jail and given \$900.00 of his money back. Go figure. \$15,000 dollars worth of PCP. They really are trying to help the Sheriff.

No, you did not know all of this did you. The Sheriff’s department is in VENICE making a mockery of this city, but at the same time telling you they are dealing with the homeless problem. Do yourself a favor and ask L.A.D.P. what they think. What little trust and communication L.A.P .D. had is gone. In one month the Sheriffs Department have set L.A.P.D. back years.

Please don’t take my word for it. The same thing that happen to the owner of HOMELESS ENTERPRISE, happen to William Cook, Brandon George, Russell Zayas, Micheal Ridley, Dawn Little, and several others. William Cook, rolled through a stop sign, for that Deputies followed him home, snatched him out of his car, placed him in cuffs, searched him and claim they found some meth. Brandon George was sitting in front of his tent when Deputies pulled up, got out of their car, and grabbed Brandon and placed him in cuffs and put him in the back of their car while they searched his tent. George Zayas was at work on 3rd street when Deputies pulled up at his work cite, placed him in cuffs, and placed him in the back of his car. They searched his car and claim they found meth. He was arrested, and cited out a few hours later.

What I’m trying to get you to see is that there is no probable cause to stop, search, nor detain, but the Sheriffs Department is doing it anyway. This is a dog and pony show. Make an arrest, then notify the media. KTLA was contacted And given an opportunity to talk with the owner of HOMELESS ENTERPRISE, but they have not called back.

Do you hate the homeless so much until you are willing to turn a blind eye to this out of control Sheriffs Department. A woman who has worked for the county for over 40 years has had her home invaded for no reason at all. What did she do? ~

We are going to post some videos of some people who were arrested. Stay Tuned.



HOLLYWOOD PARK CASINO

Promotion Payout

Voucher Nbr: UCTF03155427
Issued Date: 07/19/2021 04:48 AM



Player ID: P000076547
GARRY VINCENT FEATHERSTONE

Promotion: Poker Jackpot

Hand: 8/16 & 15/30 Hold'em (reseal at \$40,000)

Table: 43 Seat: 4

Chips: \$8,600.00

Floor: 3461 Daniel Browne

Customer: GARRY VINCENT FEATHERSTONE

Approved By: DANIEL

Shift Manager: DANIEL

Cage: DANIEL

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There is a giant pile of shit about to fall on our heads on September 14! Everyone thinks that since there are 46 candidates running in the recall election against Gov. Newsom that he can't lose. Think again! Because of out dated and completely unfair recall rules we may see some fascist Republican get in with only a few votes! What has not been made clear to voters is that Gov. Newsom needs to get 50% or more of the NO vote to continue as Governor. He could get 49.9% and lose! Whoever then gets the most votes out of the 46 other candidates will be Governor! We could get crazy Caitlyn Jenner, loco Larry Elder or Adolph Hitler with only 2% of the vote! This is nuts and totally unfair. At the moment lunatic Larry Elder is leading the pack of the other candidates and is very likely he will be our Dictator, I mean Governor!

What also has not been made clear is that even if you vote NO on the recall you can STILL VOTE FOR ANOTHER CANDIDATE. So you can vote NO to the recall and then vote for another Democrat or liberal on the slate of candidates in case Newsom doesn't get the 50%. Unfortunately Gov. (Nuisance) Newsom hasn't been supporting another Democrat in case he doesn't get the 50% and so most Democrats are not voting for an alternative candidate or even know they can vote NO and still vote for another Democrat. This is extremely important to vote for an alternative liberal candidate in case the NO vote is less than the 50% otherwise we will ensure Larry will become our Governor. If ya thought Trump was bad just wait to Larry Elder is our leader!

This a disaster waiting to happen in our state. Republicans couldn't win a fair and open race for office so now they have forced us into a ridiculously unfair and expensive recall election.

marty

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To a Soldier's Wife

by Majid Naficy

I see you looking at him
In a sad mortuary in your town
Where the chimneys have darkened the sky
And poverty passes whistling
In its dirty suit.

There, I became a drop of tear
Falling from your beautiful eyes
Onto his sutured mouth
And his torn body
And I became a mournful cry
From your tightened throat
As his casket was carried away
And placed into the shameless ground.

Did you ask his mother
When he took his first step
And what was his first word
And who got his first smile?
His last cry can still be heard
When God of War
Put a machine gun in his hands
And sent him to the battlefield:
"Kill! Or be killed!"

I know that he loved you
And tenderness had polished his eyes.
When did you kiss him first
And for the last time
With what dream
Did you send him off?

One: The Scent of Joseph's Shirt
by Majid Naficy, from "Four Poems of the Bay Area"

Should I listen to the sound of water
Or to the call of wind?
The water comes from the heart of the sea
And the wind from the other side of the city
But both have the same message.

These hard days will pass
And the wind that today brings
The smell of Corona
Will become fragrant tomorrow.

Previous poets have said the same thing.
Hafez sat at Roknabad Brook
To see the passage of time
And smell the scent of Joseph's shirt*
In the wind.

This is the secret of my long walks.
By the San Francisco Bay.

August 2, 2021

* In this gazal, the thirteenth-century Persian poet Hafez of Shiraz alludes to the Abrahamic story of Joseph who was sold into slavery by his brothers, and speaks directly to Joseph's father, who grieved his son's loss for years:

Joseph, the lost, will return to Canaan, grieve not
This house of sorrow will become a rose garden again, grieve not

Ode to the Ancient Mariner

for Jack Hirschman

by Mark Lipman

The northern star has dimmed
and the west wind has blown its last
the ship now sails without a rudder
no lucky penny beneath the mast
our trackless voyage has now begun
ashes to ashes and dust to dust
the siren’s final song be sung.

Ulysses has gone down with the ship
the captain be gone and his first mate
pulled beneath waves of time unrelenting
as sands run out the hour grows late
for the crew still manning the yardarm.

Each to the last now contemplates fate
seeing the sun grow low on the horizon
as the hull just bobs aimlessly in place
was it the full moon or the empty heart
that caused those endless seas to flatten
that made revolution pause and take notice.

No it u lover, there is no turning back
neither day nor night nor shoreline wait
for hands to take up the oars and row,
row matie, the devil’s beating down the door
time is no longer on our side, forever is now,
in this moment, and even all the mermaids’ tears
can’t save a drowning man from that vast ocean
can’t save us from ourselves, as we ride eternity
and the inevitable to where it all began.

Say it ain’t so, Comrade Joe,
Comrade Jack, with your endless red scroll
written for that precariate class, still clinging
to the ropes and the hope of that brighter day
with the final verse still left unfinished
your greatest poem waits incomplete
as it always was and will always be
your ink still wet and never ending
staining your fingertips as it continues
to score the page like fragments of a dream
half awake, and those spots left blank
that final all important chapter
the unknown that we must discover
and shape without a map or compass
without a pilot or guide to lead us
with simply the memories we carry
as we cross those uncharted waters
with nothing to lift us, but those heartfelt
rhymes and songs of the ancient mariners.

--

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In Solidarity with Afghan Women

My poem has the scent of Nadia
In memory of Nadia Anjuman
By Majid Naficy

When I light the oven early morning
My bread looks like Dari poetry.
I find its starter in my dreams
And I knead it between sleep and waking.

My wheat comes from the land of Toos
Where Ferdowsi spread its seeds,
And my poppy seeds from the valley of Yamgan
Where Naser Khosrow planted their roots,
And my oven pebbles from the banks of Amoo River
Where Roodaki called them soft as silk,
And my firewood from the grove of Balkh reeds
Where Rumi kept the fire of his love.

But when I take it out of the oven
It looks like a Sangak bread
Shaped as a Woman in her chadour,
Shouting voicelessly: "It's me,
The poet of 'Dark Flower,'
Ravaged by my husband in Herat."

My bread looks like Dari poetry
Perfumed with the scent of Nadia.
If you want it hot and fresh
Put your hand in the fire.

November 15, 2005

Note
* Dari Persian poetry began in the 9th century in the greater Khorasan region. Todaycthis area is divided among Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and some Turkish centralcAsian countries. The four classical Persian poets whose names are mentioned in thecpoem as well as Nadia Anjuman all come from that region.

People's Republic

Santa Monica Blvd.
and Park on
one side, Chelsea
on the other,
waiting on tires
for the V.W.
Drinking a dark
roast, watching traffic,
in the People's Republic of S.M."
An Asian man
stands in front
of the German
American club building.
Now that's diversity!
Hot morning in
the August summer.
A loud, obnoxious
truck parks curbside.
The driver returns
my look of
annoyance with a
glare of entitlement.
'F---ing trump supporter',
I think silently.
A fish out
of water in
the 'people's republic'.
Sitting at an
outdoor rattan table,
sipping a "Starbucks",
with a ponytail
and LL.Bean
shorts, waiting on
tires for my
always P.C.
'72 convertible bug ...
I fit in!

08-25-20
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Fume

buy alan rodman

I know you are busy
don't let it make you dizzy
isn't it pretty living
in this grit and glitter
of the city?
I am a cloud
of pleasant fumes
drifting in a sky of
pheasant plumes
eating some sun dried
plums
using only my
thumbs

*

Bar none

by alan rodman

Triptacle
bicycle
clinical
clam

cynical
succotash
stimulate
jam

minimum
overhead
clearance
below

two guys
ran into
a bar,
y'know

just their
luck.
(third guy
ducked)

*

A yarn

by alan r odman

When fate's knitting
wrapped you in
an awful itchy sweater
out of fashion bulky knit

unravel your whole yarn
unwind your twine
uncover the truth
be naked

spin your spiel
speak your change
your mind or mine
reveal your tail

this paper is a poem

11 • September 2021 • FREE VENICE BEACHHEAD

THIS IS FUCKED UP!
BY-MOISHE SCVONTZ- a rap song

This is fucked up!
Couldn't pay my Venice rent
now cops have kicked me out of my tent.
They forget even Jim Morrison had no home
before he got famous, around Venice he'd roam.
The Covid got my job
so I live on the streets like a slob.
Now I'm broke and houseless
my life has become a mess.
They say being poor is no sin
but I eat from a garbage bin.
Squeezed in a stinky shelter with no privacy or rights
I'd rather be outdoors enjoying the sights.
The assholes who run our city
only want money & power & have no pity.
Only fake news from the Left and Right
the real truth is out of sight.
The media lies and won't hear
says we're all criminals and hope we just disappear.
The TV says we're all on meth, fentanyl & crack
my parents don't want me back.
Its a crime to be houseless in LA city
I'm treated like shit without any dignity.
The rich think we're worthless scum
so they take away my freedom.
Cops say they have nice housing for me in jail
lock me up for nothing without money for bail.
In the jail looney bin they put me on tons of pills
could've bought me a mansion for all their bills.
They think I'm nuts & out of my head
many would rather see me dead.
Remember we could be your child
most of us are nice, kind & mild.
Fools think the problem will just magically go away
yet there are thousands more houseless everyday.
This is fucked up!
Couldn't pay my Venice rent
now cops have kicked me out of my tent...
This is fucked up!

KICKED OUT OF PARADISE
marty (to John Haag)
'We are trespassing on Indian lands'
walking on their bones-
In 1781 Spaniards came with armed men
with weapons and guns
and forced the People
off their rivers and the sea.
Smashed their huts and tents
trashed their belongings
forced them out of Paradise.
In 2021 NIMBYS came with armed men
with weapons and guns
and forced the People
off their parks and Venice Beach.
Smashed their huts and tents
trashed their belongings
forced them out of Paradise.
In day or under cover of night
the Haters took away the People's homes
forced them into outer darkness
or beat and arrested any who disobeyed.
The Haters and their armed police
laughed and rejoiced
at the tears of the People.
The Great Spirit sent Her great White Owl
to watch the People's pain in the darkness.
An Omen that no evil deed goes unseen.
For even the rich and mighty
can be forced from their homes.
Sickness, war, earthquake or flood
the high can become low and the low high.
'He who sows injustice will reap disaster
and the rod of his fury
will be destroyed.'
'A generous man will be blessed
for he shares his bread with the poor.'
Someday others will be walking
on our bones...



Bill Tompkins' paintings of Venice Beach regulars from 16 years ago. Photos by Eric Ahlberg

These photos were taken at the People Overcoming Poverty Party at the United Methodist Church 05/21/06. I could only identify Billy Harris. So I asked Marty Liboff, and this is what he said.

TOP ROW – Far left, Perry Huba Huba Hernandez, the glass walker= deceased. Middle, I think this was the artist? He signed his name TONY on the bottom right painting. It looks like TONY b D ? Haven't seen him in years? Far right, Billy Harris the sax player= deceased.

MIDDLE ROW – Far left, the Butterfly girl. I used to know her well but I've forgotten her real name. She moved away at least 12 years ago. I remember these other two but don't remember their names anymore.

BOTTOM ROW – I remember these people but the only one I remember the name of is the one on the bottom far right= JEROME is on the skateboard. Everyone used to know Jerome. He was a dancing dwarf (thalidomide baby). He had a bad time with his aids and was robbed and homeless for a while. He used to come by the beach occasionally a few years ago but I haven't seen him in a long time. This one is the one that there is a signature- TONY

