

FREE VENICE

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BEACHHEAD

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WAH-WAH

Q&A with
would-be
Mayors –
page 12

February 2005

ISSUE NO. 282 • P.O. BOX 644, VENICE, CALIFORNIA 90294 • www.freevenice.org • Beachhead@freevenice.org

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Public Records Reveals:

Plot Uncovered to Paralyze Venice Neighborhood Council

By Jim Smith

Leaders of the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council (GRVNC) have learned, through the release of public records, that several Los Angeles city departments were secretly monitoring their activities. Ultimately, members of a working group within the city government succeeded in overturning the neighborhood council's election and rendering the GRVNC unable to function.

The documents also show that city officials believed racism against white Venetians was rampant, and was coming from other whites, including those on the GRVNC! While Venice avoided rioting last summer by angry white people, hostility toward the neighborhood council persisted, as documents show.

"Venice has gone rogue..." declared a Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) staff member while asking the League of Women Voters not to assist in the GRVNC election. A Human Relations Commission member warned against allowing neighborhood councils too much latitude: "Expecting the NC's to develop their own procedures, or to develop a city-wide procedure is too risky..."

The documents, obtained through a public records request by Venice resident John Davis in December, reveal that DONE convinced the GRVNC Board to submit a challenge of its June 2004 election to an arbitrator that DONE knew was biased against the council. In addition, one email (Exhibit G) is from a DONE official to the arbitrator, suggesting to him how he should frame his decision. GRVNC was offered no such access to the arbitrator.

Davis requested the public records after he and eight other elected GRVNC Board members were put out of office in November. Davis said he was surprised by the number of people and city departments that had been involved in monitoring GRVNC: "Even the Mayor's office and the local city council office (CD11) appear on the email list discussing what to do to the certified neighborhood council. Why they never contacted GRVNC is still a mystery,"

Other community leaders displaced by the arbitrator's decision, which was held by DONE for a week before being released on Nov. 16, include: DeDe McCrary, Bridget Graham, Emily Winters, Dr. Alice Stek, Zoe Garaway, Deborah

See the documents on pages 4-5.

Krall, Michael McGuffin and Dennis Hathaway. DONE, acting on its own, also refused to recognize four additional Board appointees – Francisco Letelier, Inge Mueller, Kristen Weirick and Don Geagan. By eliminating the four, who had been functioning for several months, DONE rendered the Board unable to achieve a quorum.

The documents also show that the arbitrator, Gary de la Rosa, a staff member of the Human Relations Commission (HRC), was deeply involved in GRVNC affairs even before the June election. He and others apparently believed allegations by anti-GRVNC activists in Venice that the Board was fostering an atmosphere of racism against whites. There was no attempt by DONE or any other city officials to contact any officers of the GRVNC about the allegations. GRVNC was unaware that it was the topic of discussion and derision by the city officials, whose email list included LAPD officers; deputy city attorneys; an aide to Councilmember Cindy Miscikowski; and a Venice resident, Rick Feibusch, a resident who was hostile to the GRVNC; in addition to DONE and HRC.

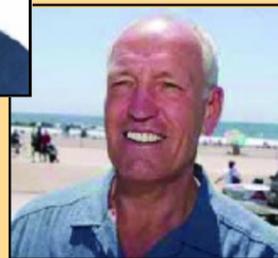
The neighborhood council is prohibited from functioning officially due to the arbitration, but GRVNC officers are calling for the arbitrator's decision to be thrown out because of bias, and are appealing to the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners (BONC) about the interference of the DONE staff which are under its jurisdiction.

In the past year, the GRVNC has taken strong positions against Playa Vista and LAX expansion; joined with artists in opposing a new Ocean Front Walk ordinance promoted by the city; and advocated for 24-hour restrooms on the beach that could be used by the homeless and others.

One of these candidates will win Venice's first election for L.A. City Council in five years!



from left to right:
Angela Reddock,
Bill Rosendahl,
Flora Gil Krisiloff



See page 6-7 to find out where they stand on the issues –

Military Recruiters Target Venice Students

By Gabriela Valdivia

Many Venice students may have seen armed forces recruiters around campus. Military recruiting is not uncommon in high schools, as military options are readily available for graduating students. Such recruiting has been increased as a direct result of the No Child Left Behind Act, voted into action by the Bush Administration in 2002.

Recruiters actively set up offices on school grounds, show up at job fairs, and approach students during lunch, or on the way to class. Their goal: to recruit as many students into the military as possible.

The No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act expanded the federal role in education and set requirements in place that affect every public school in America. Students must now pass a high school exit exam to graduate from high school. Students will soon find it harder to get ahead and easier to get into the military.

According to the 2000 census, 418,000 18 to 24-year-olds live in Los Angeles City County. Out of the total, only 94,000 have a high school diploma.

Military recruiters are known specifically targeting people of color and the economically disadvantaged. According to Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, people of color are more likely to be assigned low-level jobs in the military and passed over for promotion.

Military recruiters can demand from the principal "a list of phone numbers, addresses, and names of students. If the principal denies the military that information, the school will lose its funding from the U.S. government," says Venice

college counselor Ann Keitel. In fact, the NCLB law obligates school districts to provide that information.

In addition, military representatives can walk on the Venice campus at any time without any objection from campus security, the principal, dean or any other campus aide.

"Last year, at a job fair, a recruiter stopped me and started talking to me about the military, how they have good benefits, better programs and that they will pay for my college. I told him that I was not interested, and he kept insisting, and finally I walked away," said Christina Gomez, a senior at Venice High.

In the movie Fahrenheit 911, director Michael Moore suggests that military representatives go so far as to offer teens rides to the recruiting offices, give them small gifts like stickers, pens, key chains, business cards, and a variety of other incentives to convince them to join the military.

In the movie, two recruiters from the navy went to a mall where lower class people shop and outside the mall they started going up to teenagers. They went up to these two guys and a recruiter asked him what he was planning to do after high school. The guy said he planned to go to college and play professional basketball. The recruiter told him that the military will pay for his college and that some professional basketball players come from the armed forces. The guy said he was still not interested.

Recruiters always tell you that the military provides better programs that will fulfill your needs.

A 2002 alumnus from Venice High School joined the military right after high school. "I signed up to get information from the military at a job fair at Venice High," said Jason Rosales. "I was interested because, at the time, I really didn't have anything in mind for the future. I didn't think I was good enough to go to college,

–continued on page eight

Casualties in Iraq
U.S. 1,441 Dead – 10,770 Wounded
Iraqi Dead: 15,654 to 17,884
(some sources say 100,000 Iraqi dead)



The collective staff of the

BEACHHEAD COLLECTIVE:

John Davis, Carol Fondiller, Theresa Hulme, Vessy Mink, Yolanda Miranda, Lydia Poncé, Joanna Silva, Jim Smith, Alice Stek, Suzy Williams

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. The staff reserves the right to make all decisions collectively on material published. There is no editor on the Beachhead. The printing is financed by ads and donations. The articles, poetry and art work express the opinions of the individual contributors and are not necessarily the views of the Beachhead Collective.

To submit material, include your name and telephone number. Anonymous material will not be printed, but your name will be withheld on request. If return of material is desired, a stamped self-addressed envelope is required. No payment is made for material used. Mail to: P.O. Box 644, Venice, CA 90294. Web: <www.freevenice.org> Email: <Beachhead@freevenice.org> Copyright 2004

Our Mission Statement

Oh Holy Shit
 The Thought Police are rising
 It is the Time
 for the Beachhead's rebirth
 Now is the Time to get your thoughts together
 If you care whether you have a thought of any worth.
 Thoughts left of Center
 Homeowner or Renter
 Put your Head where your Pen* is
 Send it to us use your wits
 and if we like it
 We'll print or plagiarize it
 or tear it into teeny tiny bits

— by the Slumgoddess

*Pen: Antique Term for Word Processor or Computer

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Owed to Kelly Shea

As an art student in 1975, I envisioned recording on film, the Ocean Front Walk in Venice (aka the "Boardwalk") from the ocean's edge as the entire mile long parade of architecture, before it would change. In 1968 fewer than fifty people would stroll along there on a Sunday afternoon. Now it's a multi-vended tourist attraction. I was determined to photograph it before it became a high-rise metropolis. With a school-borrowed view camera in hand, I went to work.

Every winter the City Beach Maintenance Department erects a wall of corrugated metal screens restricting the wind-blown sand from flowing on to the walk. The city was short of employees to remove the screens that year. I waited a month or so for their removal. Photographically they were unappealing for this project. With no response from calling and arriving at the maintenance office, I felt compelled to move on. It was not my responsibility, but with thick gloves and a desire to resolve this problem, I began removing them myself.

"What are you doing?" I heard a broadcast on a bullhorn from a rusty old L.A.P.D. Beach Patrolling Suv, as they approached me from behind. I told them about the project, the delay, and of my having to wait for over a month, due to the city's labor shortage. so I decided to do it myself. One of the officers declared that the screens are city property and that I was in violation of the law. He was right. I was not arrested, yet not allowed to continue on. The second officer, a rookie at that time, Kelly Shea, listened assertively and replied that, "you have to go to the city yard for assistance." I couldn't resist listening to her because she smiled at me. I almost decided to give up but, a voice in my head told me to go back to the city yard once again. Upon returning there the yard boss told me that Kelly had dropped by and requested that the screens be removed. While I was discussing this issue the city workers were in process of removing the screens. "Hallelujah Kelly" I thought.

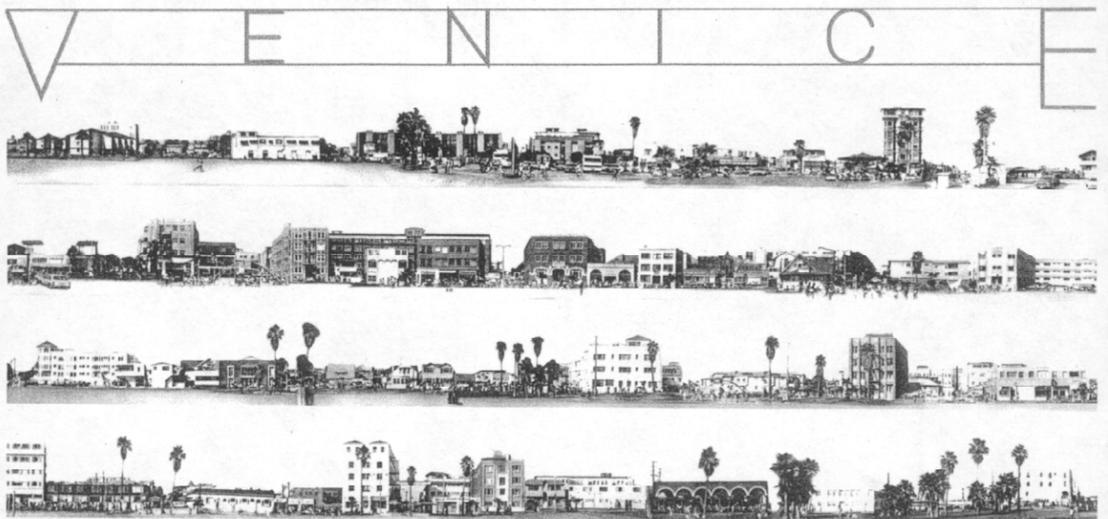
The champion of the kind word served again. Her love for Venice and confidence in my project spurred it to completion. It is truly...Owed to Kelly Shea.

As a result of our empathy for each other over the years, we became good friends.

Sgt. Kelly Shea passed away from natural causes on December 27, 2004.

Venice will miss you Kelly,.....Rich Mann- *Rich Mann*

This imagery of the Ocean Front walk is dedicated to Sgt. Kelly Shea, and may be seen at: the Venice-Abbott Kinney Memorial Branch Library, and the Los Angeles Police Department; Pacific Division, Venice Beach Substation.



Residents beat back big boxes

Two hotly-contested appeals by Developer Frank Murphy of development restrictions were defeated unanimously, Feb. 2, by the West L.A. Planning Commission. The projects at 741 Broadway and 213 6th Avenue had been limited by Hearing Officer Daniel Green to 20 feet in height, in deference to the character of the community. Green said Murphy's proposed three-story big box condos didn't fit in with the two neighborhoods of beach bungalows.

A room full of opponents of the projects applauded Green's articulate explanation of community standards as a reason to limit the size of the projects. Both of Murphy's appeals were defeated by 4-0 decisions of the commissioners.

Murphy argued that there was nothing specific in the zoning laws to prevent him from building a big box up to 30 feet tall. The Commission rejected this literal interpretation of the Venice Specific and Land Use Plans in favor of one that took account of the character and proportion of the neighborhood.

Important factors in the decision were the tenacity of Venetians in opposing the project and the courage of Hearing Officer Daniel Green in interpreting the Plans for the benefit of the community.

The importance of these decisions for Venice was underscored by the president of the Commission, Matthew Rodman, who said: "Decisions made tonight should guide developers and owners in the future."

—Jim Smith

Dear Beachhead,

Please enroll me as a Beachhead sustainer. I wish to thank you for your continued vigilance regarding issues important to our community.

Your insights and admonitions are most necessary for an informed public.

I've lived in Venice for over 30 years and, for whatever the reason, infrequently find the Beachhead. I look forward to finding it in my mailbox.

You are the pulse of Venice- keep up the goodwork!

—Jim Schley

In the SPIRIT of Venice

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What should be done with the Circle?

Water and bridges

Since the Venice Circle used to be an entertainment lagoon, it is only fitting the element of water be considered in its beautification. Like the traffic that revolves around it, I imagine a whirling motion in shallow pools and channels of water circulating. Visitors may promenade over small bridges and under trickling falls to cool off in the summer.

There is enough room in front of the post office in place of the news stands for a stair way to a bridge for safe pedestrian access over the road. The design of this bridge would have a flowing Art Nouveau inspired design to mirror the motion of the water.

Lighting would set aglow this interactive water sculpture and bridge in the evening. The inner circle would be a destination during an after dinner stroll. This could all be built for about half the price of the current proposal.

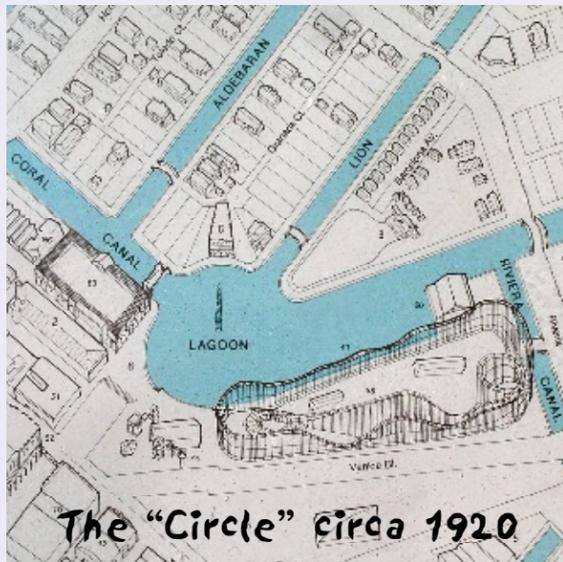
- Geoffrey Collins - Artist/Designer

Put up a surplus statue

Let's negotiate with the Russian government for one of the dismantled statues of Lenin, and set it in the circle.

Money can be raised easily for the shipping of it.

- Joseph Gross



What's your opinion?

Even if you missed the Beachhead's deadline for sounding off, you can still come to a community meeting and express your opinion about the future of the Venice Circle:

Saturday, February 19

1-4 PM - Special meeting at the Abbot Kinney Library, 501 Venice Blvd. on beautifying the Venice Circle - Sponsored by GRVNC Arts and Land Use Committees - call 821-6030 for info.

No cars, just people

The first thing to do is stop automobile traffic. Windward and the lagoon were once off limits to cars and should be again.

The circle would make a great sunken amphitheater. Concerts, meetings, plays and other cultural events could be held there, making the circle the center of Venice life. For larger events, seating stands could be erected around the amphitheater, making it possible for thousands of us to congregate together.

Meanwhile, the historic Windward Avenue district should be rebuilt and restored. St. Mark's hotel at the corner of Ocean Front Walk and Windward was once the most beautiful building in Venice. It could be again!

- Jim Smith

Put Abbot Kinney in the circle

When Pat Russell was in office I was active in the progress of the circle. Then everything Stopped. I would love to see a statue of Abbot Kinney with a bird sitting on his head. HE IS THE FOUNDER OF VENICE. And diagonal parking. There is enough room around the circle and on Grand Ave. Not only would you be able to park two cars where now there is one. It would give the feeling of a Village and bring it together. Little outdoor cafe's would be great.

- Christine Fulbright

The Beachhead needs you

Dear friend and reader,

If you believe that Venice needs a newspaper that tells the truth about what's going on in our beloved town, then we need your support.

We love our hometown advertisers. But the Beachhead has never survived solely on advertising. We are primarily a reader-supported institution.

The Free Venice Beachhead is, as always, put together by a volunteer collective (see page two for our names). However, our printer likes to be paid for its work.

That's where you come in. We'd like you to become a Beachhead Sustainer. We'll only bother you once a year for your hundred bucks. Or if you prefer, send us \$50 now, and we'll hound you for the remaining \$50 in six months.

The goals and ideals that led to the founding of the Beachhead in 1968 are still our goals and ideals. We want to inform and mobilize our community to threats and opportunities. We love both the idea and the reality of Venice.

Here's what you'll get by becoming a Beachhead Sustainer (in addition to the satisfaction of helping the Beachhead survive and grow).

- We'll list the names of Sustainers in each and every Beachhead (unless you tell us to withhold your name).
- If you like, we'll mail you a copy of the Beachhead so you can avoid waiting in line to get one.
- We'll give you 4 free business-card-size advertisements in the Beachhead during your annual sustainer.

Thank you in advance from the Collective for helping to keep a free press alive and well in Venice!

Count me in as a Beachhead Sustainer!

___ Here's my \$100 check. ___ Here's \$50. Bill me in 6 months for the other \$50.

___ Please mail me the Beachhead every month.

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ City, Zip: _____

Email: _____ Clip and mail to: Beachhead, POB 644, Venice, CA 90294

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LAURA LEYVA 310/392-2113



University of Venice

The University of Venice is a free institution devoted to community development. For more information, call 391-2314 uov@freevenice.org



Unless otherwise noted, all classes are at the United Methodist Church/Center for Peace with Justice and the Arts, 2210 Lincoln Blvd.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES/EVENTS:

Beginning Feb. 13, and every Sunday from 2:30 - 4PM - "Imagining Venice" - contact Eric Vollmer - voiceinthewell@hotmail.com

Beginning Feb. 13 and every Sunday at 7:15PM - "Venice Filmmaking/Writing Workshop" - contact Rokk Lattanzio - 323-993-8616 or rokkinla@yahoo.com

Beginning Feb. 16 and every Wednesday from 7:15 - 9:15PM - "A Better World is Possible - How we got into this mess, and how we can get out of it" - contact Jim Smith - 399-8685 or jsmith@freevenice.org

Tuesday, Feb. 22 from 7:15 - 8:30PM - One time only! - "Bessie Smith appreciation" - contact Suzy Williams - 306-7330.

Monday, Feb. 21 - 6PM - One time only! - "Free Iraq!" From Killer Liberators and the Corporations They Serve" - Naomi Klein, Tom Hayden - 391-2314

Ongoing

Every Thursday from 6:30 - 8:30PM - "Looking at Christianity" - contact Pastor Tom Ziegert - 391-2314 - includes dinner.

Every Tuesday at 4:30 PM - "Toddlers Group" - at the Head Start Center - Bring your parent!

Every Sunday from 9 - 9:30AM - "Singing Lessons" - contact Cathleen Crone - 391-2314

Oops, no one was supposed to see these!

Start Here

A Selection of Public Records Supplied in Response to a Request by John Davis

Dated: Jan. 6, 2005

- A. June 10, 2004 - From Jamiko Bell, DONE to League of Women Voters**
"Venice has gone rogue..."
"It is possible that the GRVNC might still ask you to participate...I hope LWV will refuse the offer."
- B. June 14 - From Gita Isagholian, City Attorney's Office to DONE; HRC; City Council Office; LAPD; Mayor Hahn's Office**
Alleges racial intolerance against whites by GRVNC
- C. Date unknown - From Arturo Pina, HRC to Gita Isagholian, City Attorney's Office; DONE; HRC; City Council Office; LAPD; Mayor Hahn's Office**
Re: Racial tensions - "We are definitely on the same page..."
- D. June 14 - From Greg Nelson to DONE, HRC, City Attorney's Office, Mayor Hahn's Office**
"The issue of whether or not NCs are city entities, and therefore where NC board members fit in the food chain, is being addressed by the City Atty."
- E. June 18 - From Unknown (forwarded by Gary De La Rosa)**
"I'm glad that you (Gary) have had firsthand experience at some of the GRVNC meeting." Formation of a working group including LAPD, City Council, City Attorney, HRC, critic of GRVNC.
- F-1 June 22 - From Gary De La Rosa to Arturo Pina**
Report on GRVNC meeting: "...I believe I have a better idea on how to address this issue now..."
- F-2 June 22 - From Gary De La Rosa to Arturo Pina - continued**
"Expecting the NC's to develop their own procedures, or to develop a city-wide procedure, is too risky..."
"While the board voted to ask for mediation via City Atty.'s office, without any real HR training this will be a futile effort... more desired to, perhaps, sweat people out rather than build consensus."
- G. Oct. 26 - From Parker Anderson to Arturo Pina, Gary De La Rosa; Jonathan Martinez**
"Note: for the collective record, this represents our perspective."
quote from Jonathan Martinez: "Thinking that we were going to do the challenge, I did a quick review of Myers' challenge and would have written my report to concur with most of the information that he provided."

Jonathan Martinez - Re: Venice Election - FYI and Update

From: Jerry Kvasnicka <jkvas@earthlink.net>
Jamiko Bell <jbell@mailbox.lacity.org>
Date: 6/10/2004 8:21 AM
Subject: Re: Venice Election - FYI and Update
CC: <julierajan@wvtsangeles.org>, Jonathan Martinez <jmartinez@mailbox.lacity.org>

Jamiko,
Julie and I had discussed the GRVNC situation and concluded that the situation would not provide for a fair election and that LWVLA would not be involved without approved election procedures or bylaws. I have not spoken with Julie today, but want ed to get this to you ASAP. I will be downtown counting the DLANC ballots today and stop by the 2nd St office. I know that Julie is rushing today and tomorrow to clear up thing before jetting off to the East Coast for meetings.

I'm sure you realize that we are in agreement with your position....and we also emphasize with your tribulations! And, you know, we are always there to assist you. Of course, we hope we all can pull this thing out of the fire...but how? that's the big questions.
Good Luck and Best wishes ---- let's keep talking
Jerry K.

Jamiko Bell wrote:

>Julie and Jerry,

>'"official FYI:"

>As you must know by now, Venice has gone rogue with the June 27th election. The Board voted last Monday to go against DONE advice (see letter below) to postpone and are proceeding without approved election procedures into an election mess the likes of which I think we have never seen.

>Despite what the Board thinks, as of this moment, DONE is NOT authorizing the expenditure of any funds from the Dept related to this election which will include any invoice submitted by LWV if you choose to proceed in your role as their Election Administrator or Arbitrator.

>It is possible that the GRVNC might still ask you to participate and might offer to pay the League using NC funding. Of course, that is your choice, but as an esteemed and valuable member of the Election Procedures Working Group helping to craft policy to prevent these types of situations, I hope LWV will refuse the offer. In addition we are unclear at this time if we will validate the election or recognize those newly elected Board members, and this year Venice loses quorum and might lose their ability to conduct business (pay bills) after June 30th.

>Tomorrow we will be deep in discussions with Greg to figure out where we go from here and how we will respond. I will let you know. Venice is ripe with rumors right now about who said what to whom. If DONE decides not to support them in this endeavor (which we most likely will not) we will issue a formal letter to GRVNC restating our position with a cc to the LWV so that you know all of the facts.

>A formal letter from the LWV to Venice might be also needed.

>Sorry, if you have any questions, call me 323-972-7930.

>Jamiko

Arturo Pina - Racial tensions at the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council Meetings

From: Gita Isagholian
To: Bell, Jamiko; Freehling, Allen; Kievman, Sandy; Martinez, Jonathan; Nelson, Greg; Pina, Arturo; Skinner, Theresa; Smedley, Gerry; Tran, Viet
Date: 6/14/2004 11:25 AM
Subject: Racial tensions at the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council Meetings
CC: I: hillmank@lapd.lacity.org; Williams, William

I know we are all tired of receiving e-mails regarding the GRVNC but these accusations from Mr. Shields, Mr. Feibusch and the countless other comments from Venice residents I think require some comment or intervention from the city.
It is my opinion that racial intolerance in any form should not be tolerated by our city (nor funded) even if the hatred is, strangely enough, directed at white residents by a neighborhood council that is, by the vast majority, white.
Does Human Relations, who has the expertise in this area, have any suggestions?
Thanks,
Gita

Arturo Pina - Re: Racial tensions at the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council Meetings

From: Arturo Pina
To: Allen Freehling, Gerry Smedley, Gita Isagholian, Greg Nelson, Jamiko Bell, Jonathan Martinez, Sandy Kievman, Theresa Skinner, Viet Tran
Subject: Re: Racial tensions at the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council Meetings

Hi Gita...

We are definitely on the same page...
I have been reviewing all of the information that we have been privy to for review. One of my Project Coordinator was at the meeting on last Monday evening and is in the process of preparing a memorandum with recommendations that could possibly mitigate the situation...

In the interim it is strictly a monitor, report and provide the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment with recommendations. As for behavior, if these comments and attitudes are being verbalized by Board Members of the GRVNC, are there any repercussions and/or consequences? What sort of Code of Conduct are Board Members required to abide by? As City Employees we are held to certain standards and are subjected to consequences should our behavior stem from hatred and move in the direction of discriminatory tactics. Board Members, as far as we know, are not bound by any rules or regulations. The Bylaws that are created by each individual Neighborhood Council focus on elections, conducting meetings, protocols, etc. What we are discussing here is are Board Members, via a City certified Neighborhood Council bound by the same rules and regulations we as City employees bound by when it comes to harassment, discrimination and/or targeting of an individual based on race and/or religion?

These questions have been posed before by our Commission and have not been provided with any answers. We have recommendations but it will take a mandate from individuals that create policy. Let's get the discussion going as we have been down this road before and will continue to be unless mechanisms are created to thoroughly address appropriate behavior.

>>> Gita Isagholian 6/14/2004 11:25:18 AM >>>
I know we are all tired of receiving e-mails regarding the GRVNC but these accusations from Mr. Shields, Mr. Feibusch and the countless other comments from Venice residents I think require some comment or intervention from the city.
It is my opinion that racial intolerance in any form should not be tolerated by our city (nor funded) even if the hatred is, strangely enough, directed at white residents by a neighborhood council that is, by the vast majority, white.
Does Human Relations, who has the expertise in this area, have any suggestions?
Thanks,
Gita

CC: Gary De La Rosa; I: hillmank@lapd.lacity.org; William Williams

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?

These emails show a disregard for the elected Venice Council, and in some cases, a disregard for all neighborhood councils, by city officials who according to the city charter, are supposed to assist them.

In (A) an official of DONE - Dept. of "Neighborhood Empowerment" is telling the League of Women Voters not to help the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council (GRVNC). In (B), a deputy city attorney is accepting the word of GRVNC opponents - without any evidence - that whites on the council are inexplicably engaging in racism against other whites (!).

In (C), a Human Relations Dept. supervisor (whose department later became the "neutral" arbitrator that invalidated GRVNC's election) is agreeing with the deputy city attorney (above) and promising to monitor and report on GRVNC, without ever contacting the elected Venice Board members.

In (D), Greg Nelson, the head of DONE is speculating on whether neighborhood councils are even part of the city structure. It's clear where he thinks they fit in the "food chain."

Exhibit (E) was doctored before it was turned over as part of the public records request. The name of the sender was taken off.

However, the name of the recipient is still on it. He is Gary De La Rosa, who became the "neutral" arbitrator and decided against GRVNC, a few months later. In (E), a working group is formed, presumably to secretly "monitor and report on" the Council. It includes the LAPD and one local council opponent who is not a city employee.

In (F1) and (F2), De La Rosa reports on attending a GRVNC Board meeting on June 22 (without ever introducing himself). He seems to have progressed from monitoring and reporting, to becoming an out-right critic of GRVNC.

In (F2), he tosses off the opinion that it is "too risky" to let neighborhood councils come up with procedures on their own. (That's apparently work that should be left to city bureaucrats.) He also confides in his colleague that he doesn't think it would be a good idea to

Arturo Pina - Re: Racial tensions at the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council Meetings

From: Greg Nelson
To: Bell, Jamiko; Freehling, Allen; Isagholian, Gita; Pina, Arturo; Tran, Viet
Date: 6/14/2004 1:07 PM
Subject: Re: Racial tensions at the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council Meetings
CC: Anderson, Parker; De La Rosa, Gary; Flores, Valerie; Stamus, Theresa

The department prepared a Code of Civility and offered it to the NCs as a option. HRC assisted in the development of that. Several weeks ago, Jan Perry submitted a motion calling for the Code to be made mandatory. It has not been scheduled in committee yet. How to allow an NC to make the Code mandatory is on the City Atty's list of things to do, but no NC has said that it wants to do this. We don't know of any NC that has even adopted it as a guide.

NCs are encouraged to develop their own Code of Conduct, but I don't know of any that have done this.

The issue of whether or not NCs are city entities, and therefore where NC board members fit in the food chain, is being addressed by the City Atty. Their first opinion dealt with the Political Reform Act. Their subsequent reports will add further clarity to this question, and the options that lie ahead for the City.

To keep them in the loop, I'm cc'ing Theresa Stamus and Valerie Flores in the City Atty's office.

>>> Arturo Pina 06/14/04 12:57PM >>>
Hi Gita...

We are definitely on the same page...

I have been reviewing all of the information that we have been privy to for review. One of my Project Coordinator was at the meeting on last Monday evening and is in the process of preparing a memorandum with recommendations that could possibly mitigate the situation...

In the interim it is strictly a monitor, report and provide the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment with recommendations. As for behavior, if these comments and attitudes are being verbalized by Board Members of the GRVNC, are there any

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Arturo Pina - Fwd: Racial Tension in Venice

From: Gary De La Rosa
To: Arturo Pina
Date: 6/18/2004 5:38 PM
Subject: Fwd: Racial Tension in Venice

Hi Gary -

It was good speaking with you this afternoon. I'm glad that you have had firsthand experience at some of the GRVNC meetings, and have seen how much anger and emotion is being generated by some of the folks in charge.

To everyone else - Gary is with the LA City Human Relations Commission, and he will be working with the Venice community regarding this issue. The County folks have volunteered to be of assistance if needed, but it starts with City first. I suggested that Gary speak with all of you, and he thought a meeting would be a good thing to coordinate soon.

I just wanted to be sure that everyone has everyone else's contact information, so here it is:

Capt. Bill Williams, (310) 202-4571, williamb@lapd.lacity.org
Ofc. Gerry Smedley, (310) 662-3970 cell, 24160@lapd.lacity.org
Ofc. Theresa Skinner, (310) 662-3968 cell, 31142@lapd.lacity.org
Sandy Kievman, (310) 575-8461, skievman@council.lacity.org
Mary Clare Molitor, (310) 575-8552, molitor@attylacity.org
Gita Isagholian, (310) 350-0049 cell, gisagho@attylacity.org
Aaron Gross, (323) 228-0526 cell, agross@attylacity.org
Susan Wagner, (310) 445-4029, swagner@attylacity.org
Rick Faibusch, (310) 392-6605, rfaibusch1@earthlink.net
Gary DeLaRosa, (213) 978-1669, gdelaros@mailbox.lacity.org

DONE and BONC need to take this issue seriously.

Both DONE and BONC need to agree on framework out of which NC's can both develop and once certified hold even elections. Expecting the NC's to develop their own procedures, or to develop a city-wide procedure, is too risky, given the tendencies we have seen developing across the City so far. To that end, I highly recommend bringing in (the guy from city elections who did Van Nuys0, The City HRC, and then City Att's office to tie it all up.

A serious and deep program dealing with the issues of LA needs to be offered, and required (1) By DONE and BONC for all NC's participants.... along the lines of our HRA program. To let people continue to "speak for the community" when they have little breath of knowledge about the changing demographics, is to then let elite, and exclusive, glorified homer-owners associations to exist.

While the board voted to ask for mediation via City Att.'s office, without any real HR training this will be a futile effort.... more desired to, perhaps, sweat people out rather than build conscious.

I recommend that a full out Human Awareness Program be developed for the Venice community, not just the NC. That it be a must to partake of this program before any further DONE cooperation is considered.

That this should include community members from Oakwood, from boardwalk, and from general Venice, who HAVE NOT been a part of the developing NC.

F-2

F-1

Arturo Pina - In Light of...

From: Gary De La Rosa
To: Arturo Pina
Date: 6/22/2004 7:17 PM
Subject: In Light of...

... the e-mails I've sent you, I believe I have a better idea on how to address this issue now...this is a rough draft I'd started earlier...but thinking about it tonight, and with more info, I'll mostly jump into directions rather than full out reporting of the evening...

Let's brainstorm, please, on this when I get in....I'm off to La Cont...for reals !!!

On June 7, 2004, I attended the Grassroots Venice Neighborhood Council meeting held at the Davis Center in Venice. The following are my observations of that evening's meeting.

Starting near 7PM, and running til 11PM, among the meeting's highlights were discussions and votes on two NC election matters, and the constant tension and defensive mannerisms displayed by members of the board and the audience.

Of importance that night was the upcoming NC election, set to be held June 27. The board spent some time discussing this issue, especially in light of the fact that DONE's executive director, Greg Nelson, had sent a detailed letter requesting, imploring it sounded, them not to hold the election this month, but to delay it. He apparently also offered DONE's help to pull together the election for a future date that would not be challenged.

Among the noticeable issues of that night was the apparent disregard some have for their opponents on the board. By body language, or more so by their intonations and outright comments, this board is besieged by a number of members who have an apparent lack of respect for one another. Murmuring over others speaking time, snorting or making aware one's displeasure with a speakers point of view occurred throughout the evening. While the president of the board had one member of the board handle the reading of speaker cards and acting as Sargent at arms, she did indeed stand up front and established her presences.

Issues of safety were not really directly discussed this night.

At numerous times, when it seemed as if a "hole had opened up," some people began to offer comments of racism being directed to either themselves, or others. It would appear from that meeting that racism is very prevalent in Venice. As is gentrification. Comments about being tried of being called "a racist and a Cracker" were extorted. An accusation of white racism was given by one board member....

The board voted to

Recommendations:

Arturo Piña - Re: GRVNC Executive Committee comments on arbitration of election challenges

From: Parker Anderson
To: Arturo Piña; Gary De La Rosa; Jonathan Martinez
Date: 10/26/2004 1:54 PM
Subject: Re: GRVNC Executive Committee comments on arbitration of election challenges
CC: Brenda Robinson; Jamiko Bell

Jon - thank you. I am forwarding your analysis/perspective to Arturo and Gary. Note: for the collective record, this represents our perspective. Obviously, we are not the final arbiter so HRC will weigh this with other points of view such as Jim Smith's before makes its judgement.

Thanks everyone.

>>> Jonathan Martinez 10/26/04 12:06PM >>>
Jim Smith's presentation of dates, challenges received, and recital of the election procedures is accurate; as we predicted, the challenge would probably come down to Richard Myers challenge since he was the only candidate to get his challenge in on time. I do not know when the Official Canvas from Casey Peters was issued since all of my GRVNC e-mails have been taken from e-mail box for use in the PRA (I didn't know they'd actually be taken, so I'll try to get them back), and the date that the Canvas was issued will impact whether Rick Selan's complaint/challenge will be accepted (he was a candidate, too).

I disagree with Jim's interpretation of the facts or their significance.

- 1. City Atty did not approve procedures.
2. Myers' challenge did NOT focus on ballots, per se, but rather to the following: (a) lack of timely and accurate notification of the election procedures to the Venice community; (b) No duly appointed IEA; (c) two items of business were conducted during the election (board election and stakeholder ratification of bylaws); (d) election was not properly called to order with a quorum of the officers; and (e) violation of bylaws and Brown Act re: notification of election.

Myer's wants to resolve this matter by tossing out the results of the board election and stakeholder ratification and have BONC supervise a new board election and stakeholder ratification of bylaws (separate events) in the near future. Thinking that we were going to do the challenge, I did a quick review of Myers' challenge and would have written my report to concur with most of the information that he provided.

Jonathan Martinez
Project Coordinator
Elections and Policy Development Team
Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE)
10221 South Compton Avenue, # 203, Los Angeles, CA 90002
Phone: 323-789-2817
Toll Free: 866 LA HELPS
email: jmartinez@mailbox.lacity.org

> Parker Anderson 10/25/04 05:36PM >>>
hey Jon - this went to HRC (Arturo), Brenda, Jamiko and me. I thought you should take a look at it to make sure you agree.

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help Venice with mediation (the GRVNC Board had previously voted for help from the city). He urges that DONE not cooperate with Venice until everyone had taken a "full out Human Awareness Program" (none of which was ever told to GRVNC).

In (G), Parker Anderson, DONE's second-in-command, is telling De La Rosa (who has now been appointed GRVNC arbitrator with Anderson's urging), how DONE would decide the case (hint, hint). GRVNC wasn't even told the arbitration was in progress. One thing about city officials: they do know how to stick together!

-Jim Smith

City Council Candidates Answer

Beachhead Questions:	Flora Gil Krisiloff 310-566-7851 www.flora2005.com 	Angela J. Reddock 310-215-9740 www.angelareddock.org 	Bill Rosendahl 310-398-4890 www.billrosendahl.com 
1. What would you do, if anything, to change the neighborhood council system?	<p>I believe the Neighborhood Council system needs to be supported by the Council office and City. This experiment in expanding democracy to local communities is new and needs time and resources to develop. I would work to provide additional resources and support to neighborhood councils throughout the 11th District.</p>	<p>I believe the Neighborhood Council system is an excellent addition to our City's governing process. I am particularly impressed with the Neighborhood Councils of the 11th District and the level of commitment and passion the members of the Councils have to their neighbors and to the City as a whole.</p> <p>In their ideal sense, Neighborhood Council's should be a body which seek to represent the ideas, issues and concerns of the residents and neighborhoods which they represent. The Neighborhood Council's should link the residents of a particular neighborhood to City Hall and should be a conduit to assist the Council representative in connecting directly to the constituents in his or her district. I believe the City's Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) have a responsibility to facilitate this process and to be a support to the Council's as they seek to establish their own identities.</p> <p>If I could make any changes to the Neighborhood Council System, they would be as follows: (1) increased training for all Neighborhood Councils and their members on City government and the process; (2) the creation of a common set of basic by-laws and procedures by which all Neighborhood Council's operate; (3) more effective communication between the Neighborhood Councils and DONE.</p>	<p>The City Council must tighten the definition of "stakeholder." The current definition is too vague and broad, allowing outside interests to unduly influence bodies that should be local and neighborhood-based.</p>
2. Do you support community control of development? If so, would you make any exceptions?	<p>As the former President of the West Los Angeles Area Planning Commission, one of my primary efforts was to protect communities from overdevelopment, promote smart growth and make sure that community members were active participants in the development and planning process of their neighborhoods. I fully support community involvement in development.</p>	<p>I support greater involvement and input from neighborhoods and communities in development projects. As a City Councilperson, one of the first things I would do is convene a "Summit on Development in the 11th District." The primary goal of this Summit would be to bring together the residents, neighborhood leaders, business and other stakeholders, along with representatives from my office and the City's planning and transportation departments, to discuss development goals in the District. Through this Summit, we would discuss the need to revamp the City's general and specific plans in certain neighborhoods such as Venice and discuss what types of development projects are needed in the 11th District. I applaud the work of such groups as the Venice Community Coalition and believe this group, along with others is a model for how we involve residents in determining the development needs of our neighborhoods and communities.</p>	<p>Community input is essential in local land use planning. We must end the political culture where residents and developers are pitted against each other. Processes like "Envision Venice" are a great first step to understanding and inviting neighborhood-friendly development.</p>
3. Section 8 housing is being cut back and tenants share of the rent is being raised from 30 to 40 percent. What would you do, if elected, to address this problem?	<p>I oppose the unnecessary and unfair elimination of Section 8 housing, particularly by owners who have committed to providing low income housing and are now attempting to maneuver out of their commitments. I would actively advocate to our federal, state and county leaders to maintain the level of Section 8 housing and protection against tenant abuse.</p>	<p>Section 8 housing is very important to maintaining diverse housing opportunities within our District, particularly for seniors, the disabled and women and families that are in transition. Hence, I believe it is very important that we maintain our Section 8 housing programs and try identifying places within our City's housing budget where we can continue to subsidize Section 8 housing rents at 70% as opposed to the proposed 60%. As a member of the City Council, I would work with federal legislators to lobby for funds to ensure the City of Los Angeles receives its full and fair share of housing dollars so we can prevent any further rent increases to Section 8 participants. I am particularly concerned about increased costs to seniors and the disabled who generally are on fixed incomes and cannot afford increased rental costs.</p>	<p>The loss of Section 8 housing is unforgivable and once it is lost, it is gone for good. We should use the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to preserve and protect any and all affordable housing in danger of being converted to market-rate housing. And we must build more affordable housing throughout the City of Los Angeles.</p>
4. How would you promote low-income housing throughout the city, including Venice?	<p>As an advocate of affordable housing, I would use my experience as a Planning Commissioner to increase the number of affordable units in new developments and promote rehabilitation of existing housing to keep rents affordable for working families.</p>	<p>Our City needs to increase its development of affordable and workforce housing. It is unfortunate that much of the housing being built today makes it impossible for those who work in our City to live here. As a member of the City Council, I would develop a plan to attract more developers who are willing to build more affordable and moderately priced housing. I also would fight to have a greater portion of our City's 100 million dollar housing trust fund designated for affordable and moderately priced housing.</p>	<p>Developers in the Coastal Zone must be required to adhere to the affordable housing provisions of the Mello Act - without exception. I am encouraged that Santa Monica, has managed to build affordable housing. Los Angeles should study its system as it struggles to find the right mix of incentives and requirements to encourage developers to build affordable housing.</p>
5. Many Housing and Urban Development (HUD) buildings are being privatized and residents evicted. What would you do about this?	<p>I would advocate that federal leaders hold owners accountable to maintaining their legal obligations and not attempt to void those contracts in order to privatize and evict low income families.</p>	<p>It is unfortunate that housing intended for the public is now being privatized and that private entities are not willing to maintain the initial governmental intent. As a member of the City Council, I would work with our federal legislators and our City's housing department to find money within our federal and local budgets to maintain ownership of government housing properties. In the alternative, I would propose a plan to our City housing department which would seek private owners who are willing to maintain the public nature and intent of our City's publicly-owned properties.</p>	<p>I support efforts by POWER and VCHC to find a way for residents of the former Holiday Venice apartments to purchase and manage the units. I will work with Rep. Jane Harman to encourage HUD to bless such a purchase and will fight any efforts by the current owner to evict current tenants.</p>

the Beachhead's Questions

Beachhead Questions:	Flora Gil Krisiloff 566-7851 www.flora2005.com 	Angela J. Reddock 310-215-9740 www.angelareddock.org 	Bill Rosendahl 310-398-4890 www.billrosendahl.com 
6. Venice's largest low-income housing complex, Lincoln Place, is being depopulated and may be demolished. Would you support the tenants' efforts to save it? How?	Yes. I would support the effort of Lincoln Place residents to see that the the housing complex is granted historic designation by the City and State.	I definitely support the efforts to save Lincoln Place and have before now. I submitted a letter to the State 's Office of Historical Preservation and to the office of the current Councilwoman expressing my support for designating Lincoln Place as a historical site. I also have attended meetings regarding the preservation of Lincoln Place and am in communication with the leaders attempting to save this project. As a Councilwoman, I would continue in my efforts to have Lincoln Place designated as a historical site and would work with State Legislators to accomplish this goal. I also would seek to have a letter of support issued from the entire Los Angeles City Council and the Mayor's office.	I have and will continue to support the tenants. The destruction of that wonderful (and affordable) community is a travesty. I invite Beachhead readers to visit my website: www.billrosendahl.com where they can see my letter of support for State Historic Designation for the Lincoln Place community.
7. What is your position on the future of LAX and Santa Monica Airport?	I believe that we must stop the expansion of LAX because it threatens our future quality of life through the traffic it will add to our neighborhoods and the pollution that will negatively impact residents and our sensitive ecosystems. I also believe that we should collectively work toward closure of Santa Monica Airport by 2015.	I am against LAX expansion but for LAX modernization. Being the second largest City nationally, we must ensure our airport is fully secure and accommodates the needs of the residents of the City of Los Angeles. I believe we can do this for a lot less than the 11 billion dollar plan proposed and can do it for approximately 3 to 4 billion dollars. I also believe we need to expand the Green Line into LAX and ensure we allocate mitigation funds for increased traffic and pollution to surrounding neighborhoods such as Westchester. We also need to place greater focus on regional airport solutions and looking at the possibility of expanding Palmdale and other smaller airports to accommodate the needs of our region.	The LAX master plan is a flawed plan that fails to address environmental and community concerns. The Santa Monica Airport is a bad neighbor; noise, pollution and health and safety risks are born by Venice and Mar Vista residents. I have detailed proposals for both LAX and Santa Monica Airport on my website: www.billrosendahl.com.
8. Do you support rail transit on the westside, such as, extension of the Green Line and building of the Exposition Line? How would you support bringing cheap, safe, efficient mass rapid transit to more riders in Venice and other westside locations?	I support light rail transit to relieve our Westside streets. I would work to secure the funding to complete the Exposition Line from Culver City to Santa Monica, extension of the Green Line, and a subway line down Wilshire Boulevard to connect downtown Los Angeles to Santa Monica. It is imperative that we have a regional public transportation system that gets cars off of streets and improves our air quality.	I definitely support the extension of rail transit to the Westside, including extension of the Green Line and the building of the Exposition Line. One of the solutions to decreasing congestion on our streets is encouraging people to get out of their cars and to use mass transit. However, as a City, we need to put the infrastructure and transportation alternatives in place to provide incentives for people to use public transportation. Hence, I support integrating and expanding our current rail system to ensure they fully connect with one another and any new systems are built along major transit corridors. I also support the expansion of our City's express bus lanes, the use of express buses and the expansion of our City's bike lanes and paths. To fund such projects, I will work with the MTA to lobby for funds at the State and federal levels for increased funding of transportation projects.	A centerpiece of my campaign has been my 6-page transportation platform (available on my website.) I call for completion of the Expo Line to the beach and the Green Line to the airport. I also call for a north-south rail line, creating a Westside light rail system. We also need more local shuttles to move Venice residents to the market, movies, doctor, etc.
9. If residents of Venice submit a petition for reestablishing cityhood, what would be your position?	I respect the right of all residents to exercise their constitutional rights for free speech. However I would like to work closely with our neighborhood council and community organizations throughout Venice to make the kinds of improvements and changes that will keep Venice a strong and vibrant part of the Los Angeles City family.	I could not support such a petition. Venice is an important and unique community in our City. It would be a great loss to lose a neighborhood which provides so much pride to our City. It would be my hope to work with the Venice community to address its many frustrations and to try working together to resolve its problems.	I would oppose Venice breaking away from the City of Los Angeles. As a former Venice resident, I remain angry and frustrated that Venice has never gotten its fair share of services. Millions visit Venice every year, yet our services pale in comparison to Santa Monica. I will fight to change that and to help make the entire city understand Venice is one of its most precious treasures.
10. How would you solve homelessness without punitive action against the homeless?	As I have made sure that the West Los Angeles VA would not be commercialized and more veterans made homeless, I will fight to increase funding for transitional and permanent housing as well as a greater State contribution to mental illness and substance abuse treatment, and for shelters and programs for homeless mothers and children. As a public health nurse, I realize that solutions to human needs must not be punitive but socially caring and responsible.	The homelessness situation in our City is at a critical stage. To address this problem, we first need to identify increased funding to ensure the maintenance of our City's emergency shelters and transitional housing programs. We also need to advocate for more funding for support programs to treat individuals with mental illness and addiction problems.	I hold a MSW and treated veterans during the Vietnam War. The issues of homelessness is very real and urgent for me, I will work with Bobby Shriver, Lee Baca and others to develop a comprehensive regional strategy to deal with homelessness: reaching out to the mentally ill through funds from Prop 63, steering alcoholics and addicts to treatment, housing homeless veterans at the VA property; building transitional housing for the economically disadvantaged. We must also be prepared to institutionalize those who are too sick to care for themselves.
11. Do you support or oppose rent control? Do you support or oppose vacancy decontrol?	I support rent control. I oppose vacancy decontrol. That said, we need to build more housing throughout the City and lower demand in order to stabilize rents. As our City grows, demand will escalate and rents will go even higher. We must dramatically increase housing opportunities for our current housing shortage as well as future demands.	I support rent control. With rising housing prices in our City, it is very important that we maintain the rents at a reasonable rate so the people of our City can continue to live and work here.	I strongly support rent control and am deeply concerned about skyrocketing rents in the area. We need to build more affordable housing and we need to find a way that renters (who make up a majority of Angelenos and District 11 residents) are better represented on neighborhood councils.
12. Do you support or oppose further expansion of Playa Vista?	I support increasing the amount of open space in and around Playa Vista. As Councilwoman I would vigorously pursue efforts to acquire more land from Playa Vista to keep as open space.	I was against the approval of Playa Vista Phase II without further study of the environmental and traffic impacts of Playa Vista Phase I. Although Phase II has been approved by the current City Council, as a new member of the Council, I will fight to ensure that Playa Vista delivers on the Community Benefits Package and will fight to ensure increased funding for the increased traffic and environmental impacts that will result from the continued development of the project.	I attended the 1200-person Town Hall on Playa Vista at Venice High and opposed approval of Phase Two of Playa Vista. There are too many unanswered questions about traffic, methane and the Indian burial grounds. We need a transportation infrastructure before we can consider approving developments of such size.

Military Recruiters Target Venice Students

—continued from page one

or anything. So I guess that's why I got into the Marines. Yeah, I got good discipline, but I was so young and I didn't think about the good or bad about joining the military. The military helps me pay for school, but I still have to pay a big part of it."

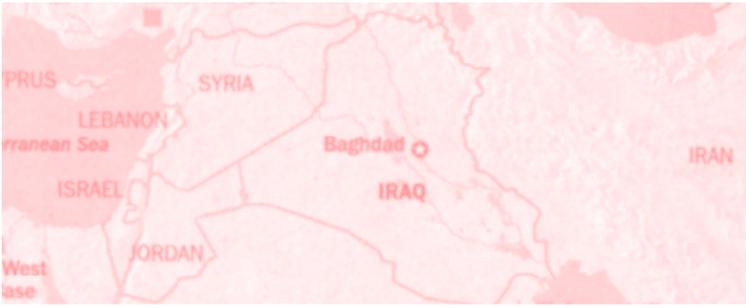
"I love college; I should have gone straight in after high school. God, I can't believe that at some point in my life, I really felt killing people was as normal as breathing air. I was brain-washed," he said.

People are bombarded by military advertisements on MTV, BET, other stations, newspapers, and billboards. "Be all you can be," they say, as if people can't be anything without the military. Since Bush came into office in 2000, the administration has carried out a large campaign to get youth to join the military.

Recruitment centers are more common than one might think. Jamie Perez, a junior at Venice High, related a recent experience. "Two weeks ago, I was at the Mann Culver Plaza at Culver City standing in line to buy tickets for The Grudge. Next door from the theater I saw a recruiting office for the Armed Forces. In my mind, I said what a good strategy to have a recruiting office next to a movie theater where a lot of teenagers go and hang out."

In his movie, Moore also suggests that the very people forced to live in the worst parts of town and go to the worst schools have it the hardest and are always the first to step up to and enlist, as a result upper class people don't have to.

This article originally appeared in The Oarsman, a publication at Venice High School.



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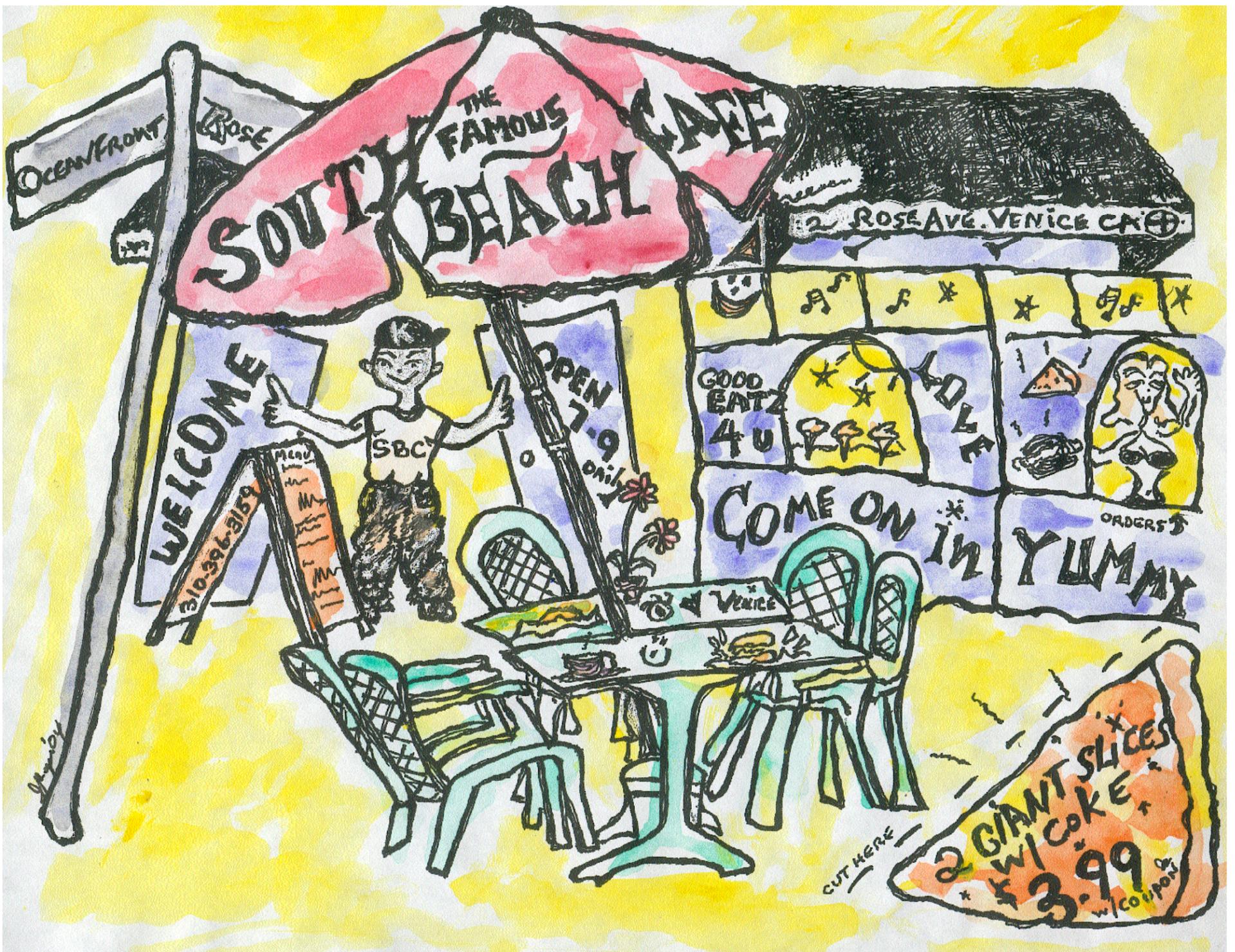
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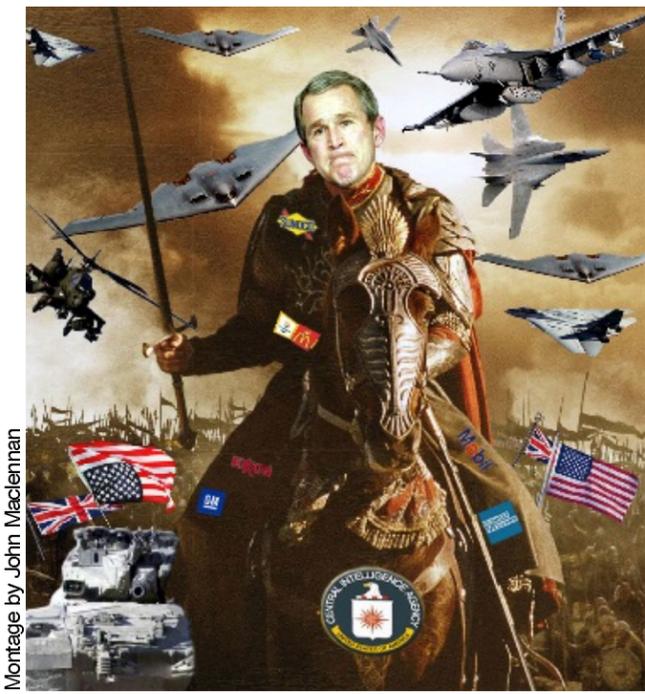
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Montage by John MacLennan

Fallujah

Fallujah was a pesky place -
A thorn in Uncle Sam's embrace.
"By God, I'll take it out," said he.
"I'll smash it, trash it...set it free."

So in he went with guns and tanks
To flatten houses, shops and banks,
And on a blasted pile of rocks
In triumph put the ballot box.

Rotund Allawi was soon there
With promises from Bush and Blair:
Free funerals for those who fell
In what was only briefly hell -

(The requisite of 9/11
For a democratic heaven) -
Blocks of spanking flats for all
And naughty nightclubs to enthrall.

And then, in freedom's afterglow,
The grateful city's quid pro quo:
Von Rumsfeld on his Prussian horse,
In burnished bronze, beside the Bourse.

The "world community" was pleased
To see Iraqis' anguish eased,
Declared Allawi was so wise
He'd surely win the Nobel Prize.

And as for Bush, he wowed the crowd
And made his Daddy mighty proud,
While Schoolboy Blair went scuttling home
To gulp some more testosterone.

- ALAN IRELAND

POETRY



one month later

**the Asian tsunami
Venice/Santa Monica beaches
wood washes up**

shafts

poles

sticks

logs

roots

splinters

twigs

branches

boards with nails

housing frames

bamboo and trees

dragged out to sea

household artifacts

cans, jars, containers

sandals tangled and toys

a plastic yellow lioness

rests

oil stained

from Pacific passage

leans on debris

stares blind westward

wondering the fate of its owner

**- Photo of Venice beach and
poem by Rex Butters**

New Years Poem 2005
by Hillary Kaye

someday we will find ourselves
in a paradise of our own making
there we will be immune to disease
and love the moon and the stars
more than money

things will be wholly different
when the ocean and the chariot meet
and the dolphin and the mermaid
fall in love

and poetry will be the first
and only language
and truth and justice a given
heaven in the here and now
and love so sweet that no one can resist it

worlds converge and are exploding with differ-
ence

and hope will not be needed
the present moment will be that good

The secret of Life
Is to LIVE...
and with love.....

we are charmed
Not doomed!

We have a gift
To open
and live

And if we create Joy
Instead of hate..

We are blessed
With
fresh air and sunshine
Trees singing
In the mist....

Faces of Love
Smiling/laughing
singing

The Breeze
A brand new breath
a new day....

The gift of life.
A soft rain ...
re newing.

The wine ...
and song.....
sweet smoke...

Oh me Irish Eyes..
Be twinkling...
Like stars....
on top of the world!

- Shanna Moore

KEEP MOVIN' 'EM AROUND

**MOVE 'EM OVER HERE
MOVE 'EM OVER THERE
KEEP MOVIN' THEM AROUND
THEY AREN'T IMPORTANT
ENUFF TO CARE ABOUT**

**MOVE 'EM OVER HERE AND OVER THERE
AND THERE
AND WHEN WE GET TIRED OF IT,
MAYBE WE CAN...
PUSH 'EM INTO THE OCEAN!!!
NO ONE WILL MISS EM...WILL THEY?
WHO WILL BE NEXT?**

- C. V. Beck

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Candidates for Mayor Answer the Beachhead's Questions

Beachhead Questions:	Richard Alarcón 818-995-4300 www.alarconforla.com 	Jim Hahn 323-634-8910 www.jimhahn.org 	Antonio Villaraigosa 213-687-7777 www.antonio2005.com 
7. What is your position on the future of LAX and Santa Monica Airport?	Congestion is clogging the freeways and toxic emissions are increasing. We must build additional capacity elsewhere to alleviate the environmental problems that come with LAX and Santa Monica. I opposed the LAX Master Plan and I have introduced legislation to create a regional airport authority, whose purpose will be to build additional airport capacity.	<p>The consensus plan for LAX that Councilwoman Cindy Miskowski and I developed relies on a truly regional airport system that relieves air traffic burden from LAX. In addition to the LAX Master Plan, we are also designing master plans to encourage and accommodate growth at Ontario and Palmdale airports, which are operated by the City of Los Angeles.</p> <p>We have also expanded the Van Nuys Flyaway bus service, and are currently working to add Flyaway service to eight different areas in the city to reduce the number of car trips to LAX. My LAX Master Plan alternative also connects the green line to the airport.</p> <p>Creating a regional air traffic plan also requires help from the airlines to increase service and provide competitive pricing at other local airports. In my first term, I personally traveled to Mexico where I secured a commitment from Aeromexico to expand its service to Ontario Airport. We have also expanded service between Ontario and Hawaii and we've brought to the Palmdale Airport service to and from Las Vegas. In a second term, I will continue working with airlines to encourage greater use of our regional airports.</p> <p>The City of Los Angeles does not operate the Santa Monica Airport.</p>	I voted against the "consensus plan" version of the LAX Master Plan because I felt it failed to deal with aviation growth needs realistically or to adequately protect the surrounding communities. LAX is not going away, but a good portion of aviation growth should be spread around the region to other airports, including those owned by L.A. in Palmdale and Ontario. That's been my solid position since my 2001 mayoral campaign. Santa Monica Airport is not going anywhere either, and I know that it creates noise problems for Venice and other surrounding communities. As Mayor I will try to influence Santa Monica to better manage its airport to reduce impacts on Venice.
8. Do you support rail transit on the westside, such as, extension of the Green Line and building of the Exposition Line? How would you support bringing cheap, safe, efficient mass rapid transit to more riders in Venice and other westside locations?	Yes. I will work with the other 87 cities in Los Angeles County and build consensus within the region on transportation solutions to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain additional federal transportation money • Fight to expand the Red line to Santa Monica and the Green Line to LAX. • I will not sit back and wait as the federal government pulls back promised resources, as it did in 2001 when \$156 million was withdrawn for the expansion of the Exposition (Red) Line 	As a member of the MTA Board, I strongly supported the design and construction of the Exposition Line and was instrumental in making a priority a light rail line along the Crenshaw Corridor. I have advocated for removal of the current prohibition against additional tunneling along the Wilshire corridor to allow the MTA to extend the Red Line, and sent a representative from my office to Washington, DC, to meet with members of Congress on this issue. <p>My LAX Master Plan includes funding for a people mover that would connect the green line and LAX.</p>	Yes, I support expansion of light rail to and on the Westside. I've announced a comprehensive, long range plan (which should be on my website by the time this is published) that includes the Exposition Line, a connection from Expo through Crenshaw to LAX, a connection from the Green Line to the Expo Line in Santa Monica up Lincoln Boulevard, and an extension of the Red Line subway all the way down Wilshire. Along with a better bus system, I believe these improvements can at least slow the increases in congestion we're expecting.
9. If residents of Venice submit a petition for reestablishing cityhood, what would be your position?	No. I hope that you will give me the opportunity to convince you that staying a part of Los Angeles is in the best interest of Venice residents. As mayor, I will empower communities by granting greater authority to Neighborhood Councils and by eliminating campaign contributions from contractors and developers. I will bring the power of decision making to the people.	I support keeping Los Angeles as one city.	I opposed the secession efforts in 2002 and I would oppose future cityhood efforts. I am running to be Mayor of all of Los Angeles, not to preside over its dismantling.
10. How would you solve homelessness without punitive action against the homeless?	As mayor, I will create the first Master Plan to End Poverty in Los Angeles. Which will focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • coordinating with cities counties throughout California to achieve action plans • providing additional transitional shelters • providing affordable housing • creating jobs with a living wage • providing health care to all • creating a stable safety net for those who fall on hard times 	After years of neglect, we've starting to seriously address homelessness with the nation's largest local housing trust fund, doubling the pace of housing construction, and expanding our homeless shelter system into a year-round system. As co-chair of the regional planning effort to end homelessness, I am working to better coordinate existing services available through the city and county and to bring additional resources to this issue.	I believe that homelessness requires a lot more attention than we have historically given it but I won't pretend that it can be "solved" any time soon. The problem is inextricably connected with the shortage of affordable housing, so generating more of those units will help. It's also connected with the lack of services, shelter and mental health care. The City and County need to coordinate better to connect homeless individuals with those services, as was done in Venice in the late '80s with Venice Next Step. In Skid Row we need to provide clean restrooms so people can behave with dignity and avoid breaking City laws against defecation and urination in public.
11. Do you support or oppose rent control? Do you support or oppose vacancy decontrol?	I support rent control.	As Mayor, I have and will continue to strongly support the Rent Stabilization Ordinance (RSO). I have already signed into law amendments to strengthen the RSO and brought in new leadership to the Housing Department to prioritize enhanced enforcement of the RSO.	I support rent control. No thanks to a state law (Costa-Hawkins) approved before I was elected to the State Assembly, local jurisdictions with rent control are compelled to allow vacancy decontrol. Unless we can get the legislature to reverse that law (and we were unable to during my tenure there), we have to live with decontrol.
12. Do you support or oppose further expansion of Playa Vista?	I oppose the further expansion into the environmentally sensitive area, without fully mitigating environmental concerns.	I am committed to preserving all remaining parcels of this precious wetlands ecosystem, from the Ballona West Bluff to the Playa Vista Phase 2 to the Toes Beach and Parcel C land bordering either end of the lagoon. <p>My staff toured remaining parcels in the wetlands along with the Wetlands Action Network and attended a local neighborhood council meeting to help facilitate partnerships between the community, the council district, the congressional district, environmental organizations, and the developers who will require LAX compensation for parcels that are privately owned.</p>	I voted last fall to oppose Phase 2 of Playa Vista – in fact, I was the only member of the City Council to do so. I felt that we should know all the impacts of Phase 1 before approving additional development there. I also felt that the open space, park, affordable housing and community benefits of Phase 2 were not what they should have been.

Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council

All meetings begin at 7 PM, at Vera Davis McClendon Center, 610 California Ave. unless otherwise noted. 821-6030 - www.grvnc.org

- Feb. 8 - Tuesday - Land Use & Planning Committee - Boys & Girls Club, 2232 Lincoln Blvd.
- Feb. 14 - Monday - GRVNC Board Meeting
- Feb. 19 - 1-4 PM, Saturday - Venice Arts Committee - Abbot Kinney Library, 501 S. Venice Blvd. - regarding the Venice Circle plans. Artists, Dancers, Musicians, Poets & Performers come and participate in planning & lend your talents to celebrate the Venice Centennial.

COMMUNITY

• **Food Distribution**- hosted by the Mildred Crush Foundation, the Vera Davis Youth & Family Ctr., & the Oakwood Senior Club. Distribution on Feb. 10 & Feb. 24 - between 12:30-1:30. More info call 822.6717 Antoinette Reynolds, Mildred Crush Foundation; 305.1865 Eddie Nuno & Alicia White, Vera Davis Ctr. 610 California Ave.

• **More Food Distributions:**

- Saturday, 1PM** - Westminster Sen. Ctr. (Pacific & West.)
- Every other Saturday, 1:30-2:30PM** - OFW at Rose Av.
- Sunday, 3:30PM** - OFW at Dudley - vegetarian
- Monday, 1:30PM** - Rose Ave. parking lot - sack lunch
- Tuesday, 5PM** - Rose Ave. parking lot - vegetarian

• **Oakwood Recreation Ctr.** Sign up NOW- for Youth Basketball kids ages 5-14 yrs. Oakwood also offers Indoor Soccer, Tennis, Craft Creations, Swimming, Science Lab, Hip Hop Dance, Digital Beatz Factory, Aerobics, & Softball for a various ages and levels! After school club offers homework assistance, tutoring & other fun activities. Ages 6-14 yrs. 3PM-4:30PM Mon-Fri. For more info-call 452.7479 // 767 California Ave.

• **Mildred Crush Foundation:** offers The Companion Youth Learning Project. Math & Computer Mentoring Program, Homework Time, Field Trips, Social Activities & much more. Tues., Wed., & Thurs., @ Vera Davis Ctr. 3-5PM Children ages 5-15 yrs. Call Antoinette Reynolds, Coordinator- 822.6717 or healedbyhisstripes@yahoo.com Please call or e mail, commit to volunteering-make a difference, tutors are needed!After school program begins Feb. 8 to June 16.

Seniors

- **Senior Hot Lunches** offered @ these locations:
Oakwood Park Mon. thru Fri. 11:AM to 1PM 452-7479
Penmar Park Mon. thru Fri. 11AM to 1PM 396.9055
Westminster Senior Park Mon.-Wed-Fri only 11AM - noon
- **Israel Levin Adult Senior Center** 201 Ocean Front Walk, 396-0205.
-Movie matinee, 1 pm, Mondays
-Line dancing, 11 am, Tuesday
-Israeli dance, 10 am, Wednesday
-Current events discussion, 11 am, Wednesday
-Weight management workshop, 1pm, Thursday, 6 weeks for \$20.
- **Oakwood Park** 767 California Ave. 452.7479
-Computer Classes Mon. 9:30-10:30AM
-Exercise Classes Tues. 10-11AM
-Bingo! Win prizes! Fri. 12:30-1:30PM

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Community Events



Venice Pride!

Both Shawnie Dews & Kendra Moore volunteer for the Westside Bulldogs for umteen years - Kendra is the President of the Holiday Venice Tenants Association - great work ladies!!!



Yoga Info-

- **Vera Davis Ctr** 610 California Ave. 305-1865
Hatha Yoga classes Mondays & Thursdays
6:30 PM, Suggested Donation \$7
- **Karmakulture** 1305A Main St. 399-1904
Emphasis: Body alignment Tuesdays & Thursdays
7:30PM to 9PM, \$7
- **Yogapilates/Pilates Studios** 621 Palms Ave.
827-5144 Group Kundalina yoga
Tuesdays 7PM, \$15

THEATRE



- **BEYOND BAROQUE** - 681 Venice Blvd. Call for info - 822.3006
- **Electric Lodge** 1416 Electric Ave. 823-0710 An Evening on the Brink (7 new plays) Written by Patrick Breen, Maurice Chauvet, Patricia Cotter, Stefani Relles, Peter Soby Jr., Sharr White, & Guy Zimmerman. Feb 4-26 Thurs, Fri., Sat., 8PM Cover \$20- free on site parking! www.apartmenta.org
- **Pacific Resident Theater** 703 Venice Blvd. 822-8392 Call for schedule.

ART

- **Attaway Studio:** Ceramics, paintings & sculptures by William Attaway. 334 Sunset Ave. 339.4730
- **Evolve Studio Gallery:** 219 Rose Ave. 314.3344
- **Julia Dean Gallery** 3111 Ocean Front Walk 821.0909 Exhibits photographs by assistants, participants, & staff, open until Feb.20.
- **La Louver:** Ken Price's sculpture exhibit & Peter Shelton exhibit of works open until Feb 19. 45 Venice Blvd. 822-4955
- **Off-Rose:** 841 Flower Ave. 664.8977

• **SPONTO Gallery** @ 7 Dudley Ave. 399-2078.

• **SPARC Gallery** (Old Venice Police Station) 685 Venice Blvd. 822.9560 or www.sparcmurals.org

• **Ten Women Gallery:** "Atop the Roof of the World: Images of Tibet" by Joyce McClure. Photograph exhibit open until Feb. 14.

• **Universal Art Gallery:** Mark Dornfeld's interpretive photos, 'Night Light' exhibit until Sun., Feb 20th. 2001 Lincoln Blvd. (Corner Amoroso Pl./two blocks north of Venice Blvd.) 302.8909

• **Venice Arts in Neighborhoods:** Classes for children held at Vera Davis Ctr (vdc), or Venice Arts Gallery,(gal),or Mar Vista Gardens (mvg). Call for new Fall schedule, 578.1745 or www.venice-arts.org

• **Venice Arts Gallery** presents Yvon Rivest printmaking exhibit open until Feb. 27. yvonrivest@hotmail.com or 574.0828 // 1809 Lincoln Blvd. 578-1525

Political

- **Venice Peace and Freedom Party** info: 399-2215 Meeting Sat., Feb. 12 @ 1PM. Bagels & coffee...
- **UCLA Candidates Forum** (Cosponsored by GRVNC, Venice Chamber of Commerce & the Venice Forum) Tues., Feb.8 @ the Boys & Girls Club 2232 Lincoln Blvd. Call 821.6030 for more info.

Film/Video

- **7 Dudley Cinema** "War of the Satellites" (58, 72m) 16mm Filmfreak Mark Kadlec screens Roger Corman's rare cheesy classic of an 'unknown force' declaring war against planet Earth. Plus fifties falderdash: Woody Woodpecker, clips of 'The Creature Walks Among Us' and Disk Jockeyettes with live music.

Poetry-Readings

- **Abbot's Habit** 1401 Abbot Kinney Blvd., 399-1171-8pm, Sundays, Open mic opportunities offer spoken word, storytelling, & poetry.
- **Beyond Baroque**, 681 Venice Blvd. 822-3006
Host poets: francEyE & John Harris reading to celebrate Joe Hansen work. (Joe died Nov. 24) Fri., Feb 18 7:30PM Free on street parking. Call for more info- workshops, actors, writers, scripts & poetry...
- **Venice Abbot Kinney Memorial Branch Library-** 501 Venice Blvd. 821-2065 First & third Mondays: Preschool Storytime, ages 3-5 yrs., 7:PM, Free. First Monday 6PM: Marshall McLuhan-FinnegansWake Reading Club <jesgrew.org/wake/> 306.7330; Saturdays @ Noon: Poets reading their works; Second Saturday 1PM Westside Writers' group discussion; free. 821-1769 for info.

MUSIC

- **LaCabana** 738 Rose Ave. 392-6161 Mariachis- 6:30-10:30pm Thurs., Fri. & Sun.
- **Casablanca** 220 Lincoln Blvd. 392-5751 Guitarists Mon.-Sat.
- **Hal's Bar & Grill** 1349 Abbot Kinney 396-3105 All ages free! Sunday & Monday JAZZ!
- **Sidewalk Cafe** 1401 Ocean Front Walk 399-5547 Acoustic music Wednesday- Friday /karaoke on Sundays
- **Townhouse** 52 Windward 392-4040
- **Venice Bistro** 323 Ocean Front Walk 663-4673 "Club Mosaic" Thursdays @ 7pm, free! Hip-hop, ambient, world music, multi-cultural spoken word, info 392-3997
- **Yoruba House presents SOUL OF THE DRUM** - Every 4th Sunday Church in Ocean Park 235 Hill Street, O.P. - Drum class: 6:15-7:30PM - Circle 7:30-10PM Both for \$20 475-4440 - yorubahouse@verizon.net
- **Inside Out Community Arts:** Venice Ctr. for Peace with Justice & the Arts 2210 Lincoln Blvd. @ the corner of Victoria Ave. next to United Methodist Church. 397.8820 - www.OutOfCa.org - InsideOutCa@InsideOutCa.org
- **Mildred Crush Foundation** hosts: 'Open Mic Night' on Feb. 26 from 7-10PM for all ages and everyone!!! Poetry Reading, Reading, Singing, Sounds of Jazz, & Rappers! Refreshments & Desserts for sale: Proceeds will go to support our Youth. Call 822.6717 Location @ the Vera Davis Ctr., 610 California Ave.

Venice Musicians: We had a slow start! Send us the your gig info and we'll list free! Look for the 'Venice Musician Gig Listings' Vital info: Name of the band/performer, place, time, & cover. Free listing!!!

Venice Schools

- **Broadway** 1015 Lincoln Ave. 392.4944
- **Couer D'Arlene** 810 Coeur d'Arle Ave. 821.7813
- **Walgrove** 1630 Walgrove Ave. 391.7104
- **Westminster** 1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd. 392.6506 Endowment Group meets every last Wed., of the month @ 5:30PM.
- **Mark Twain** 2224 Walgrove Ave. 397.2125
Needs volunteers for tutoring, supervision, Community Garden, etc. Please call for more info.
- **Animo High School** 841 California Ave. 392.8751
- **Venice High School** 13000 Venice Blvd. 306.7981
- **Venice Skills Ctr.** 611 Fifth Ave. 392.4153

Candidates for Mayor Answer the Beachhead's Questions

Beachhead Questions:	Richard Alarcón 818-995-4300 	Jim Hahn 323-634-8910 	Antonio Villaraigosa 213-687-7777 
1. What would you do, if anything, to change the neighborhood council system?	As Mayor, I will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the Neighborhood Council's budget to \$250,000. • Cut the Red Tape to give Neighborhood Councils decision-making power over their expenditures. • Establish the same election procedures for all Neighborhood Council. • Give Neighborhood Councils planning authority. 	I am a strong supporter of full implementation of the neighborhood council system that was approved by the voters during charter reform. We created a process to give neighborhood councils more input in city government, including a giving them meaningful role in shaping our city's budget, providing computers to help them access online city resources, and \$50,000 each to spend on operating costs or projects of their choice. For neighborhood councils to be successful, they must provide opportunities for stakeholders from Los Angeles' diverse communities and I am working with our Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) to ensure that we are reaching out to all stakeholders. I will continue working with DONE to find new ways to increase neighborhood council participation.	The Council has just passed uniform election rules for neighborhood councils, which is a step in the direction of addressing problems that have cropped up all over the city, including in Venice. NC leaders also need more thorough training on procedures and issues so they'll be better prepared to take more responsibility in City processes, including budget priorities and land use. I would like to empower the councils more, but DONE needs to more effectively work on solving the problems first.
2. Do you support community control of development? If so, would you make any exceptions?	Yes. Developers and contractors have a stranglehold on the city's planning process and that's why I filed a ballot measure to eliminate their contributions to campaigns. I will provide Neighborhood Councils with planning authority. The authoritative handling of the Lincoln Center Project in Venice is a perfect example of why Neighborhood Councils need to be empowered with planning authority.	I believe neighborhood councils play a significant role in shaping projects in their communities and I have been a strong supporter of our neighborhood councils. I'm proud that we've established more than 80 neighborhood councils and that my first budget proposal included a significant increase to the budget for the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to get these new organizations up and running.	I support increasing the role of communities in development decision making by requiring discretionary projects to first be screened by neighborhood councils and those councils' recommendations becoming a formal part of what the decision makers must deal with. However, as a Councilmember I can tell you that communities already have substantial influence over development in many cases. Some projects are "by right" and some development is necessary and appropriate (especially housing, including affordable units), so I would be reluctant to make all development decisions subject to community veto.
3. Section 8 housing is being cut back and tenants share of the rent is being raised from 30 to 40 percent. What would you do, if elected, to address this problem?	I am a long-standing advocate for affordable housing whether as a City Council Member, Senator, or Chairman of the Housing Committee. I chair the Joint Legislative Committee to Develop a Master Plan to End Poverty in California. As mayor, I will institute a Master Plan to End Poverty in LA with a specific purpose to increase the supply of affordable housing in Los Angeles.	I have and will continue to aggressively lobby against federal cuts to the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher program. Currently, I am working to have both the Housing Authority and the Housing Department help house those affected by cuts to the Section 8 voucher program and to develop additional local funding sources to address this crisis. I brought new leadership to the Housing Authority by appointing Rudy Montiel and in a few months, he has already begun to make significant progress toward bringing the Housing Authority within HUD guidelines. This will enable the waitlist for vouchers to be reopened within the next few months.	Our current mayor sent millions of Section 8 subsidy dollars back to HUD last year because he wasn't motivated to make sure the funds were being used properly. I would never do that. But that doesn't address the Bush Administration's proposed cuts, which could be devastating. I will fight those cuts, and advocate at the state level for additional resources. Still, cutbacks in subsidies for low-income tenants will be very difficult to cope with. The City doesn't have readily available funds either.
4. How would you promote low-income housing throughout the city, including Venice?	I propose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full funding of the Housing Trust Fund • Implementing a consensus inclusionary zoning ordinance • Increasing housing supplies around transit corridors • Providing down-payment assistance to first time homebuyers • Offering incentives to developers to create mixed-use housing. • Working with financial institutions to change credit policies so that those who may not have an established line of credit, but consistently pay their rent on time will not be punished by home-loan lenders. 	I created our \$100 million Housing Trust Fund to build quality affordable housing – and Los Angeles went from having one of the worst commitments to housing to boasting the nation's largest local housing trust fund. I signed into a law a density bonus ordinance that encourages developers to include affordable units and have supported the enforcement of the Mello Act, which requires the inclusion of affordable units in coastal zones. I will continue to work to develop a dedicated funding source for the trust fund and build on our momentum.	I have announced a housing plan (see my website at www.antonio2005.com) that includes support for nonprofit developers to develop more projects, inclusion of affordable units in market rate projects and a variety of other approaches. Venice has historically been more hospitable to affordable units than many parts of the city, and some good projects have been built in the community. I would like to see more of them, but the property values are such that it's becoming prohibitive. It's now even a battle to get affordable units included in large market rate projects, and those engender community opposition because of their size and density. There is no easy answer to this question.
5. Many Housing and Urban Development (HUD) buildings are being privatized and residents evicted. What would you do about this?	I would make every effort to ensure the privatization of these buildings provides opportunities for residents to avoid evictions and guarantee them affordable housing. I will work with developers to ensure that as HUD buildings are privatized that their units are made affordable to tenants. I will explore the use of incentives to ensure that the in the privatized buildings, existing tenants are guaranteed the first right of refusal.	In 2002, I sued to prevent a group of local apartment owners from removing their buildings from HUD's Section 8 housing program. I developed a comprehensive program to preserve affordable units through refinancing, including a local law to require additional notice from owners who were choosing to privatize. I brought in new leadership to the Housing Department and we have reorganized to make the preservation of affordable housing a priority.	This is another question with no easy answer. If the City's Housing Trust Fund were being fully funded every year, some of the funds could be channeled to preserving HUD units whenever possible. As it is, the Trust Fund has never had the dollars to do all the things we want it to do (new rental units, new for-sale units, rehab of old units, preservation of HUD units, and so on) so I believe it would be irresponsible to make wild promises. But I will use all the creativity I can to put more money in the Housing Trust Fund and I also will use my influence as Mayor to call upon owners of HUD buildings to behave responsibly.
6. Venice's largest low-income housing complex, Lincoln Place, is being depopulated and may be demolished. Would you support the tenants' efforts to save it? How?	I would like to make the Lincoln Place a model for utilizing the Housing Trust Fund to guarantee that any new development at the site will include a substantial amount of affordable units. I will also ensure that existing and former tenants will be guaranteed the first opportunity.	As City Attorney, I worked with Lincoln Place tenants for several years to prevent the building's demolition. However, the owner has prevailed in court.	I would support the tenants, but I also know that the City Councilmembers representing Lincoln Place (especially former Councilwoman Galanter) have done so to no avail. The City turned down a redevelopment proposal flat, was taken to court and lost. The property owner is not a willing seller, and no one has ever been able to successfully assemble the funds for a buy-out anyway. I will work with the tenants to seek workable solutions, but I know this will remain a difficult, uphill struggle. The tenants are to be commended for their perseverance.