



## Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council

Post Office Box 500, Venice CA 90294  
Email: [board@grvnc.org](mailto:board@grvnc.org) Web Site: [www.grvnc.org](http://www.grvnc.org)



December 15, 2005

The Honorable Bill Rosendahl  
Council District 11, Los Angeles City Hall, Room 415  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

### **RE: Crisis on Ocean Front Walk in Venice**

Dear Councilman Rosendahl:

The Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council established the Ocean Front Walk Committee in response to pleas from merchants, artist/performers/crafts persons and residents to help resolve the negative and chaotic atmosphere that presently exists on the Venice Boardwalk since the removal of sections of Municipal Code 42.15.

The Committee met on Monday, November 28. Over 30 people attended with representation from the boardwalk community as a whole, including representatives from LAPD and LA Department of Recreation & Parks. Many issues and ideas were discussed relating to noise pollution, self regulation, fighting for space, the lottery system, encroachment onto City property on both sides of the boardwalk, and rotation of musicians. Barring release of the City Attorney's new rulings, a consensus was reached on the reports below:

- 1) Threats and intimidation are being used to claim space on the west side of the boardwalk. Altercations are on the rise, frequently becoming violent and requiring police to keep the peace (particularly north of Dudley).
- 2) Illegal commercial sales are seriously hurting legitimate merchants by sales of commercial goods on public property by merchants who pay no taxes, overhead or license fees. Eastside businesses and their employees are suffering greatly as revenues drop.
- 3) Artists, entertainers and free speech advocates are finding it harder and harder to exist on the boardwalk as they must compete with the ever increasing and unregulated number of illegal vendors. The public expressionists are a vital component of the boardwalk and must be protected.
- 4) Noise levels are out of control on both sides of the boardwalk and competition between parties takes the form of "turning up the volume." Everyone who frequents the boardwalk or resides nearby is bombarded all day long.
- 5) Resale should not be allowed on the west side of the boardwalk. Only the sale of art or crafts personally made by the vendor should be allowed.

Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council, backed by an unusual consensus from all who attended the OFW Committee meeting, asks that you act in all due haste to reinstate the constitutionally protected portions of MC 42.15 as determined by the City Attorney. Or, in lieu of that, to create a new constitutionally protected code and give LAPD the directions and resources it needs to enforce those determinations with particular emphasis on illegal sales.

The Venice Boardwalk is a tremendous asset to Venice and the whole of Los Angeles. Orderly, constitutionally acceptable regulation of the boardwalk is paramount to maintaining its reputation.

Sincerely,

Linda Lucks  
Chair, Ocean Front Walk Committee

DeDe Audet  
President, Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council