

February 2, 2017.

GRIEVANCE: Venice Neighborhood Council conduct regarding a Survey LA event at Westminster Elementary Auditorium in Venice on October 13, 2016

Dear Empower LA Leadership:

George Francisco is the current vice-president of the Venice Neighborhood Council.

Matthew Royce is current chair of the VNC Land Use & Planning Committee.

On September 21, 2016, Mr. Royce applied for a reservation for Westminster Elementary Auditorium on October 13, 2016. His LAUSD application describes it as a VNC event, himself as LUPC chair, and the event as a public community meeting. (attached RECORDS (FINAL)170113_514330_Redacted.pdf).

A group called Venice Homeowners Against Survey LA created a Facebook petition that went online on Sept 21, 2016.

A comment in the thread shows that some people knew about the Survey LA meeting on October 3.



Eric Schiff Be sure to sign the [change.org](#) petition and urge your neighbors to attend the Thus. Oct. 13th meeting at the Westminster Elementary School gym, 6:30 pm, where we can all express our views to Ken Bernstein, Manager of the Office of Historic Resources.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · October 3, 2016 at 10:38am

Venice Stakeholders Association posted about the event on their website on October 9.

Venice Homeowners Alliance Invites Residents to Attend Meeting with ...

www.venicestakeholdersassociation.org/.../venice-homeowners-alliance-invites.html ▼

Oct 9, 2016 - Join our email list by sending an email to venicehomeownersalliance@gmail.com with the subject: **Venice Against Survey LA** View our public ...

Meanwhile the Survey LA event was not announced as a special event at LUPC or VNC meetings between 9.21.2017 when Mr. Royce applied to reserve the hall and the the event. It appears to have been posted on the VNC website on October 12. 2016.

The Brown Act requires a 72hr notification for all “official” public meetings.


The VNC post for this meeting had no committee or agenda attached.

CITY PLANNING PRESENTATION ON SURVEYLA

WHEN: October 13, 2016 @ 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

 Calendar

WHERE: Westminster Elementary School
Auditorium
1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd
Venice, CA 90291
USA

 Add to Calendar ▾

Ken Bernstein of the Office of Historic Resources will speak and answer questions regarding SurveyLA and how it impacts Venice.

Mr. Francisco made the opening remarks for the Survey LA event on October 13, 2016 introducing Ken Bernstein & Jonathan Hershey.

During the event Mr. Francisco & Mr. Royce handed out public comment cards. They each took 1 side of the room. They met back together and Mr. Francisco organized the cards. Mr. Francisco appeared to put the speaker cards in an order of his preference. (George Francisco_speaker cards_Survey LA townhall.mov- video clip)

Many people yelled out during the meeting. Mr. Francisco & Mr. Royce did little to modify the situation.

Board member Jim Murez was present and adjusted the computer/ projection system during the meeting.

VNC board member Coleen Saro attended as a community member. She did not receive notice from VNC in advance.

VNC President Ira Koslow was not present. He said later that he did not know about the meeting.

I video recorded the event.

Mark Ryavec, President of Venice Stakeholders Association spoke in public comment. During Mr. Ryavec's comments VNC board member Jim Murez physically blocked my camera with his body. He told me that I could not video record. This is on record. (MVI_1561_ryavec.mov- video clip)

Survey LA is an important study of the unique architectural and community history of Los Angeles including Venice. Many in Venice support the work of Survey LA.

Venice is a unique community in many ways. The area west of Lincoln is protected by the California Coastal Act and the Mello Act. The California Coastal Act mandates the protection of "unique coastal communities." The Mello Act protects residential housing

in the coastal zone.

Historical preservation is a part of the protection of “unique coastal communities.” Review of this element is a CEQA requirement.

The October 13 meeting was not appropriately noticed. It appeared that those present had an agenda. The audience was mostly hostile to Survey LA.

Subsequently, Matthew Royce has drafted a LUPC motion on Survey LA. This is not appropriate since the wider Venice community did not get a chance to attend the meeting, hear from Mr. Bernstein & Mr. Hershey, and voice their opinions.

On January 8, 2017, I and several others wrote to Adcomm requesting that the LUPC motion on Survey LA not move forward for these reasons. (Jan 8, 2017 email below)

There are many architects and developers on VNC Board and LUPC. The potential for conflicts-of-interest is real. VNC president Ira Koslow has said that the city attorney has sent a letter to the board clarifying the issue. On Jan 8, 2017, I submitted an Adcomm motion asking that this letter be published as a Public Record on the VNC website. (Jan 8, 2017 email below)

Important LUPC or VNC motions needs the participation and commentary of the entire Venice community. The Survey LA meeting and motion was handled inappropriately. It violated many rules. Corrective action needs to be taken.

1. Immediate suspension of Matthew Royce, George Francisco and Jim Murez.
2. Admonishment of Hugh Harrison. Mr. Harrison has served several terms on VNC. As Treasurer, his misleading response to requests for information about whether or not the October 13 meeting was a VNC event necessitated a CPRA to LAUSD. Meanwhile Mr. Royce has moved forward with a premature LUPC motion on Survey LA.
3. There are architects and developers on the VNC Board and LUPC. The VNC Board and LUPC should be required to post their ethics training certification on the VNC website.
4. There are architects and developers on the VNC Board and LUPC. VNC President Ira Koslow has stated that the VNC has a letter from the Los Angeles City Attorney regarding potential conflicts-of-interest with the current VNC board & LUPC. This letter needs to be posted on the VNC website as a Public Record. The stakes are very high in Venice and the community must feel confident that VNC and LUPC represent all constituent's interests.

This agenda request was sent to Adcomm on January 8, 2017.

A. Motion: The city attorney letter addressing potential conflict of issue concerns with the current Venice Neighborhood Council Board, Land Use & Planning Committee members, and other committee members, many of whom are professional developers and/ or architects who stand to benefit directly and/ or indirectly from their votes, that this letter be published as a Public Records Act document on the Venice Neighborhood Council website.

5. Issuance of a directive requiring the Neighborhood Council Board and Land Use and Planning Committee members to engage in mediation to resolve these important issues, replace at least 3 officers, and select candidates who represent of our culturally diverse community. That is a directive of Empower LA. VNC does not currently meet that criteria.

Sincerely,

Margaret Molloy

TIMELINE:

Matthew Royce reservation application: **9.21.2016.pdf**

Venice Homeowners Against Survey LA created a new Facebook page with a link to their Petition on **9.21.2016**

Online comment about October 13th Survey LA meeting posted on Venice Homeowners Against Survey LA_Facebook page on **10.03.2016**

Venice Stakeholders Association posted on their website regarding the October 13th Survey LA meeting on **10.09 2016**

VNC website event announcement appears to have been posted on **10.12.2016**

Event date: **10.13.2016**

Dropbox video clips of Survey LA event at Westminster Elementary Auditorium in Venice on October 13, 2016

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/aqzclrh6z5sc5sh/AACl0JuBGLwwmL1kNgqbJHoma?dl=0>

George Francisco_speaker cards_Survey LA townhall.mov

Francisco appears to put the speaker cards in an order of his preference.

MVI_1561_ryavec.mov

VNC board member Jim Murez physically blocks my camera with his body. He tells me on camera that I cannot video-record the meeting.

Begin forwarded message:

From: margaret molloy <mmmolloy@earthlink.net>

Subject: Re: please email or text adcomm re Survey LA

Date: January 8, 2017 at 10:38:28 PM PST

To: Adcom@venicenc.org, Ira Koslow <president@venicenc.org>, VNC Board <Board@VeniceNC.org>, LUPC <lupc@venicenc.org>

Cc: Laddie Williams <cwilli7269@gmail.com>, Lydia Ponce <venicelydia@gmail.com>, Robin Rudisill <wildrudi@mac.com>, Ivonne GUZMAN <ivonneguzman45@gmail.com>, Katherine Conway <kconwayt@yahoo.com>, Jon Wolff <jonwolffusa@aol.com>, Eric Ahlberg <iamemen@gmail.com>

Dear Ira, VNC Board, LUPC & Adcomm,

I request that at Monday's AdCom meeting, that **Item 11A for the January 17, 2017 VNC Board meeting: LUPC- placeholder: Motion for a VNC position on Survey LA, be removed** and that there be a "well-publicized" public information presentation by the City of Los Angeles to the **Venice community-at-large prior to any LUPC or VNC action or Motion on this important issue.**

It is well-noted in the community of Venice that the October 13, 2016 presentation at Westminster Elementary School by Ken Bernstein on Survey LA's documentation of the Venice area was not adequately publicized the community-at-large. It was not noticed in advance by LUPC or VNC at their meetings. There was no engaged community-wide outreach for such an important and impactful subject.

In fact, our own VNC President, Ira Koslow, said that he was not consulted or noticed of that meeting in advance.

Shame on whoever organized that October 13, 2016 meeting.

The group Venice Homeowners (Alliance) against Survey LA were well informed and that meeting appeared in essence an “ambush” of Mr. Bernstein and the work of Survey LA. by an audience that was almost unanimously opposed to that work.

This does not represent the wider Venice community, our sense of community, our concerns for constituents, Venice history, this areas unique architecture, and more.

Draft Board of Officers Meeting Agenda

Westminster Elementary School (Auditorium)

1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd, Venice, 90291

Tuesday, January 17, 2017 at 7:00 PM

[Venice Homeowners Alliance Invites Residents to Attend Meeting with ...](#)

www.venicestakeholdersassociation.org/.../venice-homeowners-alliance-invites.html ▼

Oct 9, 2016 - Join our email list by sending an email to venicehomeownersalliance@gmail.com with the subject: **Venice Against Survey LA** View our public ...

[Venice Homeowners Against Survey L.A. | Facebook](#)

<https://www.facebook.com/VeniceAgainstSurveyLA/> ▼

Venice Homeowners Against Survey L.A. 33 likes. Venice homeowners against surveyLA.

In December 2016, Matt Shaw submitted the following motion, item 13A, to the VNC board at the monthly board meeting.

It was approved by the board.

Please live up to your own stated expectations of transparency, due process and more.

Board of Officers Meeting Agenda
Westminster Elementary School (Auditorium)
1010 Abbot Kinney Blvd, Venice, 90291
Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 6:30 PM

13. **New Business** (11:25 PM – 30 minutes)
[Discussion and possible action]

A. **Second Request** (Matt Shaw, matt.shaw@venicenc.org) (10 minutes)

MOTION: Whereas, on August 31, 2016 the VNC sent a letter to Councilman Bonin asking that 'the City present all current projects to our council in whatever state they are presently and stop taking any actions until such time as our council and stakeholders have had a chance to voice our opinion on any and all proposals.'; and

Whereas, recent actions by the City of Los Angeles with Councilman Bonin's knowledge have occurred without community discussion or engagement with the VNC,

Therefore be it resolved that the VNC hereby gives Councilman Mike Bonin notice that he has not complied with the VNC's request dated 8/31/16 to be informed, updated, and engaged in any and all city projects within Venice proper and again ask that the City present all current projects to our Council in whatever state they are presently in and stop taking any actions until such time as our Council and stakeholders have had a chance to voice our opinion on any and all proposals. We further request that any changes of use or intensity, additions, or extensions of any and all current programs be brought before the VNC for discussion and approval.

Page 11

Passed. MS/EW 15-0-1

Favor: George Francisco, Matt Royce, Lauri Burns, Hollie Stenson, Robert Thibodeau, Hugh Harrison , Matt Shaw, William Hawkins, Ilana Marosi, Stephen Livigni, Sunny Bak, Cayley Lambur, John Reed, Evan White, James Murez

Abstain: Ira Koslow

Again, with respect, I request that at Monday's AdCom meeting, that Item 11A for the January 17, 2017 VNC Board meeting: LUPC- placeholder: Motion for a VNC position on Survey LA, be removed and that there be a "well-publicized" public information presentation by the City of Los Angeles to the Venice community-at-large prior to any LUPC or VNC action or Motion.

Sincerely,

margaret molloy

Margaret Molloy
Photographer
310 560 2523 cell
mmmolloy@earthlink.net
member PPAGLA
www.margaretmolloyphotography.com

Sent January 8, 2017:

Dear Ira, and Adcomm,

I am asking that the letter from the city attorney addressing potential conflict of issue concerns with the current Venice Neighborhood Council Board, Land Use & Planning Committee members, and other committee members, many of whom are professional developers and/ or architects who stand to benefit directly and/ or indirectly from their votes, that this letter be published as a Public Records Act document on the Venice Neighborhood Council website.

Motion:

The city attorney letter addressing potential conflict of issue concerns with the current Venice Neighborhood Council Board, Land Use & Planning Committee members, and other committee members, many of whom are professional developers and/ or architects who stand to benefit directly and/ or indirectly from their votes, that this letter be published as a Public Records Act document on the Venice Neighborhood Council website.

Ira, I would appreciate if you can please confirm receipt of this email.

Appreciatively,

margaret molloy