

From: Mitchell Rishe mitchellrishe@gmail.com
Subject: September MVCC Board Meeting - Opposition to Items 13(m)-(o)
Date: September 10, 2017 at 10:49 PM
To: MVCC@EmpowerLA.org
Cc: councilmember.bonin@lacity.org, Len Nguyen len.nguyen@lacity.org
Bcc: Sherri Akers sherriakers@ca.rr.com, Ken Alpern SEALNBEAR@aol.com, Damien Newton thedaymen@gmail.com, Greg Castelnuovo-Tedesco gctedesco@gmail.com, Sarah Auerswald sauerswald@gmail.com, Paola Cervantes rising.phoenix.77@gmail.com, Holly Tilson rhubarb999@aol.com, Melissa Stoller melissa@stollersdesign.com, Michelle Krupkin mkrupkin@mindspring.com, Rob Kadota rob@orl.ucla.edu, Robin Doyno rdoynophoto@ca.rr.com, Susan Klos susan@bigtimepic.com, Elliot Hanna elliot.hanna@gmail.com



Dear MVCC Board,

I am the current Chair of the Bike Mar Vista! Committee. I am also the former Chair of the PLUM Committee and of the T&I Committee, and I was an MVCC At-Large Director from 2012-2016 and its Vice Chair from 2014-2016. However, I write to you as a resident and stakeholder of Mar Vista regarding Venice Blvd.

In the immortal words of Yogi Berra, "It's deja vu all over again." Just two months ago, this board considered, after substantial public comment, a motion to remove the protected bike lane on Venice Blvd. and "restore" the boulevard to 6 lanes of car traffic. That motion was resoundingly defeated 8-3. Now, the special interest group on the losing side of the motion, a director on the losing side of that motion, and a new director who apparently did not like the outcome of that motion, have each submitted their own motions to once again "restore" Venice Blvd. to 6 lanes of car traffic (Items 13(m)-(o)). I urge you to reject these motions.

I will not attempt to sway you with appeals to saving lives and making Great Street Venice a thriving and walkable community. You already heard plenty of that in July, and you will no doubt hear plenty of that on Tuesday (but for your reference, below is what I wrote to the board in advance of its July meeting). Rather, I appeal to your integrity and the integrity of the Mar Vista Community Council. What will become of our community if a special interest group, dissatisfied with the vote of the board, can simply hop from committee to committee repeatedly re-introducing a defeated motion in the hope that the decision will eventually be reversed? And what will become of the integrity of the board if a director dissatisfied with the vote of his fellow directors repeatedly re-introduces a defeated motion in the hope that, next time, the board will vote his way? This board must reject this gamesmanship and once again resoundingly defeat these motions.

You will recall that the public comment in July was pretty much evenly split among supporters and opponents of the Venice Great Street. Please keep that in mind as you re-consider these motions. It is simply not possible for those who support the changes to turn out month after month to re-iterate their support and face a hostile and angry crowd hell-bent on doing everything in their power to get their driving lanes back (going so far as to attempt a recall of councilmember Bonin). But just because supporters of the changes aren't as vocal or as angry does not mean we aren't as numerous.

Unfortunately, I will be traveling for work and will not be able to attend Tuesday's meeting. But please, I urge you, reject these ill-conceived motions. Thank you.

Mitchell Rishe

On Jul 10, 2017, at 7:21 AM, Mitchell Rishe <mitchellrishe@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Mar Vista Community Council,

I am the current Chair of the Bike Mar Vista! Committee. I am also the former Chair of the PLUM Committee and of the T&I Committee, and I was an MVCC At-Large Director from 2012-2016. However, I write to you as a resident of Mar Vista regarding Venice Blvd. I encourage you to support the alternative director's motion submitted by Sherri Akers and Ken Alpern to continue the Venice Blvd. Pilot Project.

In March of this year, the Bike Mar Vista! Committee submitted to this Board a motion to support Vision Zero. The Board approved the motion on consent at its March 14 meeting (just four months ago). That motion recognized that "Vision Zero Los Angeles is the City's commitment to eliminate all traffic deaths by 2025," with a focus on "protecting our most vulnerable road users, including children, older adults, and people walking and bicycling." In passing the motion, this Board committed to "support[] the City's Vision Zero initiative, and the implementation of an action plan." The overriding purpose of the lane reconfiguration of Venice Blvd. (designated a "High-Injury Network Priority Corridor") is to save lives, and is part of MVCC's commitment to Vision Zero.

Downtown Mar Vista has undergone a remarkable transformation over the past several years. With the overwhelming success of the Mar Vista Farmer's Market, new restaurants and businesses have come here – Louie's, Little Fatty, The Mar Vista, Surfing Cowboys, Alana's Coffee Roasters. I firmly believe that the lane reconfiguration of Venice Blvd. will be as transformative for Mar Vista as the Farmer's Market has been. While some may view Venice Blvd. as simply part of their daily commute, it is my hope that downtown Mar Vista will become a pedestrian and bicycling destination, like Abbott Kinney or Melrose Ave. A place where parents feel safe cycling with their children, and where seniors feel safe crossing the street. Great Street Venice Blvd. can make that happen!

Finally, please do not accept the notion that the lane reconfiguration is actually unsafe. Protected bike lanes like the one now in place on Venice Blvd. have been installed in cities throughout the U.S. and the world, including New York, Chicago, Salt Lake City, Washington D.C., Montreal and Victoria, Canada, and Paris, France (and usually without controversy). It is a tested and trusted design to improve safety and save lives.

I unfortunately will be travelling for work on July 11 and therefore will be unable to attend the meeting in person. But I trust the Board will

Unfortunately will be traveling for work on July 11, and therefore will be unable to attend the meeting in person. But I trust the Board will honor its prior commitment to Vision Zero and will give the City the opportunity to study the impacts and of the current configuration and make adjustments where necessary. I therefore urge the Board to support Sherri and Ken's alternative motion.