

**DEPARTMENT OF NEIGHBORHOOD
EMPOWERMENT WITNESS STATEMENT FORM**

FOR DEPT USE ONLY
Grievance # _____
Witness Form # _____

Witness Name: Mitchell Rishe Contact Number: 310-463-1693
Mailing Address: 3413 Purdue Ave. Email: mitchellrishe@gmail.com
Los Angeles, CA 90066

Grievances are defined as set forth in the Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 22.818.

"The following information contained herein is within my own personal knowledge and relates only to facts and circumstances surrounding the Grievance submitted by Mitchell Rishe on October 6, 2017 regarding Mar Vista Neighborhood Council."

I am a former director of the Mar Vista Community Council (MVCC) and was its Vice Chair for 2 years. Presently I serve as co-chair of the MVCC biking committee (called "Bike Mar Vista!"). In my more than 5 years of active participation on the MVCC, as a director and as co-chair of several committees, never have I seen an issue so divide this community like the road re-configuration of Venice Blvd. In July, MVCC considered a motion to "restore" Venice Blvd. to six lanes of traffic and remove the protected bike lane. That motion was defeated 8-3. As both the public comment and letters to the board attest, this community is evenly divided about the road re-configuration of Venice Blvd. Nonetheless, a faction of the MVCC board on the losing side of that motion continues to force the MVCC board to re-vote this controversial issue month after month. Next week, the MVCC board will be forced to re-vote a motion to "restore" Venice Blvd., for the third time.

MVCC's bylaws limit MVCC's advocacy to matters of "broad public agreement." There is not "broad public agreement" to "restore" Venice Blvd. Continuing to force a re-vote on this controversial issue by a minority faction of the board not only violates the MVCC's bylaws, it further divides the community. It has directly or indirectly resulted in the resignation of two MVCC directors, including the chair. And it has led to an effort to recall councilmember Bonin, who only recently won re-election by a sizable majority. The recall effort is being led by Mark Ryavec, who lost to Bonin in the last election. Thus, the politicization of this issue into a recall campaign constitutes another violation of MVCC's bylaws, which prohibits the MVCC from "work[ing] on behalf of, or in opposition to, any candidate for political office..." (Art. V, Sec. 5.)

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Date: 10/6/17

Name: Mitchell Rishe

Signature: 

Department Review

Date witness form received: _____ Date witness form reviewed: _____

Witness form reviewed by: _____ Grievance number: _____