



City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Fwd: Council File 19-0092 Venice Blvd Great Street

Gloria Pinon <gloria.pinon@lacity.org>

Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 12:28 PM

To: Clerk - Public Use - Clerk Council and Public Services <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <sherriakers@ca.rr.com>

Date: Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 12:08 PM

Subject: Council File 19-0092 Venice Blvd Great Street

To: <cityclerk@lacity.org>, Hannah Levien <hannah.levien@lacity.org>

Dear Councilmembers Bonin, Martinez and Koretz,

As an advocate for older adults who hope to age in place, I am writing to give my support to the Great Street changes on Venice Blvd. Thank you for these changes and I implore you to make them permanent. This stretch of Mar Vista has all of the essentials for purposeful aging. Slowing traffic is the key to providing a thriving city center that is safe for older adults and I believe the changes have been a huge success. This parking lane configuration is much safer for exiting a parked car when one has any mobility challenges. As a caregiver for my 91 year old Dad and having osteo arthritis myself, I am painfully aware of how difficult and painful it can be to exit from the passenger side of a car when parked at a curb.

I am on this stretch of Venice Blvd every single day. My Dad lives in assisted living up the street on Grandview. I stop at the Post Office 6 days a week. My vet is on Grandview and my drugstore and bank are at Centinela and Venice. I lunch with friends at Sunny Grill and Atmosphere Café and shop in the local businesses. At no time have I felt it was a challenge to park or felt that it is in anyway unsafe.

There is a very vocal minority who have been committed to opposing these changes. They would like you to think that they speak for the community. Their tactics include bullying and slander and because of this, many of us have chosen to disengage. Additionally, MVCC has stopped announcing meetings by email or on Facebook – apparently there was a meeting this Sunday that only insiders knew about. For 12 years I co-chaired the MVCC Green Committee and Aging in Place Committee. I was a board member for 2 of those years. I look forward to a decision being finalized so that the discord in the community can be put behind us and the Mar Vista Community Council can return to its history of community engagement and support.

Respectfully,

Sherri Akers



Sherri Akers



City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Fwd: Council File 19-0092 - Venice Boulevard Great Street

Gloria Pinon <gloria.pinon@lacity.org>

Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 4:38 PM

To: Clerk - Public Use - Clerk Council and Public Services <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Yvette Roman** <yphoto@earthlink.net>

Date: Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 4:37 PM

Subject: Council File 19-0092 - Venice Boulevard Great Street

To: Councilmember Bonin <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, <paul.koretz@lacity.org>, <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>, <john.white@lacity.org>, <cityclerk@lacity.org>, Hannah Levien <hannah.levien@lacity.org>

Cc: <jesi@la-bike.org>

Dear Councilmembers Bonin, Martinez, and Koretz,

I am a 3rd generation Mar Vista stakeholder and small business owner, and I am writing to give my support to the Great Streets improvements on Venice Blvd.

My entire household is grateful for these changes, and we are lending our support to you to make them permanent. We live on the eastern edge of the new bike lane, and as a family who walks, bikes, and drives, I can attest that we all feel much safer.

Redesigning the street has created a lovely downtown center, and parking is not a problem. Our neighborhood has never been more vibrant. New shops and restaurants have cropped up, and we frequent them constantly. We appreciate the new trashcans, the landscaping, the metro bikes, and all of the other assets that the program has brought to us, with special note to the new crosswalk at Mountain View. Since the traffic signals were timed, it has never been easier to drive through that stretch, and we are on it daily.

Be assured that the Restore Venice Boulevard group does not speak for my household, nor do they have a mandate to accurately represent the wishes of our community. Their presence has caused our MVCC meetings to become so contentious that we have been forced to have uniformed police officers in attendance. I have witnessed people being screamed at, called names, and bullied when they have spoken out in support of the Great Streets program, which is childish and absurd, and has no place in our community. Truth be told, sadly, I have stopped going to the gatherings altogether.

My fondest wish for our neighborhood is that our new street becomes permanent. The only thing I would like to have "restored" is the decency and kindness of our constituency towards each other.

Regards,

Yvette Roman Davis
Pacific Avenue
Mar Vista



City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Fwd: Council File 19-0092

Gloria Pinon <gloria.pinon@lacity.org>

Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 4:21 PM

To: Clerk - Public Use - Clerk Council and Public Services <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>



----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Peter Flax** <peteraflax@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 4:20 PM

Subject: Council File 19-0092

To: <cityclerk@lacity.org>, <hannah.levien@lacity.org>

Hi,
My name is Peter Flax. I'm a Manhattan Beach resident who works on the Westside. I commute to work and get around LA almost exclusively by bike—I ride about 8000 miles per year. I have ridden on the modified stretch of Venice Blvd hundreds of times. In short, I love it.

If you look at a map of bicycling infrastructure in LA, you'll see that the safe places cyclists have to get around are a disconnected patchwork at best. That's what makes Venice Blvd such an important East-West corridor for riders. But the truth is that many portions of Venice Blvd are chaotic and less safe than they should be. I can tell you that every time I enter the stretch on Mar Vista I feel a wave of calm come over me. I have a wife and two young children at home, and though I love to ride, my number one priority is to remain safe. The protected lanes on Venice are a huge step in the right direction. Honestly, rather than having more conversation about whether to make those changes permanent, I think we should be talking about how to get more protected lanes in Los Angeles. The debate really comes down to safety vs. convenience. Only three US states see more cyclists get killed than in LA county; it's on you to do something about it.

Thank you for your time, and please make these changes permanent.

Best,
Peter Flax



Fwd: Council File 19-0092

Gloria Pinon <gloria.pinon@lacity.org>

Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 4:20 PM

To: Clerk - Public Use - Clerk Council and Public Services <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joseph Treves** <joseph.treves@thepartnerstrust.com>

Date: Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 4:18 PM

Subject: Council File 19-0092

To: <cityclerk@lacity.org>, <hannah.levien@lacity.org>

Cc: Sherri Akers <sherriakers@ca.rr.com>

Dear Concilmembers Bonin, Koretz, and Martinez,

As a resident of Mar Vista since 1989 I have seen our community blossom into a vibrant attractive place to live. Our commercial corridor along Venice boulevard now includes quality coffee houses and restaurants, as well as a great Sunday Farmers Market. In addition our Art Walk event attracts many from our community and elsewhere as we get out and walk the event, dine out at the restaurants, and meet our neighbors.

Aside from the entrepreneurship of the retail proprietors, the City of Los Angeles has helped shape this growth via the improvements along Venice Blvd. The slowing traffic at first had taken some getting use to, but during the months that followed improvements were implemented that have made a substantial difference making the streets safer for both pedestrian and bicyclists while simultaneously improving traffic flow.

I would be grateful if, in considering the long term continued implementation of these improvements, you were to consider my voice alongside my neighbors as well as the statistics your DOT officials have provided that seem to support this program.

There are some in our community that are quite vocal in opposition of this program, disregarding the benefits these improvements and the Great Streets Initiative have provided, and who consider the changes as unwelcome, ill conceived, and an intrusion, no matter what the statistics and quality of life improvements may otherwise represent. Some want their travel along Venice Blvd to be faster while others have difficulty adjusting to change.

Please keep the program, tweak it where you must, but do not reverse course and return our boulevard and community to the conditions that existed pre-Great Streets.

Thank you.

Joseph Treves

12737 Westminster Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90066

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE

Electronic Communications cannot be guaranteed to be timely, secure, error or virus-free. The sender does not accept liability for any errors or omissions or differences between the original and the transmission copy.

This transmission and any attachments are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to which they are addressed. It may also be legally privileged and protected under any and all local, state and federal laws. If you are not the addressee, you may not copy, forward, disclose or use any part of it. If you received this message in error, please delete it and all copies from your system and notify the sender immediately by return E-mail, fax or phone.



City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Fwd: Council File 19-0092

Gloria Pinon <gloria.pinon@lacity.org>

Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 3:50 PM

To: Clerk - Public Use - Clerk Council and Public Services <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **JOSHUA GILBERT BAUM** <joshuabaum93@ucla.edu>

Date: Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 3:33 PM

Subject: Council File 19-0092

To: <cityclerk@lacity.org>, Hannah Levien <Hannah.Levien@lacity.org>

Hi Hannah,

As a resident of the Mar Vista neighborhood and as an Urban Planner, I would like to strongly voice my support for the street safety improvements that have occurred on Venice Blvd. According to LADOT's findings, the projects had undoubtedly been working well and would be a real let down for the residents, workers, and business owners in the neighborhood that are reaping the benefits of it. I regret that as a young professional who lives and works in CD 11 that I can't make the meeting to give my public comment in person at City Hall, but hope that this email finds you and others at City Hall, who will be making the decision on whether or not to continue with the project.

Best,

Joshua Baum*Master of Urban and Regional Planning '18 | UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs**BA Political Science '15 | UCLA*Cell: 949-683-6201 | In: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/joshuabaum93/>



City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Fwd: Council File 19-0092

Gloria Pinon <gloria.pinon@lacity.org>

Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 12:47 PM

To: Clerk - Public Use - Clerk Council and Public Services <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Galen Graham** <galen.graham@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 12:41 PM

Subject: Council File 19-0092

To: <cityclerk@lacity.org>, Hannah Levien <Hannah.Levien@lacity.org>

Hi,
I'm a resident of Mar Vista and co-chair of the MVCC subcommittee for Mobility. I am equal parts a driver, cyclist and pedestrian in the neighborhood and would like to register my support for the improvements along Venice Blvd and the desire to make the neighborhood safer and more conducive to exploration by all means of transportation, rather than biased toward automobile. I specifically endorse the buffered solution found along the western section of the great street design, where cyclists are in plain view of drivers and parking for cars is found in the traditional curbside location. I encourage continued implementation of future-facing road traffic-management solutions.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my opinion,
Galen Graham



City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Fwd: Council File 19-0092 - Venice Blvd. Great Street

Gloria Pinon <gloria.pinon@lacity.org>

Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 3:49 PM

To: Clerk - Public Use - Clerk Council and Public Services <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mitchell Rishe** <mitchellrishe@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 3:25 PM

Subject: Council File 19-0092 - Venice Blvd. Great Street

To: <cityclerk@lacity.org>, <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, Paul Koretz <paul.koretz@lacity.org>, <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>, <hannah.levien@lacity.org>, <john.white@lacity.org>

Dear Councilmembers Bonin, Martinez and Koretz,

I am a former director of the Mar Vista Community Council (MVCC), a former chair of the MVCC transportation and infrastructure committee, and former chair of the MVCC planning and land use committee. I am a 15-year resident of Mar Vista and a native Angeleno. *I write in support of the Great Street changes on Venice Blvd., and urge you to make them permanent.* I travel the protected bike lane segment of Venice Blvd. often, usually by bike, to shop at the Mar Vista Farmer's Market, or to shop or eat at one of the many establishments along Venice Blvd. I also regularly (once a week) commute by bike along the non-protected length of Venice Blvd. to my office in Downtown L.A. For anyone that commutes along Venice Blvd., there is no question that the protected segment of Venice Blvd. is a safer and more pleasant experience for bikers, pedestrians, children and the elderly.

I happen to work on Spring St. in downtown, which recently implemented a similar protected bike lane with a reduction of a lane of traffic. Anecdotally, I have observed no discernable difference in traffic before and after implementation of the protected bike lane. As the City implements more of these protected bike lanes throughout the City—along Figueroa St., Spring St., and soon Main St.—it would be a terrible setback for the City to reverse the protected bike lane on Venice Blvd. Rather, the City should *expand* it. Removing the protected bike lane will not solve West L.A.'s traffic woes, but it will make the street more dangerous for bikers, pedestrians, children, and the elderly.

Thank you,

Mitchell Rishe

P.S. I hope to see you at CicLAvia in Mar Vista this weekend!



City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Fwd: Great Street Venice Blvd project

Gloria Pinon <gloria.pinon@lacity.org>

Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 4:20 PM

To: Clerk - Public Use - Clerk Council and Public Services <Clerk.CPS@lacity.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sarah Spitz** <sasco1900@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 4:20 PM

Subject: Great Street Venice Blvd project

To: <cityclerk@lacity.org>, <hannah.levien@lacity.org>

Dear Councilmembers Bonin, Martinez and Koretz,

I am writing to give my support to the Great Street changes on Venice Blvd. I am hoping you will make them permanent. This stretch of Mar Vista has all of the essentials for purposeful aging. Slowing traffic is the key to providing a thriving city center that is safe for older adults and I believe the changes have been a huge success. This parking lane configuration is much safer for exiting a parked car when one has any mobility challenges.

I am at the Mar Vista Farmers Market almost every Sunday — and I host a booth for the LA County Master Gardeners there once a month. I often shop at Centinela Feed and Pet and have attended many events at the Vineyard, so I am often in the neighborhood. And a dear friend whom I visit often lives very nearby. She and her children often cross the streets at Venice Blvd. and Centinela Ave.

There is a very vocal minority who have been committed to opposing these changes. They would like you to think that they speak for the community. Their tactics include bullying and slander and because of this, many of the most civically-engaged citizens of Mar Vista have chosen to disengage. Additionally, MVCC has stopped announcing meetings by email or on Facebook – apparently there was a meeting this Sunday that only insiders knew about. This is no way for neighbors to behave.

I look forward to a decision being finalized so that the discord in the community can be put behind us and the Mar Vista Community Council can return to its history of community engagement and support.

Respectfully,

Sarah Spitz, KCRW Producer/Publicity Director (retired)

"Culture Watch" columnist, Santa Monica Daily Press (active) <http://www.smdp.com/category/life/culture-watch>

UCCE LA County Certified Master Gardener (2006-active); Certified Master Food Preserver (2011-2014)

Food Forward Advisory Council Member, www.foodforward.orgSlow Food LA Food Preservation Advisor <http://sfpla.org>; Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SFPLAB/?fref=ts>

2/27/2019

City of Los Angeles Mail - Fwd: Great Street Venice Blvd project

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team 10) Santa Monica volunteer



City Clerk Council and Public Services <clerk.cps@lacity.org>

Statement in support of the Venice Blvd Great Street, in reference to Council File 19-0092

Harrison Hopkins <harrisonhopkins@gmail.com>

Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 12:58 PM

To: cityclerk@lacity.org, clerk.cps@lacity.org

To whom it may concern:

Please include this email as a communication from the public regarding CF 19-0092.

Thank you,
Harrison Hopkins

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Harrison Hopkins** <harrisonhopkins@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Feb 26, 2019, 07:59

Subject: Statement in support of the Venice Blvd Great Street, in reference to Council File 19-0092

To: <councilmember.bonin@lacity.org>, <paul.koretz@lacity.org>, <councilmember.martinez@lacity.org>, <john.white@lacity.org>

To the Transportation Committee, in reference to Council File 19-0092:

As a resident of Mar Vista for the past three and a half years, I would like to express my support for the Venice Boulevard Great Street.

I frequent several shops on this section Venice Boulevard, including Grand View Market, Mitsuwa, Alana's Coffee, and others. To get there, I often either walk or bike as I live less than a mile away. I can attest that the improvements make me feel safer on that section of the street.

But you don't have to take my word for it: Per the latest report from the LADOT, the adjustments to Venice Boulevard have no drawbacks; Great Streets are good for communities. Business is up along the corridor, there are fewer injury accidents, and traffic remains relatively unchanged from before.

The Westside LA Neighbors Network represents neither me nor the thousands of others in Mar Vista who are happy with our street. Their actions and arguments continue to be devoid of fact, with support from community outsiders who value their commutes more than the communities they pass through.

I hope that you will continue to support our Great Street here in Mar Vista.

Thank you,
Harrison Hopkins