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Council File 19-0092 Venice Blvd Great Street

1 message

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Reply-To: sherriakers@ca.rr.com
To: cityclerk@lacity.org, Hannah Levien <hannah.levien@lacity.org>

Tue, Feb 26, 2019 at 12:07 PM

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



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