

Neighborhood and Business improvement District Division
4, 2016
200 N. Spring St, RM 224
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Att: Miranda Paster

Sept.

Letter of protest for establishment of Venice Beach Business Improvement District CF #10-0749

I am a long term resident in the proposed Venice Beach Business Improvement District (BID) and **strongly object to the content and process of the ballot.** If this District is approved, my property tax bill will increase 70% over 5 years, a cost to me of over \$25,000.00. I am an artist in a live/work light manufacturing building, with my family, and will receive "no specific property related services", as stated in Prop. 218. We are not merchants and not open to the public. We do not operate a hotel. Petition with 549 names ignored by city council, only 6 out of 181 protests accepted in the first vote, which was rejected on procedure.

These are several of my complaints:

1. **City of Los Angeles & State of California has a 37% vote in the District BID.** (la city 24 parcels, state 7). This vote is heavily weighted to the proponents of the BID. This is city redevelopment for business only. Taxation and voting of public city and state property including parks, residences and Westminister Public school should not be allowed. This is taxation without representation and denies us fair and equal protection from unfair taxation based on property zoning not use or value. Opponents of the BID were ignored, given one mailing, a confusing ballot, and not enough time or a list of property owners involved after numerous requests. It's a Rigged Vote.

2. **Several of the proponents of the BID are in litigation with the City of Los Angeles** currently. A small group of the largest property owners have financed the BID and several are suspicious in disguising the BID's content and proponents interests. Some of the proponents under litigation have converted apartment buildings into hotels on the boardwalk where the profit margins are far greater and this will allow them to continue to do just that without proper zoning. A possible deal made between the city Mike Bonin and property owners Carl Lambert, Andy Layman, Jose Bunge to support assessment taxes on the neighborhood in exchange for zoning changes. Bonin wants a silicon beach regardless of the impact to the city.

3. **"Safe & Clean" (1.8 million tax dollars a year for five years)** The benefits of the Venice BID is in reality a disguised **effort to redevelop the boardwalk with hotel development, promoting merchants, economic profiling, and privatizing the police dept.** The city council wants to allow business (hotels, merchants) and more large tech companies (Google, Snap Chat) to get benefits while residents pay the bill. One example: City council has given google an 80% tax break on its business tax.

Giving tax breaks in the millions of dollars, to billion dollar companies, is an ongoing unfair practice by the city. Selling off the city to the one percenters'.

4. The **BID is fraudulent in its content.** The Venice BID was drawn up in secret by Edward Hennings, (civil engineer, Phelan, CA) assisted by a Republican lobbyist (Tara Devine-Devine Strategies, based in Hew Hampshire) and who has a relationship with several of the city council members. These proponents and city council member, Mike Bonin, have made themselves unavailable to opponents to answer questions regarding the district planning, district boundaries, and the exclusions in the BID of a select group of merchants on Abbot Kenny and others within the districts. Many mistakes have been found in the engineers report, for instance ally's are considered frontage and taxed by the foot, along with streets. Numbers are incorrect. The Implementation and mandate of the bid is vague. I doubt the man has ever been to Venice.

5. The Venice BID as stated is **solely for promoting commercial business interests** for profit and does not take into account the **character and mix of the neighborhood.** "Good will ambassadors" on segways for 1.8 million dollars a year is absurd in mixed use residential areas. They have been known to harass and agitate the public as well as racial profiling.

6. **No public input,** speaks for its self. The City Council does not want to answer questions and has decided with a group of wealthy developers and tech companies to push through this assessment (tax). Large problems have arisen from silicon valley in Santa Clara and elsewhere. Now silicon beach is being pushed down our throat, higher taxes, higher rents, higher housing costs, more congestion, more profits for the wealthy, **no regard for the residential areas or the livability and character of Venice.**

We urge a NO vote on the Venice BID.