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I am in opposition to the Establishment of a BID in Venice

Alicia Arlow <alicia@arlocreative.com>

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Dear City Officials,

I am writing to oppose the establishment of a Business Improvement District (BID) in Venice. I oppose for the following reasons:

1. The process for establishing the BID has not been public or transparent.
2. None of the details or documents about the potential Venice BID have been made public, including the proposed area of coverage, the bylaws or other governing documents, the process for membership, the results of any votes taken, and other relevant information.
3. BIDs in the City of Los Angeles, and particularly their private security forces, have a history of hostility toward homeless and low-income residents resulting in several lawsuits regarding unconstitutional practices.
4. BIDs are a form of privatization that harms those that don't own property and limits democratic control over resources.
5. BID assessments are not feasible for all businesses or property owners to pay, particularly non-profits and small business owners.
6. The founding premise for the Business Improvement District is at fault. It is claimed that a BID is needed because the City of Los Angeles is not providing the proper public services. While there is accuracy in the fact that the city is not providing services, the solution is not privatization. I vehemently oppose any privatization of our public spaces and services. The city is responsible for providing the necessary budget to provide these services.
7. Since 2011, global tech companies, like Google and Snapchat, have enjoyed an 80% Tax Break – our money – taken out of our revenue stream – which isn't and SHOULD BE invested into our public services. As a result of this Tax Break, "Championed" by Councilman Mike Bonin, the City of Los Angeles has lost Billions of Dollars in income. By making these companies pay their fair share, we will be able to properly fund our needed public services.
8. In 1904, Abbot Kinney deeded Ocean Front Walk to be a public park in perpetuity, which also included sharp restrictions on commerce; therefore the city has no authority to approve a BID on this section of Venice.

For these and other reasons, I urge that any proposal for a BID in Venice be denied. Additionally, all documents regarding any plans to date for a BID should be released to the public.

Sincerely,

15 Year Stakeholder of Venice, and Certified Small Business Owner in Venice

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