

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Citizens Preserving Venice

**Date Submitted:** 03/07/2021 04:50 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0002-S18

**Comments for Public Posting:** Citizens Preserving Venice (CPV) is a non-profit 501c(3) organization, founded as a group dedicated to preserving and protecting the character and scale of Venice as a Special Coastal Community, including the history, the social, cultural, racial and economic diversity, and including affordable housing. CPV urges you and the other members of the City Council to support Councilmember Paul Koretz's resolutions against State Senate bills SB 9 and SB 10 and to remove any requirement for concurrence by the Mayor from these resolutions. We are dismayed by the ongoing effort by our State legislature to pass deceitful legislation that purports to help create badly needed affordable housing, but that will actually lead to increased housing prices and added benefits to developers and land speculators without creating any affordable housing units. CPV is specifically concerned about SB 9 (Atkins) and SB 10 (Weiner) because these two CA Senate bills will effectively eliminate single-family communities in Los Angeles. They will also accelerate gentrification and increase the financial pressure on communities of color and our low- and moderate-income neighbors who are struggling to find affordable housing to buy or rent. We have seen this sad trend in the Venice neighborhood of Oakwood, which is a rare example of an early-20th century African American enclave (an area different in character whose inhabitants are culturally or ethnically distinct) with many third-, fourth-, and fifth-generation descendants of those who built Venice. The Oakwood neighborhood has seen unchecked speculation and rapid gentrification, causing a distressing loss of racial and economic diversity. The City Council's support will send Sacramento a strong, unified message on behalf of the citizens of Los Angeles that we demand real solutions to the affordable housing crisis in our state, not misleading and deceitful ones. As you know, Los Angeles has been a leading advocate for affordable housing and smart growth near transit through our TOC policy (although we believe the City Council should increase the affordability requirements for TOC projects). Zoning does not create affordable housing, and CPV is ready to lend its strong support to help City leaders craft policies and regulations that will actually lead to the creation of more affordable housing in Los Angeles (including the potential repeal of Article 34 of the State Constitution, which has

been a barrier to local governments for building publicly financed affordable housing). We believe that single-family communities should be preserved and protected, and we also believe that there are plenty of locations in and around our Los Angeles communities that can accommodate the affordable housing that Los Angeles so desperately needs. Citizens Preserving Venice has joined with United Neighbors (“UN”), a newly formed coalition comprised of previously unaffiliated homeowners’ associations and neighborhood organizations that represent communities throughout Los Angeles. UN’s 100+ organizations are working together to defeat misguided, “one-size-fits-all” bills from Sacramento, and we join UN in asking that you will support Angelenos by supporting Councilmember Koretz’s resolutions re. SB 9 and 10.



# Citizens Preserving Venice

March 6, 2021

The Honorable Nury Martinez  
Los Angeles City Council President  
200 North Spring Street, Suite 470  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Council President Martinez:

Citizens Preserving Venice (CPV) is a non-profit 501c(3) organization, founded as a group dedicated to preserving and protecting the character and scale of Venice as a Special Coastal Community, including the history, the social, cultural, racial and economic diversity, and including affordable housing.

CPV urges you and the other members of the City Council to support Councilmember Paul Koretz's resolutions against State Senate bills SB 9 and SB 10 and to remove any requirement for concurrence by the Mayor from these resolutions. We are dismayed by the ongoing effort by our State legislature to pass deceitful legislation that purports to help create badly needed affordable housing, but that will actually lead to increased housing prices and added benefits to developers and land speculators without creating any affordable housing units. CPV is specifically concerned about SB 9 (Atkins) and SB 10 (Weiner) because these two CA Senate bills will effectively eliminate single-family communities in Los Angeles. They will also accelerate gentrification and increase the financial pressure on communities of color and our low- and moderate-income neighbors who are struggling to find affordable housing to buy or rent. We have seen this sad trend in the Venice neighborhood of Oakwood, which is a rare example of an early-20<sup>th</sup> century African American enclave (an area different in character whose inhabitants are culturally or ethnically distinct) with many third-, fourth-, and fifth-generation descendants of those who built Venice. The Oakwood neighborhood has seen unchecked speculation and rapid gentrification, causing a distressing loss of racial and economic diversity.

The City Council's support will send Sacramento a strong, unified message on behalf of the citizens of Los Angeles that we demand real solutions to the affordable housing crisis in our state, not misleading and deceitful ones. As you know, Los Angeles has been a leading advocate for affordable housing and smart growth near transit through our TOC policy (although we believe the City Council should increase the affordability requirements for TOC projects). Zoning does not create affordable housing, and CPV is ready to lend its strong support to help City leaders craft policies and regulations that will actually lead to the creation of more affordable housing in Los Angeles (including the potential repeal of Article 34 of the State Constitution, which has been a barrier to local governments for building publicly financed affordable housing). We believe that single-family communities should be preserved and protected, and we also believe that

there are plenty of locations in and around our Los Angeles communities that can accommodate the affordable housing that Los Angeles so desperately needs.

Citizens Preserving Venice has joined with United Neighbors (“UN”), a newly formed coalition comprised of previously unaffiliated homeowners’ associations and neighborhood organizations that represent communities throughout Los Angeles. UN’s 100+ organizations are working together to defeat misguided, “one-size-fits-all” bills from Sacramento, and we join UN in asking that you will support Angelenos by supporting Councilmember Koretz’s resolutions re. SB 9 and 10.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
The Board of Citizens Preserving Venice

Cc: Councilmember Mike Bonin, CD-11

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Citizens Preserving Venice (CPV), a nonprofit 501c(3), founded as a group dedicated to preserving and protecting the character and scale of Venice as a Special Coastal Community. We work with the Venice community preserving the history, including the social, cultural and economic diversity, and protecting affordable housing by promoting healthy growth throughout Venice