

Communication from Public

Name: Darryl DuFay

Date Submitted: 10/30/2021 01:24 PM

Council File No: 21-0829-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Council File 21-0829-S1 Dear PLUM members, As a resident in the Venice Canals for forty-two years I am deeply concerned about my community. For the past five years my efforts have been consumed by a proposed major homeless housing construction project. Why has the Venice community in general and the Venice Canals in particular been summarily dismissed and berated in the development of the “Reese-Davidson Community” Project? Four years ago we were promised by Councilman Mike Bonin to have input on a project of ninety units and a discussion of the needs of the anticipated residents. That never happened. The developers Venice and Hollywood Community Housing Corporations were to have neighborhood meetings with meaningful consequences. They were a failure at openness. After attending most of the meetings, I asked myself why do I know less than when I arrived. The state legislature stripped away the protections of CEQA. One decision was directly aimed at the Project. Located in the historical Venice Canals listed on National and City registries. Site of the historical Pacific Electric Red car bridge, which its surrounding will be severely modified. Located a block from the beach on the public parking lot between N. and S. Venice Blvd. and Pacific Ave. and Dell Ave. Its Open Space zoning was to be changed to R3. It is now C2 for a Venice Neighborhood Community. It combines 36 lots into one parcel size of 122,171 square feet or 2.8 acres. The Affordable Housing Opportunity Sites RFQP stated that the Proposed Development Strategies “do not need to include the entire site.” One hundred forty units. Latest costs including land value are over one million dollars a unit. Four hundred residents. Developers have permission from LA Recreation and Parks to use the adjacent Linnie Canal Children’s Park for those residents claiming they don’t have enough recreational space. There is no security plan. A low income four unit apartment house will be demolished. Information on ZIMAS regarding flooding, liquefaction, rising tides, tsunamis, methane gas, earthquakes, high water table were dismissed. The three decades canal maintenance lot for Mariposa Landscaping, who have a city contract, was removed with no replacement. The access to the public boat launch ramp has been made useless with an internal parking plan that cannot be taken seriously. I sincerely ask for a no vote. Darryl DuFay

Communication from Public

Name: Darryl DuFay
Date Submitted: 10/29/2021 11:59 PM
Council File No: 21-0829-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Re: Council File No. 21-0829-S1 Dear Members of the City Council: I hope you saw the news this week that Sonya Reese Greenland and Evan Hines have come out against the Reese Davidson Community on the Venice Canals, including the Gregory Hines Community Art Center. See:
https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/reese-family-demands-name-be-removed-from-controversial-vche-project-on-venice-canals/article_248dd98e-36d0-11ec-a05e-6ffa4f17a762.html
https://www.westsidecurrent.com/venice/gregory-hines-son-speaks-out-against-fathers-name-associated-with-controversial-vche-project/article_7b4cb400-3786-11ec-ab71-af6ed9feb5b5.html Ms. Reese Greenland sent a cease and desist letter to the developers stating that her grandfather—Venice legend Arthur L. Reese—would want the project “stopped immediately” and demanding that the Reese name be removed from the project. She also states that the project is “the opposite of social justice” because it reduces beach access for communities of color by replacing existing surface lot parking with expensive, mechanical lift parking 500 feet further from the beach and freezing substandard streets and sidewalks in place forever. A copy of the letter is available here: (<https://bit.ly/2ZzRwrG>) Mr. Hines, for his part, says it is wrong to put such a massive project so close to the beach and that his father—legendary entertainer Gregory Hines—“would not be for this given what the effect on the community is going to be.” “I don’t think it’s right,” he said, “and Greg would not have thought this was right either.” I stand with Ms. Reese Greenland and Mr. Hines in opposing this project. Further I understand that the project will needless destroy 4 existing units of affordable housing - displacing 4 Venice families - and that the developers are not conducting any environmental review even though the project is in a FEMA flood zone. Affordable housing is important, but so is access to California’s most storied and diverse beach. The Reese Davidson Community does not strike the right balance. Please vote no. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Lanore Larson
Date Submitted: 10/30/2021 05:18 AM
Council File No: 21-0829-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Dear Members of the City Council: I hope you saw the news this week that Sonya Reese Greenland and Evan Hines have come out against the Reese Davidson Community on the Venice Canals, including the Gregory Hines Community Art Center. See: https://www.westsidecurrent.com/news/reese-family-demands-name-be-removed-from-controversial-vchc-project-on-venice-canals/article_248dd98e-36d0-11ec-a05e-6ffa4f17a762.html
https://www.westsidecurrent.com/venice/gregory-hines-son-speaks-out-against-fathers-name-associated-with-controversial-vchc-project/article_7b4cb400-3786-11ec-ab71-af6ed9feb5b5.html Ms. Reese Greenland sent a cease and desist letter to the developers stating that her grandfather—Venice legend Arthur L. Reese—would want the project “stopped immediately” and demanding that the Reese name be removed from the project. She also states that the project is “the opposite of social justice” because it reduces beach access for communities of color by replacing existing surface lot parking with expensive, mechanical lift parking 500 feet further from the beach and freezing substandard streets and sidewalks in place forever. A copy of the letter is available here: (<https://bit.ly/2ZzRwrG>) Mr. Hines, for his part, says it is wrong to put such a massive project so close to the beach and that his father—legendary entertainer Gregory Hines—“would not be for this given what the effect on the community is going to be.” “I don’t think it’s right,” he said, “and Greg would not have thought this was right either.” I stand with Ms. Reese Greenland and Mr. Hines in opposing this project. Further I understand that the project will needless destroy 4 existing units of affordable housing - displacing 4 Venice families - and that the developers are not conducting any environmental review even though the project is in a FEMA flood zone. Affordable housing is important, but so is access to California’s most storied and diverse beach. The intimidating and expensive mechanical car tower parking that will replace current beach parking limits access to the beach, the sidewalks are insufficiently wide and this project will prevent future expansion of bike lanes on the major thoroughfare in the area: Venice Blvd. The misnamed Reese Davidson Community has been pitched on falsehoods, beginning with the name and implication. The developers cannot set aside units for “artists” and “people of color”, that would be discrimination: they would be competing for housing with other groups. And on top of this, the prison-like design detracts from the charm of Venice, not enhancing the experience of residents, neighbors and visitors. Please vote no. Thank you.

Communication from Public

Name: Jill Vercos
Date Submitted: 10/30/2021 10:09 AM
Council File No: 21-0829-S1

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https://www.westsidecurrent.com/venice/gregory-hines-son-speaks-out-against-fathers-name-associated-with-controversial-vchc-project/article_7b4cb400-3786-11ec-ab71-af6ed9feb5b5.html Ms. Reese Greenland sent a cease and desist letter to the developers stating that her grandfather—Venice legend Arthur L. Reese—would want the project “stopped immediately” and demanding that the Reese name be removed from the project. She also states that the project is “the opposite of social justice” because it reduces beach access for communities of color by replacing existing surface lot parking with expensive, mechanical lift parking 500 feet further from the beach and freezing substandard streets and sidewalks in place forever. A copy of the letter is available here: (<https://bit.ly/2ZzRwrG>) Mr. Hines, for his part, says it is wrong to put such a massive project so close to the beach and that his father—legendary entertainer Gregory Hines—“would not be for this given what the effect on the community is going to be.” “I don’t think it’s right,” he said, “and Greg would not have thought this was right either.” I stand with Ms. Reese Greenland and Mr. Hines in opposing this project. Further, I understand that the project will needlessly destroy 4 existing units of affordable housing - displacing 4 Venice families - and that the developers are not conducting any environmental review even though the project is in a FEMA flood zone. This is unacceptable. Affordable housing is important, but so is access to California’s most storied and diverse beach - there are MANY other communities with adequate space for such a project. I am a Venice stakeholder and resident for almost 30 years. I’m not a “NIMBY” nor a segregationist (as we’ve been called by the executive director of the Venice Community Housing Corporation, Becky Dennison in Curbed New York). The Reese Davidson Community does not strike the right balance and is unnecessary in our community. Please vote NO. Thank you.