

Communication from Public

Name: Judith A Esposito

Date Submitted: 05/26/2022 09:41 AM

Council File No: 21-0829-S1

Comments for Public Posting: NO NO NO EVERYTHING IS WRONG ABOUT THIS
HORRIFIC PROJECT !!! WRONG LOCATION !!! COSTS are
obscene !!! WRONG THINKING !!!!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/26/2022 09:16 AM

Council File No: 21-0829-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Please distribute this statement to members of the PLUM Committee and the Members of the City Council. Thank you.

May 25, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Hon. Nury Martinez, President
Los Angeles City Council
c/o City Clerk
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(holly.wolcott@lacity.org)

Hon. Kevin de Leon, Chair
Homelessness & Poverty Comm.
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(luigi.verano@lacity.org)

(Clerk.HomelessnessandPovertyCommittee@lacity.org)

Re: Councilmember Mike Bonin's Circumvention Proper Hearing Process for the Venice Median Project at Homelessness and Poverty Committee Meeting on May 26, 2022, Item No. 2, Council File No. 22-0496, VTT-82288; ENV-2018-6667-SE; CPC-2018-7344-GPAJ-VZCJ-HD-SP-SPP-CDP-MEL-SPR-PHP; Related Council File Nos. 21-0829 and 21-0829-S1.

Dear President Martinez, Chair de Leon; Members of the Housing and Poverty and PLUM Committees:

I urgently ask you to paid heed to the proper protocol for matters before the City Council. This project was never in compliance with Coastal Land Use Laws. It will forever change and threaten the character of Venice with this egregious structure. You know that and so does Councilmember Mike Bonin. He is asking you to prematurely and inadvisably authorize the Housing Department General Manager to sign this irrevocable Disposition and Development Agreement (DDA) with the private real estate developers of the ill-conceived Pacific Dell/ Venice Median) Project in Venice. We are not saying that affordable housing has no place in Venice – it most definitely is wanted and needed here but think of how many units could be built in a project that would be compatible in mass and scale and not overwhelm its neighboring historic district. We are in the process of updating our Venice Local Program and this would seriously prejudice the writing of the plan and set a terrible precedent for what should be a reasonable and acceptable affordable housing project. These applicants are the biggest developers in Venice seeking to spend taxpayers' money on a scheme to waste the taxpayers' money.

Councilmember Bonin and you, the Council, know that this is not acceptable according to our land use laws and he is trying to circumvent these regulations by amending these laws that are there to protect us from massive monoliths posturing as affordable housing projects. One does not make or change rules to benefit a single project that is in and of itself illegal by insisting that a proposed motion to authorize the General Manager of the Housing Department to sign and enter the City into an irrevocable Disposition and Development Agreement with the real estate developers. This is not acceptable.

He is asking you to ignore the law and the process of good planning. Any changes to these plans should be made for the benefit of all and through the proper and legal procedures. Writing a Local Land Use Program *is* the proper way to do this. What Mr. Bonin is asking you to do is to pass this through without the chance for public and City input shows a disrespect to the community most impacted, to you, the Council and its relevant committees, and shows a total disregard of the laws in place now.

Don't let Councilmember Bonin's overbearing and pressured request to you to let this project go forward on unsupported findings. This project is based on the Councilmember's say so and it has not ever been considered according to the land use laws.

This should never have been tolerated.

Please pass on this request to amend our land use laws for Venice and insist on a fair and complete examination of the project. You must stop this unacceptable pressure brought on by a developer and a fellow Councilmember.

LET IT DIE.

Sincerely,

Sue Kaplan
Venice

Communication from Public

Name: Gene Cunningham

Date Submitted: 05/26/2022 08:33 AM

Council File No: 21-0829-S1

Comments for Public Posting: I am opposed to this project in any form. It violates all the environmental regulations put in place to protect the coast as well as being subject to costal sea level rise and flooding. It is gross waste of taxpayer funds at 1,000,000 per unit. It destroys beach access and fire dept. access. It violates mass and height restrictions. It supports only nonprofit and Bonnin extremists and is based on the debunked idea that Housing first solves all the problems of homelessness. We should be using public monies for mental health, drug rehab and crime prevention rather than squandering monies on Bonnins vanity project.

Communication from Public

Name: Christine Lee

Date Submitted: 05/26/2022 09:53 AM

Council File No: 21-0829-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Hello I am a Venice stakeholder. I have lived in Venice for 22 years now and I have raised both of my children in this small city. I am very against the Reese Davidson Community Center because it is an egregious waste of tax payer money and just the enormous and ugly design would be a visual blight in the center of our beach community. It is highly disappointing that the developers want to build without any proper procedures and with blatant disregard of permits and regulations. You can't just do this to a small community. There are better ways to house the homeless than bowing to greedy developers which will ruin the heart of our city. Do not just push this project through without proper procedure please. The fact that the community center wants to use Gregory Hines' name, when his own family believes he would not support this sham of a development, should be indication enough that this project should not be pushed through without more consideration and proper procedures.

Communication from Public

Name: richard

Date Submitted: 05/26/2022 09:59 AM

Council File No: 21-0829-S1

Comments for Public Posting: You are being misled to approve an extremely flawed, over-priced, mixed-use development. No development agreement should be executed until proper permitting is received from required agencies and ALL the facts of the project, including the Parking Tower, are presented truthfully including the details about the noise, the traffic and the impact to the surrounding residential and commercial areas. We shouldn't be pushing this through without due diligence yet again at the whim of a lame duck Councilman, soon to be out of office and leaving his flawed mess of a legacy for us to deal with for years to come. And let's not ignore that the pro forma for this new project filing indicates that costs will rise another \$90,000 for each unit which brings costs to roughly \$1.249 million per 460 sq.ft. unit. Let's be talking about that a lot - the most un-affordable affordable housing in the city, the state, the country, and most likely, the world...

Communication from Public

Name: Mary S

Date Submitted: 05/26/2022 10:10 AM

Council File No: 21-0829-S1

Comments for Public Posting: This project has been pushed through by Councilman Bonin and his special interest friends in defiance of the will of the majority of voters in this council district 11. This is an example of why so many people signed petitions to recall him and he is not running again. He should not be allowed to do his on his way out the door! This should be investigated, something is not right here! Even the family of the man they tried to name it after has written letters protesting the use of his name. This project is a waste of taxpayer money and way too expensive to build on this plot of land and it is displacing long term residents who are not high income. That money could be used could be used to build shelters and services in other less expensive areas of the city and house twice as many people and do it more rapidly. Look at what Kevin De Leon and Joe Buscaino have done in their districts. I currently live 3 miles from there and worked long and hard for 40 years to afford my condo. Yes we would all love to live a block from the beach but I am no able to afford it, so don't call me a NIMBY, it is insulting to people like me who truly care about taking care of as many homeless ad possible. And this parking garage monstrosity is going to be a nightmare for everyone who travels from areas of the district that are too far away to walk or bike to enjoy the beach. Cars backlogged and idling and polluting waiting for a car elevator?? Expensive and stupid Idea.

Communication from Public

Name: Dr. Joel Isaacs

Date Submitted: 05/26/2022 10:22 AM

Council File No: 21-0829-S1

Comments for Public Posting: The proponents of this project are attempting to bypass all of the established zoning measures that have protected this wonderful Venice Canals neighborhood for the 41 years I have lived here, and in which I built my house 30 years ago. This project is NOT about homelessness! The cost of a single, small apartment is veering towards \$1.000,000! Please do NOT allow this unseemly project to bypass the traditionally required permit processing. Thank you. Dr. Joel Isaacs

Communication from Public

Name: Stefanie Cho

Date Submitted: 05/26/2022 12:47 AM

Council File No: 21-0829-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Very obviously, Kevin DeLeon, Nithya Raman, Joe Buscaino and Bob Blumenfeld are being misled by Mike Bonin to approve an extremely flawed, over-priced, mixed-use development. He is requesting immediate development approval - known as a Disposition and Development Agreement (DDA) - even before getting needed permits from the Coastal Commission and other agencies. No development agreement should be executed and considered final until proper permitting is received from required agencies and ALL the facts of the project, including the Parking Tower, are presented truthfully including the details about the noise, the traffic and the impact to the surrounding residential and commercial areas. And even more importantly, this should be tabled until 2023, when we have true leadership in CD 11. We shouldn't be pushing this through without due diligence yet again at the whim of a lame duck Councilman, soon to be out of office and leaving his flawed mess of a legacy for us to deal with for years to come. Let's also talk about how you are blowing \$1.249 million per 460 sq.ft unit and there are 140 units! This is a joke on all of us and especially the City Council for calling this Homeless Housing.

Communication from Public

Name: Dionne Aarsen

Date Submitted: 05/25/2022 11:58 PM

Council File No: 21-0829-S1

Comments for Public Posting: Stop the madness. This is not a solution, rather, another opportunity to squander our tax dollars on a development that only benefits the developers, the homeless profiteers and a handful of homeless. Please use the money where it will have less impact on the environment and more impact on helping the homeless situation. Common sense please!

Communication from Public

Name:

Date Submitted: 05/26/2022 07:39 AM

Council File No: 21-0829-S1

Comments for Public Posting: I strongly oppose councilman Mike Bonin trying to push through the median project in Venice at the corner of Venice Blvd and Pacific (aka The Monster in the Median). The attempt to try to rush approval of this project w/o going through the proper channels is unethical and absurd. There is a reason these projects have to garner approvals from councils & committees, checks and balances are in place for a reason. No development agreement should be executed until proper permitting is received from all required agencies and the facts of the project are transparently presented (incl noise, traffic, impact to the surrounding residential & commercial areas, etc) to the entire community, and city taxpayers who are funding these things. Additionally the fact that each unit will cost roughly \$1.24 MILLION/500 sq.ft. is RIDICULOUS. The city and everyone supporting this project should be ashamed & embarrassed. This was not planned well, was never a smart idea, and must be stopped. There are better ways to address the issues this city is facing. Please STOP this effort. We will all remember how you voted on this, when your seats come up for reelection.