

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Jim Williams

**Date Submitted:** 06/08/2022 08:34 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0829-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** Dear Council, (Council File 21-0829-S1) I beg you NOT to approve the agreement between the City and the Venice Median Developers because they have not gotten various agency approvals for the project. This project has been rushed through without proper oversight. Bidding for the Project should be reopened. Numerous pre-conditions for the Disposition and Development Agreement between the city and the Venice Community Housing Corporation and the Hollywood Community Housing Corporation have not been satisfied so the DDA should NOT be executed. Besides, the NEW "Venice Median" COSTS are completely excessive and the design is horrific (not to mention the environmental damage and construction nightmare such a large complex will cause!) TOTAL COST: \$176.4 million---\$1.26 million per 460 sq. ft. unit — (are you kidding???) (Construction Cost \$86.9 million (more now with inflation and supply issues) City's New Parking Tower \$19.5 million—A loud robotic machine, \$15 an hour parking paid to private firm & not city as parking is now! Conservative Land Valuation \$70 million) We need solutions to homelessness and affordable housing NOW...not in the 5 years plus it will take to build this complex that is completely wrong for the space the developers want to put it--- in the middle of densely packed residential neighborhood and the access to Los Angeles' only city beach! To make it worse, the complex will have no parking for residents, no outdoor recreational space, no help for the increased traffic conditions that will materialize due to the size of the complex, no full-size sidewalks for people to walk to the beach or even enter the complex, no bike paths, no green landscaping and a prison-like design with few windows. And we just love paying a whopping \$3.3 million "developer fee" and a \$3.9 million "architectural fee" for a Project that the City's own architects describe as "a large barge come ashore." The Project comprises 140 units with an average size of only 460 sq. ft. (4 units are not low income and 4 units of existing low-income housing are being destroyed to make room for the project) That comes to \$1.26 million per 460-sq.-ft. unit (\$2,739 / sq. ft.) more than twice what the rate is in Venice today!!!!!! This Venice Median project needs to have a proper environmental evaluation and a logical fiscal examination. It should not be rushed into because a City Councilman wants it

before he leaves office. If this goes through as planned it will only be a monument to greed, boondoggle and the disregard of real community needs and wishes of constituents. Don't let it happen this way. Follow the rules that are set out for such projects and not push this project through without proper oversight. Let the new CD11 Council person who will be elected in November get real community feedback and evaluation from the proper agencies.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Steven Pearl

**Date Submitted:** 06/08/2022 08:36 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0829-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** This Venice Median project should not be allowed to proceed and instead needs to be properly rethought from the foundation up: \* The Venice Neighborhood Council has passed multiple motions opposing the Venice Monster. \* Mike Bonin—the Project’s sole proponent—will be out of office in just a few months. \* At least 6 of 8 candidates to replace Bonin have publicly come out in opposition to the Project. \* This is a massive project at the gateway to Venice Beach. It will impede beach access and irrevocably change the character of our community. \* No action should be taken on a project of this magnitude until Bonin’s successor has been selected and taken office.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Stewart Oscars

**Date Submitted:** 06/08/2022 08:59 AM

**Council File No:** 21-0829-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am a resident of Venice. I ask you to cancel this Venice Median Project, Council File #: 21-0829-S1 at both your upcoming meetings. The proposed project is out of scale and character compared to established Venice buildings, and the cost of construction is inefficient use of money. Thank you. Stewart Oscars

## Communication from Public

**Name:**

**Date Submitted:** 06/08/2022 02:06 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0829-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** As a longtime Venice resident I am asking the members of the City Council to vote down or abstain from a vote on the Venice Median Housing. The Venice community has been ignored long enough, we don't want this outrageously expensive monstrosity in our neighborhood, it just makes zero sense. Don't let Mr. Bonin saddle the city with an overpriced boondoggle on his way out the door. It's the largest/last parcel of open space in Venice, one block from the beach in the Venice Canals Historic District. It's in a FEMA Special Flood Hazard Area, with projected flooding 8 feet above sea level due to Climate Change. A Tsunami inundation zone with a high-water table. The building costs here will be outrageous. Replaces beach parking with an untested 45-ft robotic tower with tiered-parking 500ft further from the beach. I predict the lines to get into this parking will constantly block Venice Blvd. in the summer. Its cost is prohibitive: 141 units, each 460 sq feet, costing an estimate more than \$1 Million per unit. How does that make any sense? How much rent assistance could you pay for 141 units instead? Do the math! No priority for Venice's homeless. No sober living required. Mr. Bonin is trying to rush this project through without a PLUM review, if any project needs a PLUM review it is this one. Venice already has far more affordable housing and supportive housing per capita than any other community on the westside, including several new projects (Rose Avenue Apartments, Lincoln Apartments, Marian Place and the Thatcher Yard Project) in the pipeline. Venice wants to continue doing its part—and more—to address the affordable housing crisis, but we deserve a balanced approach to development at this location that reflects the needs of everyone who lives, works and plays in Venice. Please don't ignore the concerns of local residents who know and love Venice, this project is out of scale and sync to the historic beach and canals community, the cost for 141 units is a slap in the face to those this project is supposed to be helping. Vote no or abstain until the costs have been investigated further and made clear.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Melinda Taylor Ross

**Date Submitted:** 06/08/2022 04:55 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0829-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** I am against the Venice Median project (the Monster on the Median). Agenda # 5 22-0496 Council File 21-0829-S1 We in Venice are against this project for a number of reasons including, we will loose beach parking revenue (revenue of which goes to the City, no into who ever owns the parking structure); Long-term families will loose their homes; both the Venice Neighborhood Council, and their Land Use and Planning Committee have rejected the project as not being a good fit for Venice; the parking structure will be privately owned; the apartments will be well over \$1 million dollars each when the land value, construction, etc. is included; Councilmember Mike Bonin is shoving this down our throats, when we don't want it. Please reject this ill fit for Venice.

## Communication from Public

**Name:** Mike Maloy

**Date Submitted:** 06/08/2022 05:33 PM

**Council File No:** 21-0829-S1

**Comments for Public Posting:** I have written many times in the recent past to express my opposition to the Venice Median Project and feel no-one is acknowledging that this does not have any public support in Venice. But yet, one must keep trying and trust that in our representative form of government, those elected to serve us will do just that - serve us, not dictate to us. I live two blocks from the proposed project and care greatly for the neighborhood. My opposition is simple: 1) will destroy the unique character of the surrounding neighborhood as an inviting gateway for millions of Angelenos who flock to Venice. 2) it will do nothing to alleviate the homeless problem in our community. 3) the costs are outrageous for this type of housing. 4) subterfuge and deception have been used to rush this project through the various committees. 5) the project's main proponent, Mike Bonin, is retiring from his position and the candidates who will succeed him oppose it. 6) it violates many traditional permitting issues that would be applied to any other project of its ilk. 7) it is not being developed in good faith. With the above in mind, please vote no or at least table the issue until a new council person is elected and sworn in. Thank You.