10.5.16 Letter to Mike Bonin and City Council in Opposition to the Venice BID- Business Improvement District (aka Private Police Department):

mike.bonin@lacity.org

Cc:  Mayor.garcetti@lacity.org; Holly.Wolcott@lacity.org; Councilmember.cedillo@lacity.org; Councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org; Councilmember.blumenfield@lacity.org; Councilmember.ryu@lacity.org; Councilmember.koretz@lacity.org; Councilmember.martinez@lacity.org; Councilmember.fuentes@lacity.org; councilmember.harris-dawson@lacity.org; councilmember.price@lacity.org; councilmember.wesson@lacity.org; councilmember.englander@lacity.org; councilmember.ofarrell@lacity.org; councilmember.huizar@lacity.org; councilmember.buscaino@lacity.org; ; taylor.bazley@lacity.org; tricia.keane@lacity.org

Dear Councilmember Bonin and other City leaders,

**RE: CF 16-0749 (CD 11)**

**I am writing to** **strongly oppose the establishment of a Venice Business Improvement** District and to ask you to vote NO and to change the new public hearing date from election day, Tuesday, Nov. 8 to Nov. 9 or 11!

Introduce yourself, your stake in Venice and/or other Council Districts.  *Especially add if you live in or near the proposed BID and if you have been issued an assessment without prior knowledge- equating it to taxation without representation.*

The idea that a VERY small group of large property owners, most of whom do not live in Venice, may be handed $1.8 million dollars a year for five years with NO oversight, even by the City is frightening, undemocratic and inappropriate.

**Venice, unlike other BID areas in LA is primarily residential with small strips of commercial activity on OFW and Rose**. We residents will be most impacted but have no power at all in the process that will drastically change the face and unique character of our community, purely in the name of profit.

A private police force is antithetical to Venice and will cause more harm than good. Even nicely asking people to “move along” will force them away from OFW into our neighborhoods with negative consequences for those of us who have much more at stake than a desire to clean up Venice Beach to make more money and who will pass their costs to their tenants, forcing more of them out.

**The city owns a lot of property within this proposed gerrymandered BID and without the City kicking in more than 25% of the land and $950,000 per year to privatize public space, the BID would not go forward. It is your responsibility to do the right thing and STOP the BID!**

**The impact on Venice and the unintended consequences must be fully discussed because once the BID is established, it is almost impossible to disband it. VOTE NO in this BID!**

Sincerely,

Your Name, address, email, phone