**Why You Must VOTE NO on the Venice Beach BID**

**It’s Not Too Late To Change Your Vote!**

**We have been reading about the petition to start the BID process, including emails between Councilman Mike Bonin's office and BID organizer, Carl Lambert. We learned that any BID process requires more than 50% of property owners to sign a petition to begin.**  **Only 52% of owners or as Lambert said, 70 to 80 signatures were collected**. **If the total BID area equals 464 properties and the district was not yet formed, how did they arrive at 52%?** **The City of LA threw in almost 30% of the property-needed to get to 52%, which means that only 22% of us actually voted to create the BID. Obviously, a BID would not be possible without assessing City land, none of which is commercial: Venice** **Library,** **Westminster School and Park, the Venice Blvd. parking lots and the west side of OFW.**

**The first balloting resulted in 36% owners voting YES, leaving only 14% needed to get to 50%. That means that of the 464 properties only 65 properties had to vote yes, and large property owners have heavily weighted percentages. Assessing thousands of dollars on unwilling property owners with only 14% of our vote is unfair and undemocratic - a forced tax on us by The City and boardwalk property owners solely to benefit the boardwalk area.**

**We have also checked the liability issue of a private contractor (BID Patrol), since the City will pay the *Boardwalk Property Owners Association* to hire the contractor. We, the property owners, will be forced to accept liability costs over coverage and we are responsible to pay awards that exceed the insured liability funds. The City accepts NO responsibility and with tensions already high between the homeless population and City authorities, this is a risk that we should not accept. We know that hired private security guards will chase people away from the beach area into our residential neighborhoods, with terrible results for everyone.**

**A prime example of the City influencing the process was seen on the 1st sample ballot with the YES Box already marked with an X and zero public discussion. We believe the ballot and vote was conducted by biased City officials. We are contacting the LA City Ethics Dept., City Attorney, and the State Fair Political Practices to ask them to research possible conflicts of interest and ethical violations, as both Lambert and Mark Sokol, owner of Hotel Erwin have made contributions to Bonin’s reelection campaign, and as we know, Lambert is being litigated for illegally converting rent-controlled apartments into hotel rooms. Finally, Debbie Dyner-Harris, Bonin's District Director, headed the steering committee that created the BID, originally intended only for the Boardwalk and the geographical area was broadened only to reduce their costs at our expense! Join us in fighting this unfair and undemocratic BID!**

Marlene & John Okulick, Property owners, 604 Hampton Drive, Venice, CA 90291, [okulick@gmail.com](mailto:okulick@gmail.com)