

June 24, 2014

Captain Brian Johnson
Commander, Pacific Division
Los Angeles Police Department
12312 Culver Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90066

RE: SUPPORT for Venice Beach curfew 12 - 5 am

Dear Captain Johnson:

I **strongly support** the curfew on Venice Beach.

Preserving the public interest for beach access cannot be greater than the life threatening risk the public faces on our beaches at night. This is not an exaggeration to make a point. It is a point that needs to be made clear.

Venice provides more visitor-serving access to the beach than any other community of its size, and most larger communities, on the west coast. We are doing more than our fair share. Hosting legions of visitors comes at a high cost to our residents but we are generous hosts to the city, county, state and the world and bear the daily consequences of their invasion with grace. Even so we don't need more problems while we try to arrest the current ones.

We have gangs roaming the area day and night, real gangs. We had a homeless man beaten to death and buried in the sand by a roaming band of teenagers one night. People are robbed, stabbed and shot at a higher rate in Venice than in most or any other beach community in the State. The beach is the largest unlit area in Venice and it is impossible to patrol without reducing badly needed services to protect our community's well-lit streets.

If the State Coastal Commission votes to ban the curfew then the State should provide nighttime patrols to make them safe for the public to visit - otherwise the public whose rights have been "protected" will be at great risk.

If the State Coastal Commission bans the curfew it will only be a matter of time before questions will be asked as to why no consideration of the obvious was given. Those questions will come too late. A proven answer is already at work.

Very sincerely,

Jack V. Hoffmann

