

VENICE BOARDWALK ACTION COMMITTEE

JANUARY 28, 2021

ATTENDEES (ALPHABETIC)

Residents:

Brian Averill

Cari Bjelajac

Connie Brooks

Judy Goldman

Alex Neiman

Arya Rahimian

CD11:

Arianne Garcia

Nisa Kove

Dexter O'Connell

Recreation & Park

Bob Davis

Joe Losorelli

City Attorney Office:

Claudia Martin

Mayor's Office:

Brad Fingard

Matthew Tenchavez

LAPD:

Monique Contreras

LA County:

Zachary Gaidzik (BOS)

Nick Holt (DMH)

LAHSA:

Colleen Murphy

Yesenia Ortega

St Joseph Center:

Dawan Moses

LaCheryl Porter



THE ISSUE

- The Venice Beach boardwalk, a **public park**, has become unwelcoming for its intended uses. More than 200 tents for unhoused people now occupy areas previously used by the broader Angeleno community as places of recreation.
- Many encampments abut residential and commercial buildings, posing a **daily fire threat** to people and property.
- Encampments also pose additional public health and safety risks to all residents, **including victimization of unhoused residents**.

As this situation goes unaddressed, the human toll continues to mount, and tensions continue to escalate

OUR OBJECTIVE

MESSAGE FROM

MAYOR ERIC GARCETTI



*Los Angeles is blessed with a vast park system that includes 446 parks, 184 recreation centers, and more than 16,000 acres of land — including iconic landmarks like the Greek Theatre, Griffith Observatory, and **Venice Beach boardwalk**.*

...

***We all have a stake in the success of our parks, and we want to make sure they meet the needs of L.A.'s diverse neighborhoods.** The Department and the Board of Recreation and Parks Commissioners are dedicated to ensuring that all Angelenos have access to our dynamic park system.*



Eric Garcetti
Mayor of Los Angeles

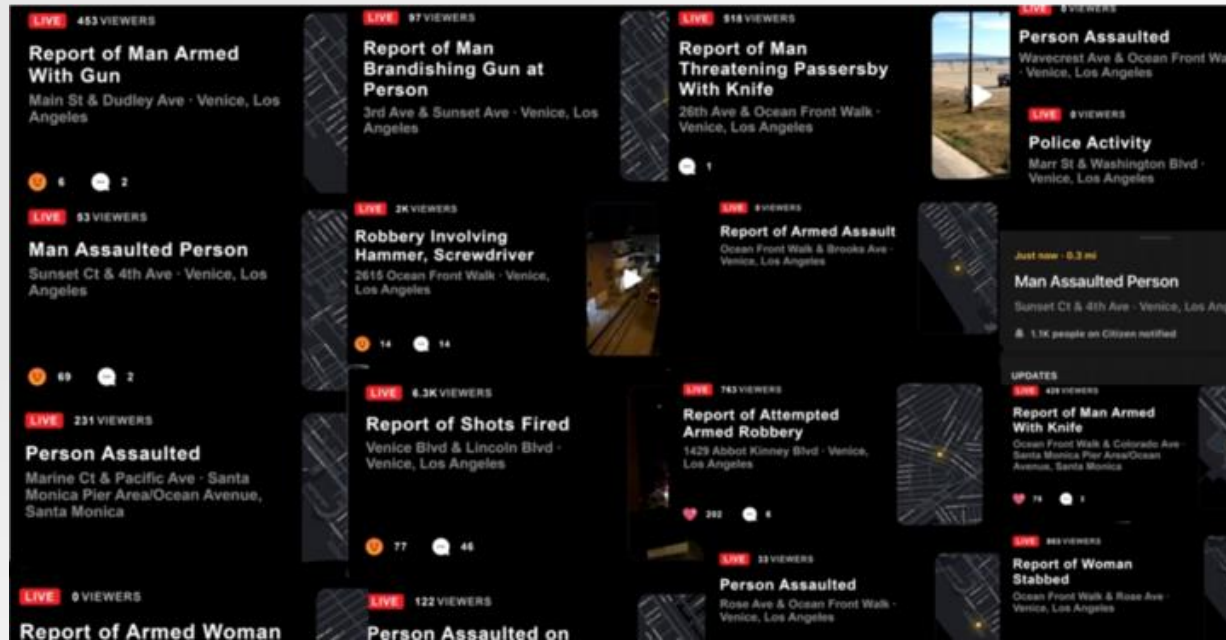


"Parks add immeasurably to our quality of life. They give families a safe space to gather and they also help build a sense of community."

- **Supervisor Hilda Solis**

"We consider parks to be essential for public health. Regular physical activity is one of the most important public health strategies for preventing obesity."

- **Department of Public Health Director Barbara Ferrer.**



BUT...

WHAT WAS MEANT TO BE AN AREA FOR RECREATION AND PUBLIC ACTIVITIES HAS DISINTEGRATED INTO A STATE OF EMERGENCY AND DESPAIR.



AND...

THE HUMAN SUFFERING AND PAIN ARE UNQUANTIFIABLE!



OUR GOAL

To make the Venice Beach Boardwalk park clean, safe, and accessible to all visitors as a place to enjoy recreation and community fun while helping to resolve the humanitarian crisis the Boardwalk is currently experiencing.



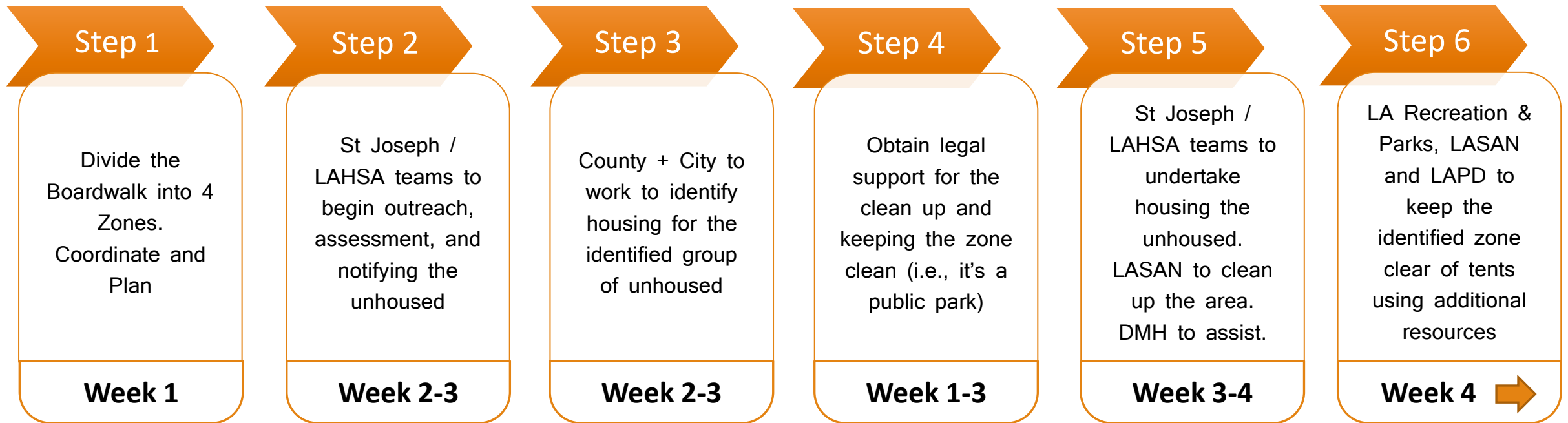
OUR HOPE

Many civic options for improving this important part of LA exist, and we are eager to discuss with you what avenues can be pursued together, involving all of us.

HOW?

It seems like a Herculean task. However, with creative solutions and a united front, we can house our unhoused residents and ensure equitable and safe access to recreation for all park visitors.

Here are the steps we suggest implementing as a pilot trial to address the humanitarian crisis on the Boardwalk and restore this beloved Los Angeles park:



REPEAT WITH EACH REMAINING ZONE

SUGGESTED START ZONE

After conducting 3 tent/structure counts, we determined that north OFW is ideal for replicating an intensive outreach/housing strategy.

- Newer encampment area
- Near many residences
- Includes senior living/center
- Contains a children's playground
- Offers a manageable sector

We are looking forward to sharing resources to address our growing humanitarian crisis.





Thank you!

APPENDIX



OUTREACH TO POTENTIAL PARTNERS / SUPPORTERS

- People's First Aid Kit
- Friends of Venice Boardwalk
- Citizens Preserving Venice
- Venice Beach BID
- Venice Chamber of Commerce
- Venice Equity Alliance
- Venice Hoop Bus
- LA Leggers
- Venice Beach Football Club
- Venice Electric Light Parade
- Veniceball
- LA Parks Foundation
- Coastal Commission
- Recreation and Park Commissioners

HISTORY OF OFW COUNT

Count Date	Number of Tents + Structures
December 18, 2020	174
January 3, 2021	213
January 18, 2021	223

PARK PROUD LA | STRATEGIC PLAN 2018 - 2022

PRIORITY GOALS

:: The City's park system faces a number of significant challenges. This five-year strategic plan confronts some of our primary challenges by establishing the following seven (7) priority goals. Our identified challenges in relation to our goals are described in more detail below.

Challenge: Lack of park access, particularly in low-income communities, contributes to disparities in health outcomes throughout the City.

GOAL 1

PROVIDE SAFE AND ACCESSIBLE PARKS

Challenge: Park use and participation in recreation programs is found to be disproportionately lower amongst females, seniors and underserved communities.

GOAL 2

OFFER AFFORDABLE AND EQUITABLE RECREATION PROGRAMMING

Challenge: Limited resources have strained the Department's ability to meet a high standard of operation, which impacts the quality of life in communities.

GOAL 3

CREATE & MAINTAIN WORLD CLASS PARKS AND FACILITIES

Challenge: In order for the City's parks and recreation programs to reflect the diverse needs of our communities, the Department must expand the ways in which it engages and communicates.

GOAL 4

ACTIVELY ENGAGE COMMUNITIES

Challenge: Population growth, densification, water supply challenges and climate change place additional responsibility on the Department to advance environmental justice and educate future generations by being better stewards of the environment.

GOAL 5

ENSURE AN ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE PARK SYSTEM

Challenge: Limited financial resources and projected increases in operating costs and utility expenses threaten the Department's financial sustainability.

GOAL 6

BUILD FINANCIAL STRENGTH AND INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Challenge: Over 39% of the Department's employees will be eligible to retire in the next three years, making it increasingly important to hire and train diverse, exceptionally-skilled employees who reflect the communities in which they serve.

GOAL 7

MAINTAIN A DIVERSE AND DYNAMIC WORKFORCE

VENICE COMMUNITY CLEANUPS

venicecommunitycleanups.org

