

Monday, April 18, 2005

L.A. Neighborhood Council commission supports new election for Grass Roots Venice council members

BY ROB WASSERMAN, The Argonaut

The Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council will be assisted by The City of Los Angeles Board of Neighborhood Commissioners in organizing a new election for the council.

A motion approved by the Board of Neighborhood Commissioners at its meeting Tuesday, April 5th, was the first action taken by the city concerning Grass Roots Venice since the city Department of Neighborhood Empowerment (DONE) ruled last year that the Venice Neighborhood Council had no quorum for its last election.

The department oversees the city's Neighborhood Councils, which were established in 1999 under a new city charter and which are advisory in nature.

At a Board of Neighborhood Commissioners meeting in March, Department of Neighborhood Empowerment staff suggested decertifying the Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council.

Since their inception in 1999, no Neighborhood Councils have been decertified by the city.

The Board of Neighborhood Commissioners motion—which was approved unanimously—calls for public hearings to be overseen by the commission to approve election procedures for a new Grass Roots Venice Neighborhood Council election.

All 21 Venice council board seats will be open for the election.

The commission will next meet on Tuesday, April 19th, at which time the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment is expected to supply the commissioners with an election timetable for the Venice Neighborhood Council.