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**To:** [City Council](#); [James Clinch](#)  
**Cc:** [Joy Snyder](#); [Paul Cheeseman](#)  
**Subject:** Roberts Bay - Higel Park Anchorage  
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To: The City of Venice Council

From: Julie and Paul Cheeseman  
717 El Dorado Drive

Good Afternoon.

We understand that the City Council has a meeting on March 14 and that one of the agenda items is to discuss the Roberts Bay, Higel Park Anchorage.

As homeowners in the area, we thank you for the opportunity to voice our experiences with the Higel Park Anchorage.

My husband and I have owned our home on El Dorado Drive since 2012.

Officer Paul Joyce and his team have been responsive over the years but because of the current legal or regulatory framework, they must work within, the challenges are persistent and never ending. Efforts are successful in removing one derelict boat and shortly thereafter, another appears. And, the lengthy legal process begins again.

I will outline a few examples of what we have experienced over the years.

- a. derelict, abandoned, unattended and sunken vessels with no way to self propel them. No sails, no motor.
- b. derelict, abandoned, unattended vessels regularly blow off their anchors, moving ever closer to our homes/docks, running aground on the shoals, ending up in the channel(s).
- c. sunken vessels discharging fuels, oils, other liquids.
- d. sails ripping apart from their standards and halyards, causing loud flapping, pieces of sails in the water, halyards banging on the mast night and day.
- e. collecting debris from these derelict boats in the water - cushions, buckets, life jackets, bottles, other containers, etc.
- f. various people living on these derelict boats at various times. Many people have substandard small boats to get from Higel Park to the boat in the anchorage. Many with improper paddles to propel their small boat. (one man used a two by four piece

of wood). On occasion, neighbours have helped these individuals get to shore in order to avoid accidents.

The boats these people live on generally don't have power so loud generators have run day and night in the warmer weather. Another concern - how are they disposing of their sewage? In another case, the individual "lost" his small boat to get from the anchorage to Hugal Park so he used a white 5 gallon pail and walked/ swam to Hugal Park - attempting to use our docks to climb up on to continue his journey by road. g. Over the years, we believe the anchorage area has changed. The shoals have become larger, shallower places to anchor and the type of bottom in the anchorage makes it hard to hold an anchor. I believe this is one reason why boats are trying to anchor closer to our homes - basically in our backyard.

Each time these incidents occur our Marine Police, City Police, Sheriff and Sea Tow spend much time and energy trying to remedy the situation. If a permanent solution could be found, this would free up these resources and potentially save taxpayer money.

Our suggested possible solutions.

- a. create a maximum amount of time that each vessel can remain in the anchorage in a given year. Many transient vessels attempt to anchor in this area overnight, unsuccessfully because the anchorage is full of derelict abandoned vessels. We don't believe the intended use of an anchorage should be a disposal site of abandoned vessels but should be there for traveling boaters.
- b. ensure that each vessel in the anchorage is in good working order and has a light on it. If the law states that a vessel should be capable of self propelling itself then streamline the process to have any boat removed that is not able to power itself.
- c. streamline the process to have sunken boats removed from the water. They are a hazard.
- d. Frankly, the view from our homes is of a graveyard or junkyard of derelict vessels. It is not what one expects when buying waterfront property. I think we can do better by ensuring that our regulations, laws and enforcement match the issues that we are dealing with in this relatively small anchorage.

As in the past, we are happy to support any efforts going forward that would tackle these issues of the anchorage. We are hoping for some positive steps forward and thank you for your attention to this matter.

Julie and Paul Cheeseman  
El Dorado Drive