

City on the Gulf

City of Venice

Request to Speak (print legibly)

Name: BESSIE GEORGE Date: 12-10-13

Address: 1052 ROBERTA ST.

City: VENICE State: FL Zip: 34202

Telephone: 941-488-5512

Please Check One

☐ Audience Participation

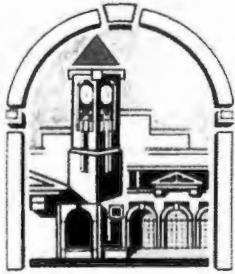
☒ Agenda - Topic: BACKYARD FIRES

If you are going to present evidence and/or testimony during a public hearing, you are required to complete and sign the following oath. You are not required to sign the oath if you are speaking at Audience Participation or at a workshop.

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the evidence or factual representation, which I am about to give or present at the public hearing, held this 10th day of DEC 2013 is truthful.

Signature: Bessie L. George

Comments at public hearing and during audience participation are limited to five minutes per speaker unless otherwise noted.



City on the Gulf

City of Venice

Request to Speak (print legibly)

Name: Maryann Terry Date: _____

Address: 1140 Southland

City: Venice State: FL Zip: 34293

Telephone: 407-4811

Please Check One

☐ Audience Participation

☐ Agenda - Topic: United Way South County

If you are going to present evidence and/or testimony during a public hearing, you are required to complete and sign the following oath. You are not required to sign the oath if you are speaking at Audience Participation or at a workshop.

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the evidence or factual representation, which I am about to give or present at the public hearing, held this 11 day of 12 2013 is truthful.

Signature: M. Terry

Comments at public hearing and during audience participation are limited to five minutes per speaker unless otherwise noted.



'City on the Gulf'

City of Venice
Request to Speak (print legibly)

Name: Jami Lin Date: Dec 10, 2013
Address: 9 Riverfront Drive
City: Venice State FL Zip 34293
Telephone: 941-276-8689
Organization (if any): Venice Center Mall
Business Association

Please Check One

☐ Audience Participation

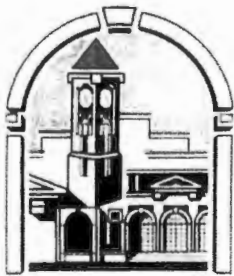
☒ Agenda - Topic: Co-operative initiatives between
Kuy building and Venice Farmers Market

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I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the evidence or factual representation, which I am about to give or present at the public hearing, held this 10 day of Dec 20 13 is truthful.

Signature: Jami Lin

Comments at public hearing and during audience participation are limited to five minutes per speaker unless otherwise noted.



'City on the Gulf'

City of Venice
Request to Speak (print legibly)

Name: Arlene Hunter Date: 12/10/13
Address: 1043 Roberta St
City: Venice State FL Zip 34285
Telephone: 941-480-1098
Organization (if any): N/A

Please Check One

☐ Audience Participation

☒ Agenda - Topic: Recreational Fire Nuisance

If you are going to present evidence and/or testimony during a public hearing, you are required to complete and sign the following oath. You are not required to sign the oath if you are speaking at Audience Participation or at a workshop.

I swear or affirm, under penalty of perjury, that the evidence or factual representation, which I am about to give or present at the public hearing, held this 10th day of Dec 20 13 is truthful.

Signature: Arlene Hunter

Comments at public hearing and during audience participation are limited to five minutes per speaker unless otherwise noted.

VENICE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

DECEMBER 10, 2013, 9:00 am

Good Morning.

My name is Arlene Hunter. I live at 1043 Roberta Street. I have been a homeowner there for 15 years.

The issue that I am presenting to the Council today is about 'Recreational Fires'. The City of Venice does not have an ordinance on 'recreational fires' (which is what the Forestry Division is calling them) nor are there state statutes on 'Florida Outdoor Burning Regulations' (for recreational fires).

For the past several months, my neighbor, Karen LeBlanc, who lives directly across the street from me at 1044 Roberta Street, has been burning large fires in her back yard for the past several months. At times, the fires are burning 24/7. The tenants that live with her also attend the fires, but sometimes they are left completely unattended. Even when the fires are small or at a smolder, they produce a terrible smoke smell. My complaint is the smell of smoke in my house and outside. I have to keep my windows closed, because I never know at what time of day she might start a fire or kindle the fire back up; it might be at 5 or 11pm or 8am. I am not free to open my windows or be in my own yard, because of the smell of smoke. The smoke is causing me to cough and my throat close up. I am feeling like a prisoner, because I am forced to stay inside my house with my windows closed. This is an invasion of my property, my rights and my wellbeing.

This past Friday morning at 7:30am, when leaving for work, I could smell the strong smoke smell again. I called Sarasota County's 'Myakka River Forestry District' that governs 'Florida's Outdoor Burning Regulations'. They told me they would have a supervisor call me. At 9:45 the same morning, I received a call from Rick Christman, supervisor of the Forestry District. He said that he had come to check the fire out and was at my house. He said he could not get anyone to answer the neighbor's door (where the fire was), but could see a lady sitting by the fire (in the back yard); he said he tried to get her to acknowledge him, but she would not speak to him. He said a few minutes later, the homeowner came out to leave in her car. Mr. Christman took that opportunity to speak with her about the smell of the fires and consideration of the neighbors. Mr. Christman told me that (in so many words) she told him she was doing the fires on purpose now for spite, because the neighbors had complained.

At 2pm that same day (this past Friday), I spoke with John Paytek of code enforcement re this problem. He told me that another neighbor had complained about the fires, but the fire department found that everything was within code. Even though the setbacks and other particulars might be to code, I had to call 911 at 11pm about six (6) weeks ago; because the flames were shooting above the back of the house. I told Mr. Paytek that (at this point), the fire safety or regulation was not my issue. I said my complaint is the nuisance of the smoke odor, which most of the time is unbearable. I asked him what I was to do. He said I could have five (5) minutes with City Council meeting.

So before going to other authorities and/or media, I am petitioning you, the Council, for a resolution to this problem.

I appreciate your time and effort in helping me with this matter.

Arlene Hunter