



## The Sober Living Law is Simply Discrimination against Minorities

Over 50% of the homeless are African American, 24% are Latino, and 19% are Caucasian. These individuals often have the most crippling disabilities, including mental disabilities and substance abuse.<sup>1</sup> Sober living homes often shelter this population.<sup>2</sup> Neighborhoods supporting the Community Care Facilities proposed ordinance are the most segregated communities in the City of Los Angeles.<sup>3</sup>

Granada Hills is located in the heart of Council District 12 where the ordinance started and that community is 54.1% White, compared to the citywide average of 30% white.<sup>4</sup> Likewise, the other community supporting the law, Pacific Palisades is 58.9% white.<sup>5</sup> These supporters impressed minority communities with half-truths at presentations and garnered support by simply showing an interest in underserved areas by claiming they had something in common. Many poorer areas were intrigued that the rich people even cared enough to spend time addressing their communities. They were bamboozled.

What these white people did not tell minority communities is the ordinance will push perceived problem group homes, and "those people", out of single family areas into minority neighborhoods. Council District 12 has by far the least amount of available multifamily housing in the City (0.93% compared to citywide 3.70%) and no permitted boarding houses.<sup>6</sup> Council District 11 overall has a 2.21% multifamily vacancy rate and two permitted boarding houses, but such places are certainly not in Pacific Palisades.

Where will the people go? The supporter's ill-fated logic is they belong in boarding houses and multifamily zones. Places like Council District 8 that is 3.9% white<sup>7</sup> with a 7.94% multifamily vacancy rate<sup>8</sup> and home to 33 of LA's 77 permitted boarding houses.

The disabled population with mental health and substance abuse issues is composed of minorities not welcome in white neighborhoods. This effort is not only discrimination against a protected disabled class, but is clearly discrimination against racial and ethnic minorities. These wealthy white people want white tenants in their white communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Los Angeles County Department of Regional Planning, Housing Element, Housing Analysis adopted August 5, 2008

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/publications/enews/2011-02-17/sober\\_living.php](http://www.facesandvoicesofrecovery.org/publications/enews/2011-02-17/sober_living.php) February 2011

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/laneighborhoods/signatures> Primarily Pacific Palisades and Granada Hills

<sup>4</sup> <http://cityplanning.lacity.org/DRU/StdRpts/StdRptsCD/StdRptCD012.pdf> City of Los Angeles Planning Department

<sup>5</sup> <http://cityplanning.lacity.org/DRU/StdRpts/StdRptsCD/StdRptCD011.pdf> City of Los Angeles Planning Department

<sup>6</sup> <http://cityplanning.lacity.org/DRU/Loc/LocFrame.cfm?geo=CD&loc=012&sgo=ct&rpt=HOc&yxr=Y09> LA DCP

<sup>7</sup> <http://cityplanning.lacity.org/DRU/StdRpts/StdRptsCD/StdRptCD008.pdf> City of Los Angeles Planning Department

<sup>8</sup> <http://cityplanning.lacity.org/DRU/StdRpts/StdRptsCD/StdRptCD008.pdf> City of Los Angeles Planning Department