



Candy Rosales <candy.rosales@lacity.org>

11-0262 in Ccl 1/30 Pls help process ltrs to CFMS, thx!

1 message

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>

Tue, Jan 29, 2013 at 8:34 AM

To: Candy Rosales <candy.rosales@lacity.org>

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **June Lagmay** <june.lagmay@lacity.org>

Date: Mon, Jan 28, 2013 at 3:18 PM

Subject: Fwd: SUPPORT THE CCFO

To: Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>

yours?

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **debbie semsky** <debbielyn@mac.com>

Date: Mon, Jan 28, 2013 at 3:15 PM

Subject: SUPPORT THE CCFO

To:

Hello... I am Dr. Debra Semsky and I am writing to ask you to support the CCFO.

I'm a Psychologist and a liberal democrat. I believe in safety nets and public assistance and I believe that as humans, we are obligated to help and take care of each other. And to that end, we need to do something about the proliferation of non-licensed group houses in Los Angeles. Those who have called for restrictions and regulations on these houses have been accused of discrimination and have been called racist. This is ridiculous. I think the issues are pretty simple.

Houses in our area are being purchased or leased by businesses and converted for use as group homes. Unlicensed group homes, sometimes called sober living houses are essentially boarding houses, they are hotels, they can be populated with a few residents in recovery or they can be populated by parolees that the state is housing to reduce jail overcrowding. The common theme is that they are businesses, commercial enterprises that are operating in low-density, residential neighborhoods without regulation or restriction.

In neighborhoods all over the city, residents and homeowners are dealing with the effects of these group homes – they can bring an increase in crime and a decrease in property values. They can bring increases in traffic and congestion and decreases in the quality of life for neighbors. There are frequent reports of heartbreaking conditions inside these houses that compromise the security and the dignity of the people who reside there. For all these reasons and more, these houses need to be regulated.

The State takes an active role in licensing facilities that provide treatment. They regulate number of residents, they regulate staffing and they oversee operations. Houses that do not provide treatment are not regulated by the state or by the city of Los Angeles.

A house that calls itself a sober living house can have six residents or sixty residents. They can charge \$10,000 a month for six people or they can change their business plan and charge \$1,000 a month for sixty people. They can open anywhere, even in areas with sub-standard roads and limited access to fire and emergency vehicles. The point is - there are no regulations on number of residents allowed, appropriate land use, and number of houses within a given area.

I believe in the rights of all citizens. Thus I believe that homeowners have rights too. We have the right to expect local authorities to protect our neighborhoods, and our investments in them, and to enforce the zoning laws that govern them.

Protections for homeowners are no less important than protections for people in recovery or people on parole, yet the city of Los Angeles has failed its obligation to enforce its zoning laws and protect its stakeholders.

Cities all over California have adopted ordinances to regulate group housing. We ask our elected officials and representatives to do the same. We ask the city of Los Angeles to honor and respect the rights of all of its residents and pass the CCFO.