



Candy Rosales <candy.rosales@lacity.org>

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## CF 11-0262 Community-Care Licensing Ordinance

1 message

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KJK <kenjkristiansen@aol.com>

Wed, Feb 22, 2012 at 2:47 AM

To: sharon.gin@lacity.org, candy.rosales@lacity.org

Dear Members of City Hall;

On behalf of myself and my friends in sober livings throughout Los Angeles, I am writing to urge your opposition to the above-referenced draft ordinance because of its negative and harmful impact on us, our recovery, and those who care for us. As written, this ordinance would effectively shut down our sober livings, put us out on the streets, and cut us off from a supportive network and crucial recovery services.

Now, I would like to believe that you can recognize not only the truly deleterious effect this will have on thousands of fragile lives across the city; but also the incredible disconnect and misperception backers of this ordinance have with the active recovery community. For years now, there have been sober livings, transitional housings, and residential recovery establishments helping the sick and needy get back on their feet with the blessing and support of their neighbors. For years, these places have been rehabilitating at-risk youth, veterans, and the disabled; at a time when the government and their own families turned their backs on them. These *homes* that are being threatened with closure are keeping family, clergy, and community members *out of harm's way*; and this proposed ordinance will absolutely, directly *put them in harm's way*. It will strip us of our support network, set all our progress back, and leave our burdens on the doorsteps of City Hall.

I am asking, humbly, that you reconsider the language in this proposed ordinance. I know that some have asked you to re-define a "boarding or rooming house," to consider a single lease requirement in the definition of a "single housekeeping unit;" but I don't think you realize that such changes would completely up-end the traditional, successful structure of sober living and transitional housing environments. Our recovery homes thrive on shared living arrangements; it keeps costs affordable and promotes fraternity. Now, I know some have also said there may be an answer somewhere by way of conditional use permits and variances, but I am here to tell you

that is absolutely not a reality. There is no way these small business owners can afford such red tape. What we need is for you to realize there is a system in place that is working and benefiting this city as is, and it cannot afford the above-mentioned language in the Proposed Community-Care Licensing Ordinance.

In closing, I thank you for time and attention. If you have any questions, whatsoever, about how recovery homes are really a blessing to our neighborhoods, please feel free to contact me. I hope this letter has helped you remember you represent the City of Angels, and this letter represents a whole host of residents who need your care at this time.

Respectfully yours,

Ken Kristiansen  
P.O. Box 199  
Van Nuys, CA 91408

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