

LA COUNCIL FILE
11-0262

**Document in Opposition to
Proposed Boarding House Ordinance:
Case Number CPC-2009-800-CA and
City Council File Number 07-34-27
and In Support of
QUALITY SOBER LIVING HOMES**

We the undersigned oppose Ordinance CPC-2009-800-CA – Council File 07-34-27 as currently constituted, and find it to be discriminatory against Sober Living Homes and to the families that such institutions help to create and maintain. We wish to bring to the attention of the City Planning Commission and the City Council the following:

Sober living homes provide housing and supportive family environments and resources to people in recovery from addiction. Sober living has been an integral, clinical part of recovery for over 75 years.

As presently constituted, this ordinance will have a disparate impact on groups of disabled persons, including those on parole and probation, seeking single family housing. We believe that this ordinance is supported by an illegitimate and discriminatory intent, ignoring fair housing and reasonable accommodation case law for “families of disabled persons living together in mutual support (Sober Living)”.

This ordinance cannot justify its proposed redefinition of family, single housekeeping units, and reclassification of penal institutions which will severely restrict the way unrelated people can live together in low density residential areas, (zones R1, R2, RD) since the principal means for this type of shared housing is through multiple leases or other individual financial arrangements.

We, the undersigned agree with the findings of the 1997 American Planning Association, Policy Guide on Community Residences⁽¹⁾ which include:

- 1) Community residences (sober living homes) are a legitimate residential use of property, and are not boarding houses.
- 2) Community residences have no effect on the value of neighborhood properties, established by over 50 studies, even for immediately adjacent properties.
- 3) Community residences have no effect on neighborhood safety. In fact residents of group homes are far less likely to commit crimes than members of the general population.

(1) American Planning Association – Policy Guide on Community Residences, 1997 Adopted by Special Delegate Assembly, September 21, 1997; Ratified by Board of Directors, September 22, 1997. The full report can be downloaded at <http://www.planning.org/policy/guides/adopted/commres.htm>

We recognize and value the many benefits sober living homes can provide to the City including; reduced crime, reduced homelessness, reduced dependency on City and other public services, reduced family and neighborhood violence and other benefits. We also recognize that these benefits, unlike other social service programs, are provided at virtually no cost to the City and its residents.

By affixing our names to this document, we implore the City of Los Angeles to reject the proposed ordinance as presently constituted and to provide reasonable access to treatment and recovery for all families.

We the undersigned petitioners:

Your Name (Please Print or Write Legibly)	Home Town/Zip Code	Your Signature
1 ANDREW GODOY	Whittier CA 90604	Andrew Godoy
2 MARTIAL PEREZ	Whittier CA 90604	Martina Perez
3 Ramona Hemphill	Whittier CA 90601	Ramona Hemphill
4 Amanda Vaught	Cypress, CA 90630	Amanda Vaught
5 MARK SCOTT	Whittier, CA 90602	Mark Scott
6 Greg Garter	Whittier CA 90602	Greg Garter
7 Janet Arayi	Whittier, CA 90601	Janet Arayi

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Your Name (Please Print or Write Legibly)	Home Town/Zip Code	Your Signature
8 Cynthia S. Holmes <i>Cynthia S Holmes</i>	<i>Whittier, 90603</i>	<i>Cynthia S. Holmes</i>
9 Theodore Marshburn	<i>La Habra Heights 90631</i>	<i>Theodore Marshburn</i>
10 BOB SECORD	<i>POMONA 91766</i>	<i>Bob Secord</i>
11 HEATHER CRAWFORD	<i>Whittier 90602</i>	<i>Heather Crawford</i>
12 Sylvia Rosas	<i>Azusa, 91702</i>	<i>Sylvia Rosas</i>
13 Hollie Almeria	<i>Upland, CA 91784</i>	<i>Hollie Almeria</i>
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