

Candy Rosales <candy.rosales@lacity.org>

 **Fwd: Negative impact on recovery, Item 11-0262, Community Impact Statement**

message

Sharon Gin <sharon.gin@lacity.org>
To: Candy Rosales <candy.rosales@lacity.org>

Mon, Mar 19, 2012 at 9:52 AM

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

From: **Vladimir Melamed** <Vladimir@lamothe.org>
Date: Sun, Mar 18, 2012 at 11:25 PM
Subject: Negative impact on recovery, Item 11-0262, Community Impact Statement
To: "councilmember.reyes@lacity.org" <councilmember.reyes@lacity.org>
Cc: "Sharon.Gin@lacity.org" <Sharon.Gin@lacity.org>

Honorable Ed Reyes, Chair
Councilmember, 1st District

Dear Councilmember Reyes,

I am writing to you with regard to the item 11-0262, scheduled for Planning and Land Use Committee meeting on 20 March 2012 at 2:30 o'clock. As you know from City Attorney Report R11 -0339, this proposed ordinance bans Alcoholism or Drug Abuse Recovery Facilities from low density zones (R1, R2). If passed, hundreds of recovering from alcohol and drug abuse people will be thrown out on the streets. The wording and phraseology of the document does not explicitly say that. Oppositely, it is overall camouflaged into negative findings related to California Environmental Quality Act.

My name is Dr. Vladimir Melamed. I am Director of Archive, Library and Historical Curatorship at the Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust. My son recovers in one of such houses, namely Liberty House. As a historian of the Holocaust, I well aware how pervasive and irreparable are injustice and prejudice. Behind the code sections and other formal terminology is a negative and hope-breaking for thousands message - go out, you are inconvenient for us, you do not belong to us, go to your own kind. The latter means, somewhere to the zone R 3 or elsewhere. Again as a historian of the Holocaust, I observe no societal obligation to their fellow citizens in the proposed ordinance 11-0262.

Multiple and long-lasting complaints on the part of homeowners' associations induced

this ordinance.

While some complaints might be reasonable, it is not a ground to curtail operation of these facilities.

In other words, rich people cannot be disturbed, while in the zone R 3, apartment buildings, this is not a problem.

I believe, you would share my beliefs that elected officials serve to all people. They are elected by the people and for sure the ordinary people and especially people in need are not worse than wealthy, say homeowners.

City of Los Angeles is famous for its democratic traditions. As the Chair of this Committee, please be mindful to the fate of less fortunate. In simple language, the core of the proposed concept is to make life of wealthy free of any noise or other disturbances. In my view, the homeowners shall equally be responsible for all citizens, not only for their kind. Social justice is for all.

It is not the first time, the homeowners segregate others from themselves. They would not oppose the very idea of alcohol and drug recovery, however, not in their's close proximity. Needless to say, such position demonstrate lack of tolerance, cultivation of inequality and prejudice. Several years ago it was a strong opposition of the part of homeowners to build a new Museum of the Holocaust in Pan Pacific Park. In spite all their resistance the City Council unanimously voted for the Museum to be built on public land. I remember one remark on the final vote, "There will be never enough museums, especially of the Holocaust."

Rephrasing this remark, I may say, unfortunately, there is no enough recovery facility. The role of the city here is minimal.

In a certain way, alcoholism and drug addiction is a fault of our society and shall be cured by society. It is a common and communal effort. Perhaps homeowners, specifically from Benecia Avenue, where Liberty House (a sober living facility) is located deem themselves belonging to special social strata, exempt from civic duties. Benecia Ave is a side street of Beverly Glen, located between Santa Monica and Olympic Boulevards.

I believe that City Council will eventually take a wise and well-balanced decision in relation to the Item 11-0262. This decision shall reflect interest of people who are on the edge, the people who need help from society and elected officials.

Please regard this letter as a Community Impact Statement

With my best regards,

Dr. Vladimir Melamed,

Director of Archive, Library and Historical Curatorship
Los Angeles Museum of the Holocaust
100 South The Grove Drive
Los Angeles, CA 90036
www.lamoth.org