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In 1992 the San Diego Sober Living Homes Association (SLHA) was formed. In 1995 I established SAFE HOUSE sober living. In 1996 I accepted the position to maintain the SLHA and I did so for the next eleven years.

I do not want to be sued; therefore, I will only identify the L.A. based organization that took over the SLHA as the Money Train Organization (MTO) three years ago. San Diego was the last of the MTO's regions of conquest. The MTO boasts its expansion of 500 homes in San Fernando Valley, Riverside, and Orange County as well. In caring for the SLHA, I believed I continued its original foundation of ethics in helping those in recovery first and foremost. I believe I continue to demonstrate that ethic in the continued success of SAFE HOUSE. SAFE HOUSE continues the guidelines of tenant landlord rights and laws governed by the San Diego Apartment House Association, which I have been a member for over twenty six years. Most of the residents of SAFE HOUSE have lived there for many years and simply consider SAFE HOUSE home. The residents and I have the same philosophy to not over crowd or over charge those in need in attempt to gain profit. Today, I do not believe the MTO demonstrates my original and same philosophy, and if I knew better at the time, I can assume I would have not allowed them control of San Diego. Today, the MTO has taken all the free services that the SLHA offered and installed a price tag on them. No more free beds, no more affordable housing, no more free workshops, no more personal telephone guidance help line, no more pro bono support for those taken advantage of, and no more unbiased 24 hour referral access line, etc. Today, the MTO is registered as "non profit," however; I know all too well what it cost to run the SLHA. Where is all that money going? The notion that the MTO has also gone "incorporated" is simply to protect itself and fancies itself with an expensive lawyer team to ward off those who attempt to stream line the MTO back to basic local laws of parking issues and simple reasonable occupancy for residents.

I admit I did support the notion to keep legislation out of our homes for many years, for at the time I knew the SLHA was doing the "right thing." Under the radar, the SLHA was truly a "not for profit community service." Greed and power has drawn the attention to the MTO.

Today I am a strong supporter of The California Association of Addiction and Recovery Resources (CAARR.ORG). I believe CAARR offers the closest itinerary to my original objective operating the SLHA today. In contrast, I believe the MTO's ultimate objective is no legislation, with zero outside oversight of their homes, and in the name of profit. The MTO shields itself twisting semantics of the terms "family" or in the name of a person with a "disability." The goal of the MTO is simply no intervention of any kind from an outside source so they can continue to over crowd, over charge, and over take any neighborhood they choose allowing for no recourse for those caught in those scenarios. It is so transparent and obvious yet the MTO with smiles, charm, and yes intelligence, will state their goal to "help those in need." Help their pocket books is what I have observed. If the MTO would really put their money

where their mouth is, why don't they advertise addresses on their expensive and expansive web page of their members' homes for rent. If there was no guilt and truly nothing to hide, such secrecy would not be necessary. A mathematician is not necessary to see the difference of what a sober living house in a R-1 zone would rent for conventionally versus the revenue of what is collected jamming multiple persons in the same residence. MTO states all the tenants that likely never met before, and being impacted into their sober living, is a "large family." My understanding of what a large family is, is a family that moves in simultaneously and has one common rental agreement. Not multiple individuals, coming and going with individual leases. Also, the notion of being a protected group as disabled via the ADA. All the "truly" disabled individuals that I have encountered always obtain a disability card. Sober living tenants may technically be considered disabled, but only the MTO and its tactics use and abuse the meaning. Only the MTO's team of lawyers, landlords and professionals, will be in fight in attempt to keep legislation out of there businesses. Never will you find a sober living tenant fighting for the right to over crowded living surroundings or expensive rent. This is not rocket science folks, it's just another undermining of those that really needed the help under those guidelines of family and disability put to unfortunate use of semantics.

I continue I am all for good quality sober living. Visit and ask the SAFE HOUSE residents and they will support my testimony. I would support the MTO if it had not lost its way and has fallen into the hands of greed and profit. It is unfortunate for the unfortunate, and unfortunately the MTO led me to support them with smiling faces, and I was deceived. God bless all those with the real right goals and intentions.

Post SLHA,

Brian Smith