



Candy Rosales <candy.rosales@lacity.org>

Fwd: Council File No. 11-0262 – OPPOSED to Community Care Ordinance

1 message

Michael Espinosa <michael.espinosa@lacity.org>
 To: Candy Rosales <candy.rosales@lacity.org>

Wed, Mar 30, 2011 at 2:15 PM

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

From: <tim@mybrotherzhouse.com>

Date: Wed, Mar 30, 2011 at 2:10 PM

Subject: Council File No. 11-0262 – OPPOSED to Community Care Ordinance

To: michael.espinosa@lacity.org

The Sober Living Network opposes the Community Care Ordinance, for a number of reasons detailed in our comments to the City Planning Commission. These are the highlights of our objections and requests.

1. This ordinance will destabilize communities, increase homelessness and increase overall crime in the City of Los Angeles:

- Homelessness will increase significantly
 - Sober living homes are life-saving resources for thousands of newly sober people who rely on supportive sober environments to become productive citizens.
 - Approximately 95% of our sober living homes are in low density residential zones supporting thousands of people each year. This ordinance will deny needed supportive housing to an estimated 7,000 people annually, just in Network-affiliated homes..
 - This number does not include those from quality sober living homes accredited by other certifying organizations.
 - Does not include the thousands of persons with mental health conditions also made homeless.
- Crime increases when thousands of addicts, alcoholics and the mentally ill persons currently recovering in stable and supportive housing are cast adrift in the community.
- This ordinance reverses the City's positive directions in its partnerships to deal with housing for the homeless in endeavors such as Home for Good.

2. This is not a legally sustainable ordinance—discriminatory intent is transparent and on the record.

- It violates civil rights laws by seeking to ban types of households (small group homes) from low density residential zones without inclusion of reasonable accommodation protocols for disabled households.
- It is not supported by any data that objectively measured that these homes targeted by the ordinance are indeed the homes that actually cause problems for communities.
- This is a new legal theory creating a conflict with California Supreme Court precedents.
- The City Attorney is defending this ordinance using incomplete and inappropriate case law:
 - One case is currently on appeal to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals
 - Precedents cited on the record are not applicable to disabled households.
- California Supreme Court case law was not addressed.

3. The potential financial risk to the City from litigation costs and penalties is significant.

- The Obama administration is taking an active role in pursuing housing civil rights violations that the previous administration largely overlooked.
- Many member homes are already preparing legal remedies available to them:
- HUD is actively encouraging providers to file complaints, at no cost to filers.
- The DOJ is actively monitoring several similar cases in Southern California..

4. This ordinance is unnecessary

- Focus of the Council should be on strengthening nuisance abatement protocols
- City has current capability of successfully shutting down problem homes without this ordinance
- Even City code enforcement personnel state that group homes for persons with disabilities are not the source of nuisance problems.

5. This ordinance is classist, favoring affluent over less affluent communities.

- While claiming to protect low density residential communities, it throws higher density residential communities under the bus by shifting this perceived problem to those areas already taxed with a lack of housing. Pushing perceived problems "downhill and east" is not good policy.
- Claiming to preserve the "residential character" of low-density residential areas, the ordinance does so by shifting a perceived problem to less affluent, denser neighborhoods already taxed with a lack of housing. "Residential character" is often a code phrase for discrimination against people "not like us."

6. Neighborhood groups will not be satisfied with the ordinance in its current form.

- Many endorsements demand changes which are even more discriminatory.
- Many of these changes are prohibited by existing California and Federal law.

Current and potential role of the Sober Living Network

Legal, ethical and cost-effective means exist to address legitimate neighborhood problems. We ask that the City formally engage the Sober Living Network in seeking solutions. The Network performs several functions which are of value to communities with respect to sober living homes, including addressing and mitigating problems. Our activities include:

- Defined standards for homes in areas of health, safety, recovery support, management, ethics and good neighbor policies,
- Enforcement of standards through annual inspections and complaint-driven grievance processes,
- Monthly meetings of member homes to share information and address problems,
- Listing of approved homes on our website.

We have a few specific requests for the City of Los Angeles:

1. *The City needs to recognize the Sober Living Network as a legitimate accrediting agency for sober living homes; and*
2. *The City should assist us in implementing our Problem Home Information Line, a public service which community residents may use to register complaints about problem residences.*

3/31/2011

City of Los Angeles Mail - Fwd: Council ...

Sent on behalf of: Mona Lisa Fortenberry, President, Board of Directors, Los Angeles County
Sober Living Coalition



Candy Rosales <candy.rosales@lacity.org>

Fwd: Please Do Not Forward the Ordinance Restricting Group Homes to the City Council

1 message

Michael Espinosa <michael.espinosa@lacity.org>

Wed, Mar 30, 2011 at 2:21 PM

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

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

From: <ssdunas@namila.org>

Date: Tue, Mar 29, 2011 at 3:24 PM

Subject: Please Do Not Forward the Ordinance Restricting Group Homes to the City Council

To: councilmember.reyes@lacity.org, councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org, councilmember.huizar@lacity.org

To The Honorable Councilmen Reyes, Krekorian and Huizar:

I am writing you as the President of the Westside Chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and as the parent of a child with a brain illness, urging you to vote against forwarding to the City Council the proposed ordinance restricting housing opportunities for people who need to live in group homes.

Mental illness affects one in four persons in any given year. Someone in your own family may be ill, and if not, you certainly know someone who is affected by this illness. Stigma and shame keep families isolated, and in pain, but the numbers as you can see are truly staggering.

While deinstitutionalization of all but the most severely mentally ill created homelessness in this country, an array of drugs and therapies have since been developed to allow most people with brain illnesses to function more independently in our society. But these individuals do need some help. It is not always possible for these people, most of whom are on disability, to adequately maintain the entire fabric of life on their own; living in group homes offers just enough support for them to maintain their medication regimens, which are their only way to maintain health. Some go back to work, and all go on to function more ably with their diseases, because of this vital support.

These brave individuals have fought--heroically, often desperately--for every bit of the independence and semblance of a normal life they can create. The sacrifices they have had to make because of their illness are immense, and as a compassionate society, we should not ask them to sacrifice further.

You know that services for the mentally ill are diminishing daily in our city. Cutting the number of groups homes in would only result in more homelessness, and unnecessary and painful upheaval to a group of people who can least cope with it.

I ask you to take this into consideration, and, not to forward to the City Council the proposed ordinance restricting housing opportunities for those who need to live in group homes.

3/31/2011

City of Los Angeles Mail - Fwd: Please D...

Sincerely,

Sharon Dunas, MFT,
President-NAMI Westside LA
310-889-7200,
www.namila.org



Candy Rosales <candy.rosales@lacity.org>

Fwd: community care ordinance

1 message

Michael Espinosa <michael.espinosa@lacity.org>

Wed, Mar 30, 2011 at 2:21 PM

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

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

From: **Laurel Altman** <laurel@dotgraphics.net>

Date: Tue, Mar 29, 2011 at 3:02 PM

Subject: community care ordinance

To: michael.espinosa@lacity.org

Terrible!!! Don't pass this!

I oppose the Community Care Ordinance, for a number of reasons.

- 1. This ordinance will destabilize communities, increase homelessness and increase overall crime in the City of Los Angeles:**
 - 2. This is not a legally sustainable ordinance—discriminatory intent is transparent and on the record.**
- 3. The potential financial risk to the City from litigation costs and penalties is significant.**
- 4. This ordinance is unnecessary**
- 5. This ordinance is classist, favoring affluent over less affluent communities.**
- 6. Neighborhood groups will not be satisfied with the ordinance in its current form.**
 - o Many endorsements demand changes which are even more discriminatory.
 - o Many of these changes are prohibited by existing California and Federal law.

Laurel Altman

16315 Londelius St.

North Hills, CA