



AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMISSION

Los Angeles Housing Department
LAHD

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Antonio R. Villaraigosa, Mayor

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August 1, 2012

Honorable Tony Cardenas, Chair
Housing Community and
Economic Development Committee
Los Angeles City Council
City Hall Room
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: *File No. 11-0262: Community Care Facility, Licensed; Residential Care Facility for the Elderly, Licensed; and Alcoholism or Drug Abuse Treatment Facility, Licensed*

Dear Committee Chair Cardenas,

The Affordable Housing Commission, an advisory council to the Los Angeles Housing Department, is writing to express our opposition to the proposed Community Care Facility Ordinance. We believe that this Ordinance is discriminatory and in violation of the federal Fair Housing Act and American with Disabilities Act. If passed, it significantly jeopardizes close to \$75M in federal funding dedicated to affordable housing in Los Angeles. We cannot afford to lose this resource at a time when many Los Angelenos are paying 50% or more of their income on rent. The USC's Lusk Center for Real Estate forecasts a 10% jump in L.A. County rents over the next two years. While the CA Department of Housing and Community Development found that a minimum wage worker in 2011 would have to work 131 hours to afford a two-bedroom apartment.

Furthermore, this Ordinance would eliminate shared housing, an important affordable housing solution for close to 43,000 residents in our city. The Census Bureau reports that the number of adults sharing housing with family members and other individuals jumped 11.4% between 2007 and 2012 nationwide. This Ordinance strongly contradicts our efforts to create an equitable affordable housing strategy that meets demand while not overtaxing any one community. Single-Family residential areas make up 80% of all available residential area within the City boundaries. As such, we must be more creative in our approach to preserve affordable housing in single-family zones, while keeping such housing in balance with the neighborhood vision of these communities. For all of these reasons the Affordable Housing Commission hereby opposes the Community Care Facility Ordinance.

Sincerely,

Commissioner Rev. William S. Epps, President
Commissioner Pete Navarro, Vice President
Commissioner Alice Harris
Commissioner Evageline Ordaz-Molina
Commissioner Stephanie Klasky-Gamer
Commissioner Alice Torres Salinas
Commissioner Martin V. Lee