

January 27, 2013

Re: Community Care Facilities Ordinance
Council File No. 11-0262

Honorable Councilmember Councilmembers:

I strongly urge you to vote to SUPPORT the Community Care Facilities Ordinance,
a fair and balanced Ordinance that will:

- Clarify vague and outdated LAMC stipulations (dated 1956) and more clearly define boarding/rooming/parolee-probationer houses and their appropriate location. This is a Land Use issue and any effort to subvert long standing zoning practices must be resisted. Group houses are considered an incompatible use (multi-family or two-family dwellings) and prohibited in single or one-family dwelling zones.
- Not discriminate against those with disabilities. Other cities have much tighter group house regulations and their ordinances have not been deemed or considered discriminatory.
- Provide safety officials with clearer guidelines and tools for enforcement. There are no current or definitive laws on the books that clearly regulate or define boarding/rooming/parolee-probationer houses. Nuisance abatement is not an efficient or viable enforcement tool for an illegal land use – one that should not be allowed to begin with.
- Safeguard Public Safety! Illicit group housing arrangements have been the source of serious crimes such as murders, assaults, and arson. The number of parolees, probationers and released prisoners must be regulated.
- Offer housing opportunities for those in need in appropriately zoned areas. Also, there are LAMC provisions for housing options in residential zones.
- Protect those living in group housing arrangements from unspeakable abuse perpetrated by unscrupulous operators. The homeless, disabled and those in need deserve good quality, respectable and safe housing.
- **Require further strengthening by amending the CCFO: to retain the need for a Conditional Use Permit and public hearing for Community Care Facilities in single or one-family dwelling zones; limit the number of parolees-probationers in multi-structure units; and to adopt Chief Beck's recommendations.**

Even though this measure could be better aligned with what other prominent California municipalities have enacted, it is a good start!

Appreciate Your Consideration

Maria Fisk