



EMPOWERMENT CONGRESS

SOUTH WEST AREA NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

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A Certified City of Los Angeles Neighborhood Council

Serving the Communities of: West Park Terrace, Manchester Square, Morningside Park, Vermont Knolls

July 22, 2012

City of Los Angeles

200 North Spring Street

Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Members of the Los Angeles City Council:

On behalf of the Empowerment Congress Southwest Area Neighborhood Development Council and its stakeholders, we are submitting this Community Impact Statement to affirm our strong opposition to the proposed Community Care Facilities Ordinance (CCFO), Council File Number 11-0262. While we understand that there is an urgent need to address a number of poorly run housing facilities in our community, we believe that the currently proposed ordinance falls short of doing so. In fact, after reading the CCFO and statements from city departments such as the Housing Authority and other experts on the topic, we are very concerned that this ordinance is discriminatory against federally protected groups (i.e. disabled individuals) and would subject the City and taxpayers to costly litigation. We cannot afford this at a time when the city is struggling to provide our communities with basic services like public safety and street repair. Additionally, we are concerned that the elimination of affordable housing options in the City will result in a rise in homelessness and crime in our neighborhoods.

As residents and stakeholders, we are very familiar with the wide array of shared housing arrangements in South Los Angeles. Many residents, which include senior citizens on fixed incomes, rent rooms in order to cover living costs. Furthermore, there are also several facilities, located within all of our residential areas that provide housing to individuals with disabilities, veterans and those returning from incarceration. We recognize that many of these facilities operate consistently within the law and the reasonable expectations of residents. However, we are also aware and concerned about those that operate outside of the law and create a public nuisance for our neighborhoods. For those facilities that fit into the latter category, they must be held accountable **through** the nuisance abatement process. Instead of passing a new law that may be discriminatory, illegal and unenforceable, the City of Los Angeles should fully enforce the rules that already exist. We must ensure that city leadership and departments such as Planning and Building and Safety are doing everything in their power to hold poorly run housing facilities accountable.

The Empowerment Congress Southwest Area Neighborhood Development Council is proud to add our voice to a growing list of groups in opposition of the CCFO. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our Planning and Land Use Chair, Kokayi Kwa Jitahidi, at bro.kokayi@gmail.com or 714-612-0366.

Sincerely,

Sylvia Tolles-Cotton, Chair
Norris Byrd, Co-Chair
Dorothy Napoleon, Treasurer
Thomasina Lawrence, Secretary
John Reese, Area Representative
Priscilla Smith, At-Large Representative
Doris Spates, Area Representative
Kokayi Kwa Jitahidi, At-Large Representative
Joy Enix, Planning and Land Use Committee Member