



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

City Council Interoffice Communication

To: Honorable City Council Members

From: Patrick Brenden, City Council Member *PWB*
Erik Peterson, Mayor

Date: September 16, 2019

Subject: CITY COUNCIL MEMBER ITEM FOR THE SEPTEMBER 16, 2019,
CITY COUNCIL MEETING – SOBER LIVING HOMES

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Our city and others have experienced a proliferation of group homes, many of which are located within residential neighborhoods. In particular, the City has seen an increase in single family homes being utilized as housing for individuals recovering from alcohol and drug addiction. These facilities can be organized by recovery program operators, but oftentimes do not require licensing by the state, as certain services are not provided on-site. They are commonly referred to as Sober Living Homes.

When these facilities become overconcentrated in specific blocks or neighborhoods, they can produce secondary effects atypical of residential areas, such as excessive secondhand smoke, noise, an overuse of on-street parking, and more. In stating these concerns, we recognize that well-administered homes can avoid these secondary impacts and can work well for persons in recovery.

Recent court successes by the City of Costa Mesa invite our Council to consider a stepped-up approach to addressing the secondary effects of sober living homes in our community where the homes can become overconcentrated.

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Direct the City Attorney to return to City Council by October 21, 2019 with one or more draft Ordinance(s) that strike an appropriate balance between the interests of the City and its residents to preserve residential neighborhood character and the need to provide reasonable accommodation for the disabled to reside in normalized residential environments that promote effective recovery.

xc: Dave Kiff, Interim City Manager
Travis Hopkins, Acting Assistant City Manager
Robin Estanislau, City Clerk
Michael Gates, City Attorney