



Date: November 14, 2007
To: State Legislation Committee
From: Larry Herrera, City Clerk
Subject: City Council Referral to the State Legislation Committee

At the City Council meeting held November 13, 2007, the following agenda item was referred to the State Legislation Committee and the Environmental Committee:

SOBER-LIVING HOME REVIEW

Councilmember O'Donnell moved, seconded by Vice Mayor B. Lowenthal, that the communication be received and referred to the State Legislation Committee.

LARRY G. HERRERA
City Clerk

Prepared by:
Dina Lopez




Attachment

cc: Patrick H. West, City Manager
Christine Shippey, Assistant City Manager
Reginald I. Harrison, Deputy City Manager
Lori Ann Farrell, Acting Director of Financial Management
Ron Arias, Director of Health and Human Services
Larry Herrera, City Clerk



Date: November 13, 2007

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council

From: Councilmember Patrick O'Donnell, Fourth District 
Vice Mayor Bonnie Lowenthal, First District 
Councilmember Rae Gabelich, Eighth District 

Subject: Sober-Living Home Review

Sober-living homes are unlicensed and "substance-free" homes that can be inhabited by up to six residents. These homes, or "six-packs", do not provide healthcare, social services or treat substance abuse. Governed by Federal and State law, cities cannot currently require municipal business licenses, conditional use permits or formal notifications for sober-living homes. The exact number of sober-living homes in the City of Long Beach is unknown.

While many homes may be well-managed and helpful in the recovery process, over-saturation of homes has caused issues that directly affect neighbors and quality of life. These issues include: added density, code enforcement, public safety and calls for service, parking impacts and lack of social services to provide for the diverse needs of the sober-living community. The City's lack of legal ability to control the process and provide notification contributes to these issues.

In the interest of preserving quality of life, particularly in our most dense neighborhoods, and curbing negative impacts to our community, a review of state law and its effect on local control is necessary. This review should include an overview of the City's efforts in lobbying for local oversight of sober-living homes as well a report on related issues with regard to public safety, health, code enforcement and quality of life. The Housing and Neighborhoods Committee has been reviewing these issues, however, since state law governs current regulations, it would be appropriate to also refer discussion to the State Legislation Committee. Since there is not currently a process for referral between policy committees, it is appropriate that Council take action to refer this matter to the State Legislation Committee.

Recommendation: Request City Manager to refer discussion of sober-living homes or "six-packs" to the State Legislation Committee. Discussion should include, but not be limited to, current state laws, City lobbying efforts, and public safety, health, and code enforcement issues involved with these facilities, and recommendations to further protect our neighborhoods.