

Orozco, Norma

From: Katre Kruus <katre_kruus@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 5:26 PM
To: eComment
Cc: Jeffrey Katz; Tony Bujan
Subject: Comments - Agenda item 85A

December 14, 2020

Re: Agenda item 85A

Dear City of Santa Ana Council Members,

My husband and I own a historic home that was built in 1909 on North Bush Street. Three years ago, we made the decision to move from Irvine. We absolutely love our home and the City of Santa Ana, but we are seriously reconsidering our decision because the City has not addressed a fundamental right – a right to feel safe and secure just outside our front door.

On our block, within a few 100 years of our front door is a Sober Living/Transition House, located at 2057 North Bush Street. Young men with ankle bracelets are coming and going from this property. OC Probation has confirmed that Violent Criminals are housed there and there is no supervision. Currently, a Logan Gang member is living there and we have witnessed on many occasions other gang members visiting this property.

This past year we have seen an increase in gang activity, graffiti, and we even had two shootings on our street. We are terrified and have started discussions with our realtor whether we should move to a safer city.

We are hoping for immediate action from the City so that our neighborhood could be made safe.

Sincerely,

Katre Kruus and Anthony Bujan
949-290-4029

Orozco, Norma

From: Jeffrey Katz <jeffrey.katz@keshlawgroup.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 15, 2020 7:03 AM
To: eComment
Subject: Agenda Item 85a - City Council Meeting - December 15, 2020

Re: Sober Living & Transitional Homes

Dear City of Santa Ana Council,

With its consideration of agenda item 85a and the regulation of “group homes” (including sober living and transitional homes), this new City Council has an opportunity to establish itself as a council that stands for the quality of life in Santa Ana. I applaud Councilmembers Penalosa and Mendoza for shining a light on this horrific problem and beginning the process – a very long process – of figuring this issue out.

PLEASE HIT “PAUSE” ON ALL NEW GROUP HOMES IN SANTA ANA ... while we take the time to study and pass regulations that govern these facilities.

If you appreciate how the motel formerly known as the Red Roof Inn is damaging the surrounding neighborhoods and our City, then you understand that many of these sober living homes are simply mini-Red Roof Inns sprinkled throughout our City – right in the middle of residential neighborhoods where kids should be able to play on our streets -- wreaking havoc and danger on our residents.

Sober-living-home operators has been accused of exploiting recovering addicts for sex and even of giving drug to drug addicts. They have kept Todd Spitzer and the DA’s office (The Sober Living-Home Investigation and Prosecution task force) extremely busy as they have investigated and prosecuted operators for fraud.

These operators and their residents have generated neighborhood complaints, lawsuits, and allegations of behavior so rowdy it borders on the criminal.

We have no idea how many group homes are in Santa Ana.

We do not inspect these homes.

We do not regulate these homes.

One home in very close proximity to my home is owned by a Newport Beach trust – its beneficiaries living in a posh neighborhood that would never allow group homes while they ravage a Santa Ana neighborhood with its “cash cow.”

I implore the Council -- walk through the small neighborhood Santa Ana Triangle which borders Museum Row. Witness how we have allowed a neighborhood to deteriorate into blight ravaged by the Logan Street Gang and sober living homes. How can we return our City to greatness, attract new business and retain our residents if we do not stand for Quality of Life? (It is discouraging to hear neighbors lament, "I have had it with this City; I'm moving out!")

It's time that we place greater priority on Santaneros who are just trying to create a "home," and not elevate the interests of those who do not live in our City.

Do not fall prey to the argument that regulating these homes is what our City needs. Ask yourself, do you want to live in house which is surrounded by group homes – regulated or not?

Southern California has become known as the Rehab Riviera. This climate has exacerbated our homeless problem as these group home operators seduce addicts from around the US to come to our City, exhaust their insurance, provide little help, and then dump them on our streets. Once-quiet neighborhoods have morphed into recovery campuses thanks to the “body brokers.”

A sober living home SHOULD BE a health care facility. We are years away, as a City, from being able to regulate these types of homes.

So ... hit PAUSE for now until we figure this out.

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