

WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

July 11, 2011

Agenda Item #7

MOTION TO REITERATE THE WESTWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL'S
SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY CARE FACILITY ORDINANCE (CCFO)

Whereas, Westwood Neighborhood Council voted unanimously to support CCFO in the past, it is imperative to reiterate this support and include more details now that the ordinance will soon be considered by LA City Council; and

Whereas, the Community Care Facilities Ordinance is common-sense legislation that has been developed to address the proliferation of unlicensed nuisance group homes and boarding facilities that have had a huge negative impact on single family neighborhoods in Council Member Mitch Englander's District in the Northwest San Fernando Valley and in neighborhoods all across the City of Los Angeles. There are a great number of these unlicensed, unregulated facilities, most of which are for-profit businesses operating in residential areas; and

Whereas, this ordinance is in response to families and neighborhoods in crisis who have been terrorized and unable to enjoy the peace and quiet of their own homes. Many of them will not even allow their children to play outside on their street because there are large groups of rowdy people loitering, drinking and smoking, using vulgar language, and harassing neighbors who dare to ask them to be respectful; and

Whereas, these facilities generate frequent complaints, often over a period of years, of loud parties, drug and alcohol use, fights, excessive trash, public urination, heavy traffic and cars parked illegally. The illegal and unlicensed facilities often lack any kind of security, supportive services, and have unsanitary and crowded conditions, with up to 40 people in one home; and

Whereas, the Ordinance is very carefully and specifically crafted so that it does not single out or discriminate against any groups, and it will not ban licensed group homes. In fact, with this new ordinance and updated definitions, people with disabilities, veterans, those living in poverty, and people afflicted by substance addiction and mental illness, will have better opportunities for housing in safe, protected and healthy living conditions. The Ordinance will help ensure that they can seek the services and support that they need without being exposed to squalid living conditions; and

Whereas, the restrictions in the Ordinance are based on already existing Los Angeles zoning rules, and include requiring licensed facilities to have adequate parking, security, programs and supervision in place and limits on numbers of residents. Legitimate, licensed, well-run facilities should be able to meet these requirements, which are meant to ensure that the neighbors' quality of life is protected; and

Whereas, many other cities have this type of ordinance; and

Whereas, definitions in the Ordinance will ensure that unlicensed and unregulated group homes will not be allowed in low-density, single-family home areas. See the Call to Action Letter to All Neighborhood Councils drafted by Councilman Mitch Englander on the table in this room.

Now, therefore, Westwood Neighborhood Council resolves to support the Community Care Facility Ordinance to help retain quality of life in our neighborhoods.