

Lopez, Maria [COB]

From: Stieler, Robin
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 5:06 PM
To: Lopez, Maria [COB]; Morales, Susan; Ross, Jamie; Kingston, Abigail
Cc: Sanchez, Valerie
Subject: FW: Letter to the Chair - Item 39
Attachments: Letter to the Chair from Todd Spitzer Item 39.pdf

Correspondence for Agenda Item #39 for tomorrow's meeting.



Robin Stieler
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Orange
Hall of Administration
333 W. Santa Ana Blvd., Ste. 465
Santa Ana, CA 92701
Office: (714) 834-2206
Fax: (714) 834-4439

From: Eustice, Melanie <Melanie.Eustice@da.ocgov.com>
Sent: Monday, September 23, 2019 5:01 PM
To: Stieler, Robin <Robin.Stieler@ocgov.com>
Subject: Letter to the Chair - Item 39

Hi Robin:

Please see the attached letter for the Chair and Board related to item 39 on the agenda tomorrow.

Thanks,

Melanie Eustice
Chief of Administration and Public Affairs
Office of the District Attorney Todd Spitzer
County of Orange

Phone: (714) 347-8443
melanie.eustice@da.ocgov.com



OFFICE OF THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY
ORANGE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

TODD SPITZER

September 23, 2019

The Honorable Lisa Bartlett, Fifth District Chairwoman
Orange County Board of Supervisors
333 West Santa Ana Blvd.
Santa Ana, CA 92701

Dear Chairwoman Bartlett:

I am writing to express my support for Zoning Code Amendment CA 19-01, which will address the increase in licensed care facilities and group homes in single-family residential neighborhoods in unincorporated Orange County. The amendment will require group homes, including sober living homes, to obtain a ministerial permit through which they will agree to operate in a manner consistent with the nature of the single-family residential neighborhoods in which they are located.

The Orange County District Attorney's Office (OCDA) utilizes a proactive approach to address the proliferation of unlicensed, unregulated sober living homes in the County and the subsequent problems that manifest with these homes. In May 2017, the OCDA filed the *Ghostline Labs* cases against owners of a sober living company who operated multiple homes in three different counties and allegedly engaged in a \$22 million insurance fraud scheme. In January 2018, my office established the Sober Living-Home Investigation and Prosecution (SLIP) team to address reports of fraud and abuse in recovery homes. Since its inception, the task force has received multiple reports of fraud as well as daily complaints on the negative impact these homes have on the neighborhoods where they are located.

The proposed new ordinance to amend the zoning code will provide law enforcement with additional tools to improve public safety in neighborhoods with sober living homes. It will also help to ensure that the residents of sober living homes have the opportunity to live in residential surroundings as they undergo substance abuse treatment.

I sincerely appreciate your partnership in helping to make communities throughout Orange County safe and vibrant places to live, work and visit. The sooner we address the issue of unregulated group homes in the unincorporated County areas, the quicker the OCDA, local law enforcement and the community can work together to keep Orange County the safest among the surrounding counties.

Sincerely,

Todd Spitzer, District Attorney
County of Orange

REPLY TO: ORANGE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

WEB PAGE: <http://orangecountyda.org/>

☒ MAIN OFFICE
401 CIVIC CENTER DR W
P.O. BOX 808
SANTA ANA, CA 92701
(714) 834-3600

☐ NORTH OFFICE
1275 N. BERKELEY AVE.
FULLERTON, CA 92832
(714) 773-4480

☐ WEST OFFICE
8141 13TH STREET
WESTMINSTER, CA 92683
(714) 896-7261

☐ HARBOR OFFICE
4601 JAMBOREE RD.
NEWPORT BEACH, CA 92660
(949) 476-4650

☐ JUVENILE OFFICE
341 CITY DRIVE SOUTH
ORANGE, CA 92868
(714) 935-7624

☐ CENTRAL OFFICE
401 CIVIC CENTER DR. W
P.O. BOX 808
SANTA ANA, CA 92701
(714) 834-3952

cc: The Honorable Andrew Do, Vice Chair, First District Supervisor
The Honorable Michelle Steel, Second District Vice Chair
The Honorable Don Wagner, Third District Supervisor
The Honorable Doug Chaffee, Fourth District Supervisor