

Happy Trails Newsletter™

Serving Melody Acres

February 2012



“Plain-speaking horse sense for the benefit of our neighborhoods”



City Stalls on Community Care Facility Ordinance (CCFO) Unwilling to Regulate Sober Living and Group Homes

Dear Neighbors,

How would you like to see your **property values** continue to **drop**? How much would you like a **sober living home**, a group home for **addicts**, **parolees** or even **sex offenders** located in your neighborhood or next door to you or across the street? If not, then it's time to make the small amount of effort it takes to write a letter to City Council members and let them know your opinion.

According to David Garfinkle, President of the Tarzana Property Owners Association (TPOA), “We are faced with the a very serious problem: the continuing inaction on the part of the City Council with respect to the proposed Community Care Facilities (Sober Living) Ordinance. Several versions of the ordinance have been stalled in the Planning and Land Use Management (PLUM) Committee of the City Council for a number of years.”

Prisoners Could Be Released into Our Neighborhoods

“The current situation is about to take a much more serious turn for the worse as 9000 early release prisoners are about to descend on the residents of Los Angeles County. After four years of back and forth between the Planning Department, City Planning Commission, City Attorney's office, and PLUM, a formal version of the proposed ordinance was released for PLUM approval on September 13 of last year. Since then the sober living lobby has mounted an extensive campaign to delay and emasculate the proposed ordinance. We need to show City officials that the citizens of our communities overwhelmingly support this balanced, critically needed ordinance. A PLUM hearing on the proposed ordinance has been *tentatively* set for Tuesday, February 21, 2012. We need to let our City officials know that further delays are unacceptable!

Every single letter counts!

- We must stop this infestation of sober living homes, parolee houses, and other invasive commercial boarding homes in our single family areas.
- We must have effective registration and regulation of these commercial enterprises

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Would you like a complimentary property evaluation? Call me at **818-430-6705**



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• PLUM must *stop stalling* and pass on to the full City Council the ordinance that the City Planning Department and the City Attorney have developed.”

What David is saying is that the sober living and group home advocates are *intensely* lobbying the City Council, City Hall, the City Housing Department and the PLUM Committee so that they can expand into residential neighborhoods and operate unregulated, without insurance and without paying City business taxes. **Residential property owners are doing virtually nothing to fight back** by putting the heat on our elected officials to represent our interests.

Write to Councilman Reyes and tell him to move the CCFO out of his committee to the full City Council to vote. Write to Councilman Zine and demand that he also call Reyes and have PLUM send the CCFO to the City Council.

Councilman Ed Reyes, Chairman
Planning & Land Use Management Committee (PLUM)
Los Angeles City Hall, Room 410
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Councilmember.reyes@lacity.org

Councilman Dennis P. Zine
Los Angeles City Hall, Room 450
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Councilmember.zine@lacity.org

Email a copy of your letter to sharon.gin@lacity.org, PLUM legislative assistant, for posting on the Council File Management System (make sure to include CF# 11-0262 on your communications).

You can read the full CCFO on www.melodyacreshomes.com/events/ccfo/

You can find a sample letter to the Council at www.melodyacreshomes.com/events/ccfo-sample-letter/

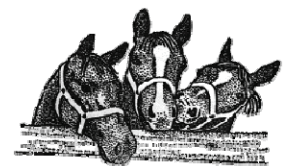


Remembering Earl Lewis

On a sad note, long-time Melody Acres resident Earl Lewis passed away on Feb. 4.

Earl, who along with his late wife Roselle moved to Melody Acres in 1975, was a familiar sight, quietly walking the neighborhood almost every day with his faithful companion dog Bennie.

Earl is survived by his daughter Madeline, who lived with him, his son David Lewis, and Bennie.



Did You Know ??

Do you have a favorite non-profit, one that is close to your heart? If you list your home for sale with me *or* refer a friend to me who wants to make a move, I will donate 5% of my net commissions to the non-profit of *your choice* after close of escrow.