Southern California
Sober Living and Recovery Task Force (SCSLAR)
March 10, 2023, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM
Norman P. Murray Community Center
24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, CA 92691

Purpose: To collaborate on policy reforms that address resident concerns regarding the operation and existence of sober living and recovery treatment homes.

Meeting Highlights

Welcome and Introductions
Councilmember Wendy Bucknum, City of Mission Viejo
Chair, SCVLAR

- Welcomed new and existing task force members.

Review of Sober Living and Recovery Task Force Mission and Initiatives
Councilmember Wendy Bucknum, City of Mission Viejo
Chair, SOCSLAR

- The task force’s mission is to combine expert education and research, public input, and regional ideas and initiatives to determine critical pathways for possible short and long-term policy solutions.
- Encourage jurisdictions to file amicus briefs and provide support for the City of Costa Mesa who is in litigation and/or appealing unfavorable rulings.
- Establishing a commonly accepted ordinance draft to protect cities and communities.
- Supporting legislative proposals and reforms that protect cities and communities.

Local Law Enforcement Update
Capt. Chris McDonald, Chief, Police Services,
City of Mission Viejo

- Discussed cataloging of complaints.
- Bifurcating complaints that can be enforced versus ones that cannot be enforced.
- Standardizing enforcement across agencies
Costa Mesa Litigation Update
William Curley, Esq. – City Attorney,
City of Mission Viejo

- Request for rehearing was denied by the Appellate Court.
- Costa Mesa will not petition the Supreme Court to review the case.
- TASK: task force members can support this effort by filing Amicus Briefs.

Discussion of Local Ordinances
Councilmember Wendy Bucknum, City of Mission Viejo
Chair, SOCSLAR
Representatives from Participating Cities

- A commonly accepted local ordinance template could be further developed with the support of the Association of California Cities and the California League of Cities.
- The City of Mission Viejo adopted a local ordinance establishing a business registry for sober living and treatment homes to establish another reasonable method for accountability and enforcement.

Discussion of State Legislative Opportunities
Legislative Representatives

- AB 1696 can be amended.
- We are collaborating to ensure the amended language meets the Task Force’s objectives.

Action Items & Closing Discussion
Councilmember Wendy Bucknum, City of Mission Viejo
Chair, SOCSLAR

- Support Costa Mesa in its petition to for Supreme Court review.
- Encourage cities to always have representation.
- Document the challenges of sober living homes to inform language for commonly accepted local ordinance.
- Seek acceptance from ACC-OC and LOC on ordinance language.