



# City of Villa Park

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June 27, 2023

Maria Hernandez  
Presiding Judge of the Superior Court  
700 Civic Center Drive West  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

**RE: CITY OF VILLA PARK RESPONSE TO THE 2022-2023 ORANGE COUNTY GRAND JURY REPORT, “WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD, ARE CITIES RESPONSIBLY MANAGING THE INTEGRATION OF GROUP HOMES?”**

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the City of Villa Park, I am pleased to respond to the Grand Jury’s report regarding the integration of group homes. The City of Villa Park provides the following responses:

Finding F1: *Group homes too close to one another contribute to the problems associated with overconcentration.*

City Response: The City agrees with the finding.

Finding F2: *Common nuisances are more likely and disruptive when sober living homes are concentrated in a small geographic area of a neighborhood.*

City Response: The City agrees with the finding.

Finding F3: *Some cities have successfully addressed and informed community members about the challenges faced in regulating group homes.*

City Response: The City agrees with the finding.

Finding F4: *Community satisfaction was minimal when cities took the traditional public comment approach towards addressing community complaints.*

City Response: The City agrees with the finding based on the information provided by the Grand Jury Report. However, the City does not have the resources or staffing to independently verify the findings.

Finding F5: *Cities are not utilizing police, fire, and code enforcement complaints as a means of locating and tracking Group Homes.*

City Response: The City agrees with the finding based on the information provided by the Grand Jury Report. However, the City does not have the resources or staffing to independently verify the findings.

Finding F6: *Cities are inhibited from enacting and enforcing ordinances due to fears over the potential cost of litigation.*

City Response: The City agrees with the finding.

Finding F7: *Several cities have created an ordinance that requires a ministerial permit or registration to operate a group home, however many of these cities do not enforce their ordinances.*

City Response: The City agrees with the finding.

Finding F8: *City and County officials are deterred from regulating group homes by California Housing and Community Development's housing element approval process.*

City Response: The City agrees with the finding.

Finding F9: *Cities have historically strategized and acted independently in addressing group home challenges and solutions.*

City Response: The City agrees with the finding.

Finding F10: *Well-operated group homes can integrate smoothly into neighborhoods.*

City Response: The City agrees with the finding.

Finding F11: *There is a lack of regulatory oversight for the health and safety of residents of unlicensed group homes.*

City Response: The City agrees with the finding.

Recommendation R1: *Orange County cities and the County of Orange should address citizen concerns regarding group homes by providing an opportunity for an open dialog where an interdisciplinary panel of subject matter experts can share with attendees the challenges cities are facing in the management of group homes. To be implemented by July 1, 2024. (F3, F4)*

City Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented by the City to the extent requested by the County of Orange and other Orange County cities by July 1, 2024.

Recommendation R2: *By December 31, 2024, Orange County cities and the County of Orange should collaborate in their efforts to create ordinances for the regulation of group homes, including the development of model ordinances. (F6, F7, F9)*

City Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented by the City to the extent requested by the County of Orange and other Orange County cities by December 31, 2024.

Recommendation R3: *Orange County cities and the County of Orange should pool resources for defense of lawsuits challenging group home ordinances. To be implemented by July 1, 2024. (F6, F8, F9)*

City Response: This recommendation requires more study, to be implemented if applicable by July 1, 2024.

Recommendation R4: *The County of Orange and Orange County cities should create a Task Force that includes representatives from OC cities, unincorporated areas, and other entities as appropriate and charge it with the responsibility of developing a plan to generate awareness among State legislators and regulators of the need for improved regulations and management standards to ensure health and safety for Group Home residents. To be implemented by July 1, 2024. (F2, F10, F11)*

City Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented by the City to the extent requested by the County of Orange and other Orange County cities by July 1, 2024.

Recommendation R5: *Orange County cities and the County of Orange should modify code enforcement report data collection forms to include a searchable field that enables the identification of a residence operating as a group home. To be implemented by July 1, 2024. (F5, F7, F11)*

City Response: The recommendation has not yet been implemented, but will be implemented by the City to the extent requested by the County of Orange and other Orange County cities by July 1, 2024.

Sincerely,

**THE CITY OF VILLA PARK**



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Robbie Pitts  
Mayor