



Council Report

Date: June 28, 2018
To: City Council
Through: Mike Kennington, Chief Financial Officer
From: Ed Quedens, Business Services Department Director
Tim Meyer, Business Licensing and Revenue Collections Administrator
Subject: Structured Sober Living Home Ordinance (Citywide)

Purpose and Recommendation

The purpose of this report is to recommend Council adoption of an ordinance to license structured sober living homes. The license establishes minimum operational standards for operators of structured sober living homes that comply with state and federal fair housing laws and the Americans with disabilities act.

Background and Discussion

The intent of the ordinance is to protect the residents of structured sober living homes from operators who engage in abuse, neglect, mistreatment, fraud, and/or inadequate supervision of this vulnerable population, as well as to protect the residents of structured sober living homes and the neighboring community from operators who fail to provide the supportive, residential family-like living environment necessary to achieve and maintain sobriety.

Structured sober living homes are classified as group residential/group home for the handicapped that provides alcohol-free and drug-free housing in a supervised setting that promotes independent living and provides structured activities for individuals who are recovering from drug or alcohol addictions.

This ordinance will require:

- Licensing of operators
- Certification of house managers including CPR and first aid training
- Good neighbor policy
- Operation plan that includes: written intake procedures, relapse and discharge policy; maintenance and noise abatement
- House rules and regulations: prohibit use of alcohol or drugs, require participation in recovery programs
- House manager on premises 24/7
- Annual fire inspection
- Access by Fire and Code Compliance into common areas
- Revocation process for non-compliance
- A screening process for residents
- Narcan onsite and proper training for staff

Alternatives

An alternative to adopting the structured sober living ordinance is to not regulate these homes at this time and wait for the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) licensing to take effect. ADHS has up to two years to finalize their licensing requirements.

Fiscal Impact

Once in effect, the code will require additional staff work for review of the applications and issuance of licenses, annual inspections, and staff time to process requests for reasonable accommodations. There are no additional fees proposed at this time.