

# 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, SCSLAR

- *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.*