



NEWS RELEASE

COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM MARTI EMERALD

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For Immediate Release

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AMENDMENT TO ROOMING HOUSE ORDINANCE (RHO) PASSED BY CITY COUNCIL

San Diego, CA – September 15, 2015 – The San Diego City Council unanimously passed an amendment to the Rooming House Ordinance (RHO) this afternoon, with Council President Pro Tem Emerald making the motion. The RHO is primarily used to regulate mini-dorms around San Diego State University. Issues with mini-dorms go back to 1987. The original RHO, passed in 2008, grew out of widespread community protests over the negative impact of rapidly increasing high occupancy high turnover (HTHO) nuisance rental housing especially in the College Area.

This amendment combines two definitions of a rooming house in the San Diego Municipal Code into one. The purpose of the ordinance is to provide Code Enforcement with the tools necessary to regulate the commercial overuse of dwelling units in residential neighborhoods. The intent of this ordinance is not to limit shared housing for individuals and families trying to afford to live in San Diego but is really intended to address the overcrowded housing issues related to students in the College Area.

Council President Pro Tem Emerald would like to thank the leadership of the College Area Community Council, the Corporation for Supportive Housing, and City staff for all of their work on this process. Safe and livable neighborhoods remain a top priority for Council President Pro Tem Emerald.

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