



The SMART House Myth vs. Fact

Myth	Fact
<p>The SMART House is a “halfway house” for sex offenders, murderers, and parolees from Donovan State Prison.</p>	<p>The SMART House only accepts people who have committed low-level offenses while battling drug addiction problems.</p> <p>Its goal is to help them end their involvement with the criminal justice system, obtain permanent housing, get off drugs, find stable employment, and rejoin society.</p>
Myth	Fact
<p>The SMART House is a way for Downtown San Diego to export its homeless population to the South Bay.</p>	<p>Residents of the SMART House will come from all neighborhoods in San Diego. Eligible participants must be willing to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Undertake extensive treatment; ➤ Participate in on-site counseling; and ➤ Follow strict rules. <p>There is no requirement based on past residency.</p>
Myth	Fact
<p>Participants and their friends will loiter outside the SMART House.</p>	<p>Access to the gated SMART House property is controlled by security officers. Participants who leave without permission will be terminated from the program. Non-participants will have no reason to come to the SMART House, and will not be allowed on the property.</p>

Myth	Fact
<p>The people living at the SMART House will walk away from the program and join the South Bay's homeless population.</p>	<p>The SMART House will have 24/7 security and strict rules. Participants who break the rules will rejoin the criminal justice system, typically jail.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Experts say homeless people (like the rest of us) have specific places where they feel secure and comfortable and among friends. They want to return to those places. It is unlikely that a homeless individual from Balboa Park, for example, would decide to relocate to South Bay.
Myth	Fact
<p>South Bay has become a “dumping ground” for treatment programs, while other neighborhoods are protected by their political leaders.</p>	<p>Treatment programs like the SMART House are found in neighborhoods through the city. Currently they operate in Council Districts 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 9.</p> <p>The City looked at 10 potential sites for the SMART House and the Super 8 Motel was chosen because it was the best deal for the taxpayers.</p> <p>It was the most affordable to purchase and the most easily upgraded with the kitchens and meeting rooms that will keep participants on site and working toward their goals.</p>
Myth	Fact
<p>Once the SMART House is approved, the community's voice will be ignored.</p>	<p>To keep apprised of community concerns, the City Attorney's Office is forming a Neighborhood Advisory Committee that will include neighborhood leaders, business owners, city officials, and the faith community. The City Attorney's Office will also invite community input at town council, planning group, and similar meetings.</p>
Myth	Fact
<p>Once the SMART House is approved, only the South Bay will be committed to its success.</p>	<p>Mayor Kevin Faulconer, City Attorney Mara W. Elliott, the San Diego Police Department and the City Council are fully behind SMART.</p> <p>SMART has been recognized by the State of California as a leader in addressing the issues created when Proposition 47 reduced incentives for low-level misdemeanants to enter treatment programs.</p> <p>It received a \$3 million grant and the top ranking among 58 jurisdictions seeking state funding.</p>

For more information about SMART, visit the San Diego City Attorney's website at:
<https://www.sandiego.gov/cityattorney/divisions/criminal/smart>