



## Overcomer Network's Position and Appeal to the County of San Diego

San Diego County Ends its Zero Tolerance of Illegal Drug Activity in Taxpayer Funded Housing

*December 14, 2022*

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On December 13, 2022, the San Diego County Board of Supervisors voted 4-0 (Desmond Absent) to end Board Policy A-110, the Zero Tolerance of Illegal Drug Activity in Housing. As overcomers of homelessness, addiction, trauma, and dependency we used taxpayer funded housing as a lifeline and a way up and out of the abyss we were in. We do not approve of this action and request that the Board of Supervisors revisit this decision and work with us to immediately correct it! We may not be experts in the law, but we have recovered from the severest of vulnerabilities that the Board states they are concerned about, and none of this makes sense to us. Here's why:

1. Many vulnerable children who live in places like Solutions for Change were reunited with their parents by the County's own Child Welfare Services (CWS) department for the very reason that the housing is drug free! Eliminating the zero-tolerance policy of illegal drug activity in places that house vulnerable children who have experienced significant trauma related to illegal drug activity is an outrage! The Board of Supervisors actions have already had a **significant and profound negative impact on the vulnerable populations it wishes to support through its "equity lens."**
2. The vulnerable populations identified in the County of San Diego Equity Impact Statement are provided housing and services at nonprofit organizations like Solutions for Change. We believe that by eliminating Board Policy A-110 the County of San Diego is **violating their disabilities rights** and their reasonable accommodation requests for housing **that is free of illegal drug activity!**
3. We are aware of significant numbers of the public who support the rights of vulnerable families to live in a safe and drug free environment. Over 140 of these citizens wrote to the Board and provided verbal testimony at the 12-13-2022 Board of Supervisors Meeting in opposition to ending Board Policy A-110. Zero spoke in favor of it. Yet it was passed on the Consent Calendar!
4. Most notably, the vulnerable populations served at programs like Solutions for Change are single mothers and their children who are recovering from homelessness, addiction, trauma, domestic violence, justice involved experiences, and poverty. Many have a qualifying disability! Where is their equity?
5. More families and children today are exposed to traumatic experiences, which in a majority of cases involve illegal drug activities. They must have a safe, drug free place to live and work as they recover!

### County of San Diego's Position

We took the below position points directly from the 12-13-2022 Board of Supervisors Agenda Item #12, which you may [download and see for yourself here](#) (highlighted sections provided by the Overcomers Network).

The Equity Impact Statement states that the recommended approval by the Chief Administrative Officer to end Board Policy A-110 will reflect and demonstrate the Board of Supervisor's commitment to address disparities in housing programs and create more equitable housing opportunities for vulnerable residents of San Diego County. Specifically, the Equity Impact Statement says; "it is anticipated that these actions will have a **positive impact** on equity-seeking groups including, Black, Indigenous, people of color, women, people with disabilities, immigrants, youth, and the LGBTQ+ community.

Additionally, the Sustainability Impact Statement states that the recommended approval by the Chief Administrative Officer to end Board Policy A-110 will align with..." providing just and equitable access by focusing on chronically underserved communities, investing in resilience in vulnerable populations, and protecting and expanding the available and accessibility of affordable housing.

Respectfully Submitted, [Inaugural Overcomers of the National Overcomer Network](#)