

Appendix 5



Sober Homes May Be Allowed In Belle Isle

Several Florida cities recently experienced the addition of sober homes to their communities. As a result, crime and homelessness in these communities has increased.

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) is studying the possible licensure of these facilities and must offer recommendations to the Governor, Speaker of the House and the Senate President by October 1.

One of the DCF's [surveys](#) and a draft of their first [study](#) can be found [here](#). So far, they have held three public hearings and have heard testimony from numerous stakeholders.

If you are concerned about the addition of sober homes to our Belle Isle community, voice your concern to Hayden Mathieson from DCF.

Call Casey Cook, legislative advocate for the Florida League of Cities, at 850-701-3609 with further questions.

Sober Home Characteristics

An alcohol and drug-free living environment for individuals attempting to establish or maintain abstinence.

No treatment services offered on site, but attendance at self-help groups like Alcoholics Anonymous may be either mandated or strongly encouraged.

Compliance with house rules.

Residents are responsible for paying rent and other costs.

No limitation on length of stay as long as residents comply with house rules.



City of Belle Isle
1600 Nela Ave.
Belle Isle, FL 32809

www.cityofbelleislefl.org

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It has been brought to my attention that sober homes may be allowed in the City of Belle Isle in Orlando. I would like to express my utmost opposition to this possibility given the evidence of surge in crime and homelessness in other communities where these homes have been built.

I have made great sacrifices to move into a nice community where me and my family can feel safe, so, I don't want to see this change for the worst. Furthermore, these homes will also most likely adversely impact the real state value of my property, which, again, I have worked hard to acquire.

I urge you to please consider other locations for the construction of these homes.

Thanks in advance for your attention to this matter

Reinaldo Rolo

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Since the last we're built we have a break in every week!
Believe,
Linda Perez Del Rocco

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Please be advised that I am wholeheartedly against allowing Sober Homes in the city of Belle Isle.

The transient traffic, as well as potential for unlawful or undesirable activity, due to the program participants not following their rules will have a negative impact on the quality of life in our community.

We have worked hard to make this an exemplary place to live, and object to any activity that might harm our cultural environment.

Frank Garabo

CyberNeuroSurgeon

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Subject: Sober Homes...

The problem we are trying to address is not addiction. The problem we are trying to address is the use of single family homes and single family neighborhoods to house more than 3 unrelated adults. That is the issue, not addiction. DCF has altered the conversation toward addiction and not housing. There is no question that people with addictions need all the help and attention we can muster to improve their lives. So there is little need to ask peoples opinion about whether or not these folks need help. We know the answer.

The question that needs to be asked is "are you OK with the single family house next to you or in your neighborhood being used for business purpose "... If anyone doubts this is not all about business simply limit the number of occupants to 3 unrelated adults and see if we have any more issues with this subject. Many of us have children that have attended college and the way they made it financially was to get a couple of roommates and split the rent. The price was hefty and the landlords still made money. Consider the amount they are getting from 6 adults.

My suspicion is that many single family homes in all single family neighborhoods are occupied by people with addictions, but they are members of a family that own or rent the house for living purposes. They have ties to the neighborhood, are known by their neighbors and fit in the area identified as a single family neighborhood. The introduction of 6 or more unknown single men and or women into that environment is disturbing to the residents of those neighborhoods and regardless of whether or not their fears and concerns are valid , the effect is the same.

The answer to the question " should this be allowed or not allowed" can be reached by everyone by simply placing yourself in the situation of having this use invade your street and become part of your family's daily experience. What would you do ?



Dennis Beach, City Manager

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As a Belle Isle resident for over 20 years, I wish to express my concern over the possibility of Sober Houses being allowed in our community. I assure you that this is not a "knee jerk" reaction. Alcohol and drug issues have plagued multiple generations of both my wife's family and mine and there have been extremely few successful recoveries.

While my heart goes out to those with addictions, I have experienced firsthand, the uncontrolled anger and even physical abuse that typifies those with addictions. Even after they have gone through recovery programs. The thought of multiple persons with these issues in a residence in Belle Isle is disturbing to say the least. Belle Isle residents, including my wife and I, like to walk or ride bicycles at all hours, day and night. Many of these are women, both young and old as well as children. While I am not naive enough to think that not having a Sober House would guarantee their safety, I would certainly be much more concerned for their safety if there was such a facility(s) in Belle Isle.

In closing, I would respectfully ask that there be no Sober House permitted in Belle Isle.

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Respectfully yours,

A. Vaughn Williams, CEO
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Whomever,

Please keep sober homes out of Belle Isle. We are a small township and don't have the manpower to make sure that there are no problems due to this proposal, and we don't need to raise property taxes to make this happen.

Thanks,

Frank Postava
1843 Wind Harbor Road
Belle Isle, FL 32809

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I, as a resident for 24 years am VERY concerned about the possible addition of sober homes to our Belle Isle community. I would like to voice my concern and wish to strongly request and urge that this NOT BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN. We have a wonderful neighborhood and do NOT want this effect what we have been paying taxes and working in our community for.

Thank you for sharing my opinion.

Mrs. Mary Williams
2717 Nela Ave.
Belle Isle, FL 32809

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I am extremely concerned about the possibility of Sober Homes being permitted in the city of Belle Isle Florida. This is a small, family oriented community and something like this is certainly not welcome here. We cannot continue to harbor more people with troubling issues and exposure out children to more of this nonsense. This is a very nice area and doesn't need to be run down with people who simply do not care.

Sincerely,

Lori Ramirez
Belle Isle Resident

Sent from my iPhone