



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH

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March 10, 2025

Mayor

Joe Stapleton

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Lauren Kleiman

Council Members

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Erik Kenneth Weigand

The Honorable Avelino Valencia
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Room 5510
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 492 (Valencia): Alcohol and Drug Programs: Licensing
City of Newport Beach – Notice of Support**

Dear Assembly Member Valencia,

On behalf of the City of Newport Beach, I write to express our support for AB 492 (Valencia), which requires the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) to notify cities anytime a new alcohol and drug treatment facility is approved in their jurisdiction.

California has 2,043 alcohol and drug treatment facilities, nearly 70% of which are in Southern California. A recent state audit on drug and alcohol treatment facilities in California confirmed what cities across California have been saying for years: There is an overconcentration of recovery housing in residential neighborhoods, specifically in Orange County.

Currently, DHCS is not required to notify local governments when approving licenses, leaving cities unaware of the operation of new facilities within their jurisdictions. This lack of communication can make it challenging to address community concerns, maintain public safety, and ensure that recovery and treatment programs are effectively integrated into local communities.

AB 492 enhances a city's ability to coordinate services more effectively while identifying emerging trends and potential gaps in the state's approach to treatment needs. Similar notification requirements exist for liquor licenses, cannabis businesses, and syringe exchange programs.

Timely notifications regarding new facilities enable Newport Beach to effectively monitor and engage with these establishments, ensuring compliance with local regulations and community standards. Advance notice allows City staff to coordinate with facility operators to align services with community needs, ensuring that support efforts

complement existing local resources. Being informed about new facilities also enables the city to assess and address any public safety considerations, safeguarding the well-being of all residents. Early awareness further allows the city to proactively address potential community concerns, fostering transparency and trust among residents, the city, and service providers.

AB 492 takes a critical step forward by keeping cities informed and enhancing their collaboration with the state to more effectively address substance use treatment needs.

For these reasons, the City of Newport Beach is pleased to support AB 492 (Valencia).

Sincerely,



Joe Stapleton
Mayor
City of Newport Beach

cc: Assembly Member Diane Dixon
Senator Tony Strickland
Newport Beach City Council