

BRIAN MARYOTT

Candidate for San Juan Capistrano City Council, District 5

Good Morning Neighbor,

Over the last few months and throughout the course of my campaign for city council, I have heard a lot of concerns about sober living homes and drug treatment homes. I have heard accounts from our residents about frequent ambulance responses, multiple overdoses inside of a week, long time SJC residents being physically threatened by treatment home supervisors, patients described to residents (by their own house manager) as "sick and dangerous," and various stories about intentional and unintentional home invasions at all hours of the day and night. I have sensed the general unease that exists amongst all of our affected residents, and the tremendous anxiety that exists amongst parents in particular. Very simply, we have major businesses, some that include active detox and other medical services, masquerading as fair housing in our neighborhoods, and doing so very much at the expense of neighborhood normalcy.

As your district 5 city council member, I will support the strictest possible ordinances to help mitigate the negative affect of these businesses. I will support special use permits,* meaningful separation distance, and stronger regulation around background checks and safety measures. My efforts will not stop there. **As the only candidate in this race who has called for restricting these business to multi-use and commercial zoned areas, I will continue to work on that ultimate resolution.** This won't be easy, and it will require a sustained and focused effort. Anything less will leave an unacceptable reality only slightly improved. The core issue is that these businesses just don't belong in residential neighborhoods, and nothing short of restricting them from locating there will completely restore our residential tranquility and peace of mind.

By now you may have heard about Congressman Issa's bill which would amend the federal Fair Housing Act and empower states and municipalities to further regulate their businesses. I am very supportive, and our current council is as well. Regardless of its success, however, we will need changes to our state laws, and this won't be easy. Our state senate and assembly have shown little appetite for reform in this area. Senator Bates' very reasonable bill to add some licensing and regulatory requirements was soundly defeated in the Health and Human Services Committee. Unfortunately, it is my sense that meaningful reform, and ultimately confining these businesses to multi-use or commercial zoned areas, may require a ballot measure. (I hope I am wrong about this.) That is a huge undertaking, but one for which I believe there would be very widespread support.

(You may hear that special permitting has been legally problematic, but Costa Mesa has had some success in practice and in court that is very encouraging.)*

In closing I want to be very clear about something. No individual deemed disabled from substance abuse should face housing discrimination. That is not the issue here. The issue is that we have businesses running full operations, of which housing is only one component. They are starting up all over our city (four have received state licenses since the April city moratorium passed), and the capital flowing into the industry to start more is staggering. We MUST restore our local ability to maintain truly residential-only neighborhoods. If we don't accomplish this, the sheer demand (remember we are hosting afflicted patients from all over the country) will create an overwhelming number of these new businesses.

We will have to take the issue on in multiple ways and with great resolve. I am fully committed to doing that with the final goal being that these business are restricted to areas more appropriately zoned for them. I am confident that with the right effort we can get this done.

Yours in service,



Brian

P.S. I have not been particularly active in pursuing endorsements in this campaign (they often bring expectations from the endorsing party), but I did take part along with the other candidates in a lengthy interview with the Orange County Register. **I am pleased to announce that today they endorsed my candidacy, saying the following;**

"But while almost all of the candidates proved knowledgeable, and some offered considerable experience, we thought Brian Maryott had a good grasp on the issues while also possessing the ability to rise above the infighting. Maryott, therefore, has our endorsement. Maryott is a senior Vice President at a bank and stressed fiscal prudence, traffic mitigation efforts, getting the city out of the water business, and tackling the city's sober living home issue."

The Register has been a major newspaper in Orange County for many years, and they have have covered local government throughout the county in a very thorough way. **I am particularly proud of this endorsement.**

Thanks again...