

**From:** Ed Williams-Ruffin <ezedwill@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 1, 2026 4:13 PM  
**To:** District 1 <district1@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 2 <district2@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 3 <district3@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 4 <district4@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 5 <district5@fresnocountyca.gov>  
**Subject:** County Ordinance on Centers For Living

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Report Suspicious

Gentlemen, I'll trust that as a member of this community you will carefully read and respond to the attached letter.

Thank you  
Ed Williams-Ruffin

January 1, 2026

Fresno County Board of Supervisors  
Brian Pacheco  
Garry Bredefeld  
Luis Chavez  
Buddy Mendes  
Nathan Magsig

Ed Williams-Ruffin  
448 W. Vartikian Ave  
Fresno, CA 93704  
559-709-9117

Dear Board Members,

My name is Ed Williams-Ruffin, and I am writing in support of Centers For Living (CFL) and their current housing arrangements. I have lived in Fresno for nearly 35 years and have long supported the work of our County leadership, including my former District 2 Supervisor, Steve Brandau, and his successor, Supervisor Garry Bredefeld, whose commitment to strong leadership I greatly appreciate. I would also like the district 2 community to know that their former supervisor, Brandau is a staunch supporter and is actively promoting the positive nature of CFL.

However, I must respectfully oppose the recent rhetoric directed toward CFL and its housing program for registered sex offenders. I have personally known John Coyle, the leader of CFL since the home that is the primary focus of this ordinance opened approximately seven years ago at Gettysburg and Palm. CFL is a faith-based organization, and both its staff and its residents consistently demonstrate the values they profess. Nationally, the same-crime recidivism rate for sex offenders is approximately 5%. At CFL facilities, that rate is 0.38%, they've had 1 out of roughly more than 220 individuals who have been supported through their program. These extraordinarily low numbers reflect the strength of CFL's leadership, structure, accountability, and focus on true rehabilitation.

I have personally witnessed lives being transformed. As an associate minister at one of the churches these men attend, I have seen many baptized (wearing ankle monitors) and faithfully worship every Sunday. I have watched them volunteer at church functions and serve as a vital part of our weekly outreach food ministry. Their participation is consistent, meaningful, and rooted in genuine change.

I fully understand Supervisor Bredefeld's concerns on behalf of his district; I live here as well. But I ask the Board to consider this: for more than seven years, the Gettysburg location existed quietly without complaint. Only after a tragic incident (caused not by a CFL resident, but by a mentally challenged young woman who made a terrible decision involving a firearm) did complaints such as "cat-calling" or disturbances suddenly arise. This shift does not reflect the long-standing reality of the home or the men who reside there.

Some of you are Christian men who understand that our faith teaches redemption, restoration, and the belief that Christ died for all, including the men currently being

scrutinized. I invite each of you to quietly attend one of our church services (camera-free) or observe the tremendous amount of work these men contribute every Thursday and Friday during our outreach ministry.

While you are there, you will also witness how our congregation embraces these men as family, not with fear, but with compassion, accountability, and genuine Christian love. Their acceptance into our church community is a living testament to the effectiveness of CFL's approach and the sincerity of the men's desire to live changed lives.

What I'm showing you represents only one church and a small group of CFL residents, they have eight homes. There are more CFL men and women attending multiple churches throughout Fresno County and living out their transformation in tangible ways.

I have read and witnessed your statements explaining why some of you oppose CFL, but what I have not heard is what solution you propose if CFL is not available to these particular offenders. As a community, are we forced to accept the significantly higher repeat offender recidivism rates in place of CFL's proven success?

I respectfully ask the Board to look beyond fear-based narratives and consider the proven record of CFL's leadership, the stability they've maintained for seven years, and the genuine life change taking place daily. These men should not be collectively punished or displaced when the evidence overwhelmingly supports the effectiveness and safety of CFL's program.

Thank you for your time, your service, and your willingness to consider this perspective. Please contact me if you'd like to attend one of our services.

Sincerely,

Ed Williams-Ruffin

Your Loyal Proud Fresno Resident

[ezedwill@gmail.com](mailto:ezedwill@gmail.com)

559709-9117

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**From:** Edward Larssen <edwardlarssen37@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, January 2, 2026 9:26 AM  
**To:** Clerk/BOS  
**Subject:** PUBLIC COMMENT: Testimony Regarding Item 6 (Housing Ordinance) - From a 2019 CFL Graduate

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**CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK**

[Report Suspicious](#)

To the Fresno County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Edward Larssen, and I am writing to you from Sacramento. I am a 2019 graduate of the Centers for Living (CFL) program in Fresno, and I want to share my personal experience with you before you vote on the proposed housing ordinance.

For 22 years, I lived on the streets. I was caught in a cycle of homelessness that I couldn't break, despite trying many other programs and organizations. While those other programs were good, they simply weren't the right fit for my specific needs. CFL was the only place that provided the path I needed to finally move forward.

I lived at CFL for two and a half years. It wasn't a quick fix; it was a long-term reconstruction of my life. During that time, the environment was very supportive and "chill," but it was built on real accountability. I took regular drug tests as a standard part of the program—not because I was being policed, but because it helped us all stay focused on our recovery.

Eventually, I earned the responsibility of becoming a House Manager. I went from being a man the system couldn't help for two decades to being a leader responsible for helping other men stay on the right path.

I graduated when I was ready, on my own accord. Because of that 2.5 years of stability, I am now a tax-paying resident here in the State Capital. I am no longer a burden on the system; I am a contributor to it.

I am living proof that the CFL model works for the people the rest of the world thinks are "un-helpable." I ask that you consider my story and the lives of those currently in the program when you cast your vote.

Sincerely,

Edward Larssen CFL Graduate & Former House Manager 916-271-8957



December 29, 2025

Fresno County Board of Supervisors  
2281 Tulare Street, Hall of Records, Room 301  
Fresno, CA 93721

RE: Breaking the Cycle—The Mission of Centers For Living (CFL)

To the Honorable Members of the Fresno County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Amy Rose Trimmer, and I am the Outreach Coordinator for Centers For Living (CFL). I am writing to you today with a deep sense of conviction. After praying for a greater purpose in my life, I was given the opportunity to work for CFL, where I now see firsthand the incredible transformation taking place in the lives of people striving to better themselves through sober living and accountability.

**Setting Clients Up for Success** We are all aware of the "broken system" that too often fails our most vulnerable residents, inadvertently creating a cycle of homelessness and addiction. At Centers For Living, we provide the solution that the system lacks. We don't just provide a bed; we set our clients up for long-term success. Unlike programs that offer no direction or follow-through, CFL is the best place for someone who is serious about becoming a productive member of society.

**Accountability and Enrichment** Our model is built on high standards. All clients are regularly held accountable for their actions and participate in enriching activities designed to help them become better, more contributing members of our Fresno community. Many of these individuals have served their time and have a genuine heart for change. They want to work, they want to give back, and they want to be better.

**The Mission: Love All, Serve All** Our guiding principle is to "Love All, Serve All." We recognize that every person has made mistakes—but as Jesus said in John 8:7, "Let the person who has not sinned cast the first stone." Instead of casting stones or judgment, we offer a structured path toward redemption. When we invest in these second chances, we aren't just helping an individual; we are strengthening the fabric of Fresno County. We are reducing recidivism, cleaning up our streets, and restoring lives. I ask that the Board recognize the true purpose of Centers For Living and the vital mission we serve. We are dedicated to turning lives around and ensuring that every person who enters our program has the opportunity to be a success story for our county.

Thank you for your time, your leadership, and your commitment to a better Fresno.

Sincerely,

Amy Rose Trimmer  
Outreach Coordinator, Centers For Living  
amy@centerforliving.org

Centers for Living  
4417 E Inyo  
Fresno, CA 93702

Fresno County Board of Supervisors  
2281 Tulare Street, Hall of Records, Room 301  
Fresno, CA 93721

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**From:** District 5  
**Sent:** Monday, January 5, 2026 8:05 AM  
**To:** Clerk/BOS  
**Subject:** FW: Centers for Living

FYI

**From:** mrspeggydavis@aol.com <mrspeggydavis@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 4, 2026 6:52 AM  
**To:** District 5 <District5@fresnocountyca.gov>  
**Subject:** Centers for Living

**CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK**

Dear Supervisor Magsig,

I've been a Clovis resident since 2007 and feel like you are the supervisor I most know and appreciate. Thank you for all you do for us. I have met you most recently, a few years ago at the EPU branch opening at my church in Clovis.

I am writing with regard to the current contretemps concerning registered offenders. Thank you for attending to my communication to you, as this is a complicated issue. I am a 75 year old CPA, still working part time.

A wonderful couple at my church encouraged me, for years, to volunteer as they were doing with a group which works with people who have been legitimately released from prison, some of them registered offenders. I did not think this was volunteer work I would enjoy. Finally, when I retired the first time, I felt I should give it a try. I can tell you that, to my great surprise, this has been one of the best experiences of my life. I have met and learned to know people I would never otherwise have been friends with. I have found interacting with and helping people to stay on the straight and narrow rewarding and helpful to them and to me. These are some of the best friends I have made. I further encourage you to keep reading.

My experience has been with a group called Circles of Support and Accountability (COSA). This group has undergone a change in oversight organization, so you may not hear of it referred to under that name any more, but here is the gist of that COSA program: Creating a "circle" of several people around one person, recently released. A dashboard of tasks that need to be accomplished in order for successful living without reoffending is discussed and agreed upon. Each week, the circle gets together and discusses how the list of tasks is being accomplished, and what kind of measures need to be taken to move further in accomplishing the tasks. Whatever needs to be done during the rest of the week may be discussed, and one or more of the circle partners will sign up for helping where they are able, in accomplishing that specific thing.

Accountability occurs every week, when the task list is discussed. What are some of the most important tasks? Helping people who are out of prison to find safe and secure housing is primary. People also have to attend to their medical care, prepare for and find a job if possible, make sure they carefully attend to their probation or parole conditions, if any. The mutual support of the friends in the circle makes each person's life richer.

I think you will agree with me that having friends who know and trust you, who can give you a hand when you need it, and hold you accountable when needed, who are close enough to visit and honestly share with, makes a lot of difference in life. This kind of friendship is engendered through the basic first year of weekly meetings that, ideally, a person just out of prison has.

Each person living in the Centers for Living houses has this same kind of support, but it is daily, not weekly. Let me mention some of the reasons I am very pro-Centers for Living.

It is extremely hard for someone just out of prison to find housing. If you have not talked with people who have observed and/or lived this situation, I strongly recommend that you do so in order to understand the challenges. First of all, the barriers for those with a prior felony are terrific. What do you think is better, 30 days at a mission and then life on the street? Not having enough money on a regular basis to be able to afford housing is an extremely common situation and always has been, so then where do you go? Couch surfing with your friends? Can you imagine if someone asked you if he could stay at your house for awhile, because he could not find housing, how would you respond? Would you have the compassion and concern of people like John and Dawn Coyle?

Do you truly feel it is better for people just out of prison to be homeless on the streets, or in a controlled, managed, monitored environment like Centers for Living?

Can you conceive of the selflessness and loving attitudes that the Coyles must have, and in their case the strong reliance on the help of God, in order to provide well-supervised housing for many people out of prison? Do you understand how much of the housing they provide is for people who otherwise would have very few options but being on the streets of Fresno County? Is that really what you want?

Let me also mention that there are many people who are not released, who are not "found suitable." The ones who make it far enough to be living at Centers for Living have been "found suitable." They need the daily attention from people who truly want them to succeed on the outside, by learning to be responsible for themselves. They cannot do this without a supportive housing situation. Centers for Living is essential because the Coyles, and each manager of a house, are attending to each person there. No one is "running wild"! Each

house manager is aware of who is under their charge, and what each person needs in terms of supervision and assistance, and is constantly throughout the day attending to the needs of those in their house.

Released offenders with such long-term programs as COSA or Centers for Living have, on average, a much lower rate of recidivism and re-incarceration than those simply out of prison on their own. This vast difference emphasizes how important a program on the outside is. I strongly encourage you to look into taking part yourself in groups which help those out of prison, with whatever type of conviction. That first month or more when someone is first out of prison can be confusing, overwhelming, discouraging, partly because some in society are so dead-set against helping them. Having the support of a housing program or other small group can make a world of difference.

Finally, I want to remind you that people who have been in prison clearly made bad choices, and got caught. Think of those you know in such a situation. They are human beings, with souls, and they are someone's parent, someone's sibling, someone's child. Do you really think that human beings who made a wrong choice inevitably cannot change? I can tell you by my experience volunteering with them that people can and do learn to make better choices. Society puts up barriers that almost makes this impossible in some cases. I beg you, please don't make things even worse by attempting to deny safe housing to those who need it the most.

I and others I volunteer with would be more than willing to provide more information to you. I would extend an open invitation to you to attend a group meeting so that you can see for yourselves that the people in ongoing treatment and supportive groups are not monsters. They are looking for work, and sometimes with a great deal of effort finding it. (The topic of getting a job in their situations we will leave for another letter.)

It is clear that a great deal of "anti" sentiment is reaching you. I am praying for your strength to see that even "the least of" us would do better with some kindness and support, than simply being met with hatred and deliberate misunderstanding. Don't always assume that the majority feels the same way that the vocal feel. Take advantage of the housing that is offered by Centers for Living, in order to not increase the homeless population, and in order to help those who have been released from prison to put their lives back together and become productive members of society.

God bless you.

Peggy Davis

*"Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." – Ephesians 4:32*

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**From:** District 5  
**Sent:** Monday, January 5, 2026 11:37 AM  
**To:** Clerk/BOS  
**Subject:** FW: Letter attached

**From:** Tammy Wolfe <tammy@centersforliving.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 5, 2026 10:55 AM  
**To:** District 1 <District1@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 2 <District2@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 3 <District3@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 4 <District4@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 5 <District5@fresnocountyca.gov>  
**Subject:** Letter attached

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CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK

[Report Suspicious](#)

To the Fresno County Board of Supervisors,

My name is Edward Larssen, and I am writing to you from Sacramento. My path to becoming a successful, tax-paying resident of the state capital began in Fresno as a 2019 graduate of the Centers for Living (CFL) program.

I lived at CFL for two and a half years because, after being homeless on the streets for 22 years, it was the only organization that offered a model that actually worked for me. I had tried many other programs over two decades, and while they did their best, they weren't the right fit for my long-term recovery. CFL provided the specific structure I needed. During my time there, I earned the responsibility of becoming a House Manager, overseeing the daily operations of the home.

As a former house manager, I urge you to consider these facts:

- **A Culture of Accountability, Not Control:** As someone who managed these houses, I want to clarify how they actually run. It isn't a "military barracks"—the environment at CFL is quite chill and supportive. But that peace is possible because we have clear standards, like regular and random drug testing. For us, testing isn't about being policed; it's just a normal part of the program that keeps everyone safe and moving forward.

- **Safety Through Leadership:** Safety comes from the structure and the community. In a larger home, you have the resources for on-site managers—experienced residents who mentor others and keep the atmosphere calm. By capping these homes at six people, you make it financially impossible to have that kind of leadership on-site, which actually makes a neighborhood less safe.

- **They Have Done Their Time:** The people you are targeting have already paid their debt to society. They have "done their time" and are now doing exactly what the law requires: living in an accountable environment and staying sober. To displace them now is a "double punishment" that only leads back to the streets.

- **The Only Program That Worked:** For 22 years, I was "in the system," and no other agency could help me break the cycle. CFL was the only place that turned a 22-year homeless man into a productive leader.

Why would the Board want to limit a program with that kind track record?

From my vantage point in Sacramento, I urge you to vote NO on this ordinance. Please do not close the door on the next person who is looking for the same second chance I was given.

Sincerely,  
Edward Larssen Class of 2019 & Former House Manager [edwardlarssen37@gmail.com](mailto:edwardlarssen37@gmail.com)

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**From:** District 5  
**Sent:** Monday, January 5, 2026 11:37 AM  
**To:** Clerk/BOS  
**Subject:** FW: Letter from Eric Malone

**From:** Tammy Wolfe <tammy@centersforliving.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 5, 2026 10:57 AM  
**To:** District 1 <District1@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 2 <District2@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 3 <District3@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 4 <District4@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 5 <District5@fresnocountyca.gov>  
**Subject:** Letter from Eric Malone

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A Thank You to CFL

I would like to express my gratitude towards CFL Centers for Living and what they've done for me.

During a season of brokenness, I was met with grace, understanding, and a warm welcome that made it clear this is a place where healing begins. CFL Centers for Living is truly unlike any other.

What stood out most is how CFL serves like a first responder when preaching the Gospel — walking alongside individuals as they experience new life in Christ. In that calling, your ministry is impeccable, truly second to none.

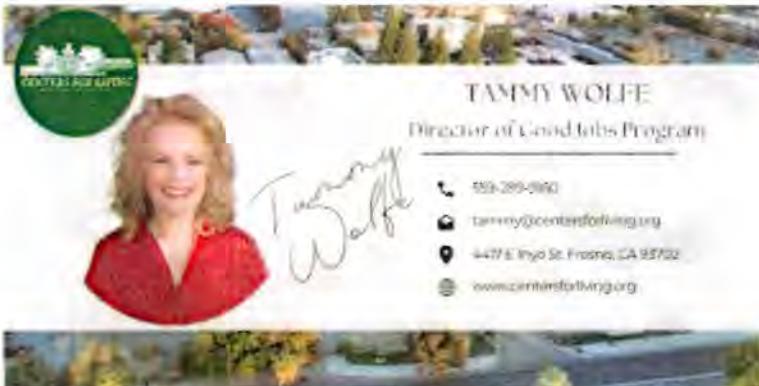
What you offer goes far beyond services; it is love in action. I am deeply grateful for each of you and for the work God is doing through CFL. Thank you for being a reflection of His mercy, hope, and transforming grace.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Eric Malone

Phone: 559-727-0436

Email: [iknowaguy@mymail.yahoo.com](mailto:iknowaguy@mymail.yahoo.com)



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**From:** District 5  
**Sent:** Monday, January 5, 2026 11:37 AM  
**To:** Clerk/BOS  
**Subject:** FW: Letter from Williams Buckley

**From:** Tammy Wolfe <tammy@centersforliving.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 5, 2026 11:01 AM  
**To:** District 1 <District1@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 2 <District2@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 3 <District3@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 4 <District4@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 5 <District5@fresnocountyca.gov>  
**Subject:** Letter from Williams Buckley

**CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK**

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Dear Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing this letter to formally share my experience and express my strong support for the Centers for Living Foundation (CFL), as well as the individuals who lead and operate it.

During a period when I was experiencing homelessness and food insecurity, I reached out to my pastor for guidance and assistance. That same night, my pastor provided me with the phone number for John Coyle, stating that he was someone who would do whatever it took to help a person get off the street. This recommendation proved to be entirely accurate.

Despite knowing that I had no money or means to compensate him in any way, John Coyle immediately stepped in to help. Within hours of receiving my contact information, I was brought in, given the opportunity to shower, provided with food, and offered a safe place to stay—simply because I was in need. This assistance was given freely, without conditions, and without expectation of reimbursement.

Prior to connecting with CFL, I had attempted to seek help through city, county, and state resources. Unfortunately, I was turned away due to a lack of available assistance. The only support I received was a maximum of \$98 per month for up to three months, which was expected to cover all of my basic needs. This amount was clearly insufficient and left me without a realistic path to stability.

Through my time connected with CFL, I have met individuals from many different backgrounds. Without exception, they have expressed deep gratitude to John and Dawn for providing care, stability, and a place to go when no other options were available given their background. Several individuals have openly shared that, without CFL, they ultimately might have resorted to committing a crime simply to return to jail, as incarceration felt safer than living on the streets. This reality underscores the critical role CFL plays in preventing homelessness, harm, and recidivism.

Since I have been involved with CFL, I have personally witnessed the organization continue to expand its programs, resources, and support services. These efforts are clearly focused on helping individuals transition toward stability and self-sufficiency, rather than merely providing temporary relief.

Although I do not share the same background or life experiences as many of the individuals served by CFL, I deeply appreciate that the organization opens its doors to people who would otherwise have nowhere to go. CFL provides hope, dignity, and a genuine opportunity to rebuild one's life in a way that would not otherwise be possible.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

**Williams Buckley**



Item #17  
1/6/2020 BOS Meeting

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**From:** District 5  
**Sent:** Monday, January 5, 2026 12:48 PM  
**To:** Clerk/BOS  
**Subject:** FW: Request for Delay of Consideration of Prevention of Contribution to Over Concentration of Sex Offenders in Single Family Dwellings Utilized as Documented Transitional Living Facilities Ordinance

**From:** Dawn Coyle <dawn@centersforliving.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 5, 2026 12:35 PM  
**To:** District 5 <District5@fresnocountyca.gov>  
**Subject:** Request for Delay of Consideration of Prevention of Contribution to Over Concentration of Sex Offenders in Single Family Dwellings Utilized as Documented Transitional Living Facilities Ordinance

**CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK**

[Report Suspicious](#)

Dear Supervisor Magsig,

My name is Dawn Coyle. I am one of the founders of Centers For Living, a Fresno County nonprofit that has provided structured, supportive housing for displaced men and women, including individuals reentering the community after incarceration, for over seven years.

I respectfully request that consideration of the proposed ordinance titled "Addition of Chapter 10.80, Prevention of Contribution to Over Concentration of Sex Offenders in Single Family Dwellings Utilized as Documented Transitional Living Facilities to Title 10 of the Ordinance Code of Fresno County," currently scheduled before the Board, be temporarily delayed so that we may have the opportunity to meet directly with you and appropriate county staff.

Our goal is to work collaboratively with the County to ensure that public safety, community concerns, and the real operational impacts of this ordinance are all fully understood and addressed before final action is taken.

Centers For Living has housed more than 1,200 individuals over the last seven years, including over 260 registered offenders, with documented outcomes demonstrating stability, accountability, and safety. We believe that with thoughtful discussion and cooperation, solutions can be developed that serve both the community and those working toward rehabilitation.

We are not seeking exemption from regulation. We are seeking time for dialogue and problem-solving before irreversible decisions are made.

Thank you for your service to Fresno County and for your consideration of this request. I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully

Dawn Coyle

Blessings,



Item #17  
1/6/2026 BOS Meeting

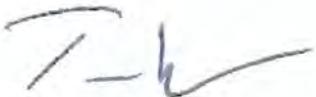
December 30, 2025

Supervisor Brian Pacheco:

I am writing concerning the ordinance being proposed in an attempt to limit registered sex offenders being housed in Fresno County. Enclosed is a copy of a letter I've sent to Supervisor Garry Bredefeld. Please read this letter about an **IMPORTANT** and **TIME-SENSITIVE** subject. The ordinance is scheduled to be voted on January 7<sup>th</sup> and I want for you and all the Supervisors to be able to make an informed decision regarding this ordinance.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Terrence Burke  
1422 N. Fruit Ave.  
Fresno, CA  
559 320-7254

December 30, 2025

Supervisor Garry Bredefeld:

I am writing concerning the ordinance you have proposed in an attempt to do away with registered sex offenders being housed in your district. Unfortunately, I find that your understanding of this problem is greatly lacking. In addition, your understanding of the solutions Centers for Living provides this and other "at-risk" populations in your district are just as lacking. Instead of criticizing and attacking Centers for Living and the solutions they provide; you should be helping them to increase their availability to help such "at-risk" populations transition to a safer and self-supporting life. Here is information you need to consider before proceeding with this ill-conceived ordinance:

1. Centers for Living IS NOT a housing program for registered offenders. It provides "transitional housing" for at-risk populations: people who are homeless, drug addicted, those suffering from mental health issues, those recently released from jail or prisons (which often includes registered offenders), and those who have been impacted by personal problems, such as divorce, house fires, job loss. Centers for Living is nonprofit. No one is making money from the programs it supplies to the people of this county and state.

Your district, and all district in Fresno County, have such people in their populations. There are other programs dealing with such populations but not as effectively as Centers for Living has. This is because in addition to being a licensed transitional housing organization, it is also is a recognized Christian Ministry.

2. John and Dawn Coyle, the Directors/Owners of Centers for Living are active in its continual operations. They begin every day with a devotional zoom meeting for current and past clients, managers, interested people, and supporters of the ministry at 6:30am. There are 30 to 40 people who take part in this regularly. This meeting is followed by a zoom meeting with current managers only. This is where John and Dawn are actively involved with any specific difficulties clients are having, physical problems houses are in need of, such as electrical or plumbing problems. There are also "in person" meetings for managers once a month and with clients as needed to address specific issues.

John and Dawn Coyle, the Directors/Owners of Centers for Living, do not live off site, they live in a small two-bedroom apartment located above the garage of one of the properties in the Fig Garden area on Gettysburg Ave in your district. They are involved in the operation of all Centers for Living homes 24/7.

3. All managers at Centers for Living are volunteers. Many are past clients. They all have specific knowledge and skills needed for dealing with such diverse populations. Training

for House Managers is ongoing and required. They do not provide medical or mental health treatment or advice, or legal advice. They do work to help the clients get such help from professionals, to obtain transportation to appointments, and required legal obligations.

4. Centers for living provides transitional housing. The goal is NOT to house people permanently, but to help them transition to a better situation free of drugs, mentally stable, and self-supported financially. Because of the nature of the clients served by Centers for Living, all clients are required to breathalyze and drug test regularly. There are strict rules concerning what clients can bring to the houses, and who is allowed to visit the homes. For example, no children are allowed at Centers for Living houses or events.
5. Regardless of what you believe, Centers for Living does not have any more then six registered offenders living at any of their houses at any time. The Sheriff and Fresno Police work closely with us to make sure this is the case. Most of the registered offenders are either on Parole or Probation and as such, under direct supervision of the authorities with additional requirements imposed on them including ongoing treatment and monitoring. They have individual limitations on where they can live which Centers for Living is required to provide for them. They are not running about the neighborhoods endangering people.

You have made it clear that you believe all registered offenders should be in prison and not living in society. They have been! The registered offenders at Centers for Living were incarcerated for their crimes, but they have either completed their sentence or have been released by the Parole Board because it was determined they no longer presented a realistic threat of reoffending due to the rehabilitation they had completed. They have particular difficulties finding suitable housing because of the inherent prejudice against them that you have so repeatedly expressed. Suitable housing is what John and Dawn Coyle provide and what you are attempting to eliminate to the detriment of your district. At-risk people live and will continue to live in your district. When will you begin to make the housing of such people easier?

I am a past client and current House Manager for Centers for Living. I have been shocked by the ignorance I have seen expressed by you and other county officials at what is happening at Centers for Living homes. This entire situation began when one of the Centers for Living clients was shot by a person seeking to harm registered offenders. Since then, all we've seen from you and other authorities is "victim blaming" and "not in my backyard" complaints. For me, it's been outrageous. I encourage you to abandon this ordinance you are proposing and instead get together with John and Dawn Coyle to find solutions that will satisfy your concerns regarding their operations and enhance their ability to provide assistance to the at-risk populations in your district.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Terrence Burke  
1422 N. Fruit Ave.  
Fresno, CA  
559 320-7254

Cc: Supervisor Brian Pacheco ✓

Supervisor Nathen Magsig

Supervisor Buddy Mendes

Supervisor Luis Chavez

Terrence Burke  
1422 N. Fruit Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93728

2 JAN 2026 AM 2 L  
PRESWICa 936

FresNo County Board of Supervisors  
ATTN: Brian Pacheco  
2281 Tulare Street, Room 301  
FresNo, CA 93721  
Time Sensitive

Item #17  
1/6/2026 BOS Meeting

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**From:** District 5  
**Sent:** Monday, January 5, 2026 3:33 PM  
**To:** Clerk/BOS  
**Subject:** FW: Letter from Concerned Citizen  
**Attachments:** FrezCount\_117029544574127.pdf

**From:** Tammy Wolfe <tammy@centersforliving.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 5, 2026 3:17 PM  
**To:** District 1 <District1@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 2 <district2@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 3 <District3@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 4 <District4@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 5 <District5@fresnocountyca.gov>  
**Subject:** Letter from Concerned Citizen

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**CAUTION!!! - EXTERNAL EMAIL - THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK**

**Stephen Leguizamón  
Concerned Citizen  
315 East Gettysburg Ave, 93704**

Hello, my name is Steve, I am a concerned citizen. It has come to my attention that there is an ordinance that will remove criminal offenders from rehabilitation services, parole/probation monitored housing, employment programs, and faith based community building. It concerns me that these offenders will now become homeless and negligent to their compliance officers through no fault of their own.

Let me first begin by saying I am a cohabitant at the above listed address. That, I believe, allows for the relevance of my opinion. Also, search your court records and you will find I have no associated crimes, but i am an eyewitness in a case involving my home being attacked by a woman with an automatic weapon meaning to kill myself and others due to her misguided thoughts (case number 25-29565). Which means the only involvement with the law that I have had in California was when I had a gun pointed at my face because of the address where I eat lunch, get my mail, and receive my college education GPA updates (3.5 FYI). Those thoughts I might add, were perpetuated by the actions of the media and certain government officials with agendas that rest higher on their shelf than a willingness to participate in solution driven legislation.

Now, I also believe if a thing isn't broken, a person would be mindful not to try and fix it. This seems to be a giant political rake that keeps getting stepped on lately. I grew up knowing not to quit one job before another job gets lined up. Our country is helplessly watching insurance premiums hike because a group of people didn't like one system, and removed 15

years of coverage with no system lined up to replace it. Now locally, I understand the government is going to willfully put egg in its face again. By forcing offenders to lose the lawful housing that kept them compliant and conveniently searchable online. The action would raise both the rate of crime and the homelessness in Fresno in one short pass, under this ruling body. Victimizing the very citizens who were actively participating in the state-required rehabilitation at the same time as telling mothers and teachers they don't know how to locate people who were at one time accounted for. Residents will have become active criminals by no longer having a registration address. What systems have been offered to prevent the disaster mounting by not properly relocating people from their home into whatever satisfies Fresno County today? None?

I understand being fearful of a population makes a person act foolhardy and impulsive. The United States has a long and storied history of making incredible follies and not learning its own lesson. For example, there will be a lot of legal accountability for ICE detention centers and agents in our near future. This could have been avoided if we had learned from the Japanese internment camps in our own history. What seems like a good rung in the political ladder up into relevance can harbor legal and ethical ramifications down the line, especially when the status of the people involved gets elevated into the larger spotlight of accountability. State judiciaries and community organizations with all sorts of acronyms will find this particular Fresno County level mishap an excellent step up in *their own* political resume - moving up from their own pond into the national ocean. This appeal is aimed at the legal and political minded. I have abandoned my earlier draft which spoke to the Christian heart. It would be illogical to frame my argument with the teachings of Jesus. If Ethics, faith or God was in the room while these proposals were being drafted, this letter wouldn't have ever needed to be written in the first place.

Yours in Lawful Citizenship,

Stephen Leguizamón

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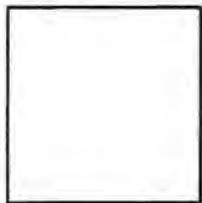
**From:** Benjamin, Marc  
**Sent:** Monday, January 5, 2026 3:35 PM  
**To:** Clerk/BOS  
**Subject:** FW: letter for BAI#17

Another letter for BAI 17

**From:** Tammy Wolfe <[tammy@centersforliving.org](mailto:tammy@centersforliving.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 5, 2026 3:34 PM  
**To:** District 1 <[District1@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:District1@fresnocountyca.gov)>; District 2 <[district2@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:district2@fresnocountyca.gov)>; District 3 <[District3@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:District3@fresnocountyca.gov)>; District 4 <[District4@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:District4@fresnocountyca.gov)>; District 5 <[District5@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:District5@fresnocountyca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: letter

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Tammy Wolfe <[tammy@centersforliving.org](mailto:tammy@centersforliving.org)>  
**Date:** Mon, Jan 5, 2026 at 3:33 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: letter  
**To:** Dawn Coyle <[dawn@centersforliving.org](mailto:dawn@centersforliving.org)>



----- Forwarded message -----

From: Esmael Reyes <[esmael@centersforliving.org](mailto:esmael@centersforliving.org)>  
Date: Wed, Dec 31, 2025 at 3:17 PM  
Subject: letter  
To: Tammy Wolfe <[tammy@centersforliving.org](mailto:tammy@centersforliving.org)>

## Reflection

Looking back on my journey, I can see just how far I've come — and how much the Centers for Living played a role in helping me rebuild my life. When I first arrived, I was struggling with addiction, unsure of where to turn, and carrying more weight than I knew how to handle. I didn't just need treatment; I needed guidance, stability, and people who believed I could do better even when I didn't believe it myself.

At the Centers for Living, I found exactly that. They helped me confront my addiction with honesty and courage, and they connected me with the right mental health resources so I could understand what was happening beneath the surface. For the first time, I wasn't trying to figure everything out alone. I had support, structure, and people who genuinely cared about my well-being.

What made the biggest difference wasn't just the programs — it was the sense of purpose they helped me rediscover. Through counseling, support groups, and the steady encouragement of the staff, I began to see that my life could be more than survival. I learned how to take responsibility for my healing, how to ask for help, and how to build a future that actually means something to me.

Today, I'm not the same person who walked through those doors. I'm stronger, more aware, and more connected to myself. The Centers for Living didn't just help me get sober; they helped me find direction, meaning, and a reason to keep moving forward. For that, I'm grateful.

Esmael Reyes

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**From:** Benjamin, Marc on behalf of District 1  
**Sent:** Monday, January 5, 2026 3:37 PM  
**To:** Clerk/BOS  
**Subject:** FW: Letter from Gina Duren BAI 17

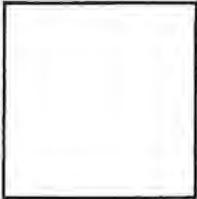
Another letter for BAI #17

**From:** Tammy Wolfe <[tammy@centersforliving.org](mailto:tammy@centersforliving.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 5, 2026 3:36 PM  
**To:** District 1 <[District1@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:District1@fresnocountyca.gov)>; District 2 <[district2@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:district2@fresnocountyca.gov)>; District 3 <[District3@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:District3@fresnocountyca.gov)>; District 4 <[District4@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:District4@fresnocountyca.gov)>; District 5 <[District5@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:District5@fresnocountyca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Letter from Gina Duren

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Tammy Schreiner <[tammyrenia82@gmail.com](mailto:tammyrenia82@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** Wed, Dec 31, 2025 at 12:24 PM  
**Subject:** Letter from Gina Duren  
**To:** Tammy Wolfe <[tammy@centersforliving.org](mailto:tammy@centersforliving.org)>

Dear supervisor Gary Bredefield

As a lifelong resident of District 2, I understand the importance of ensuring that all residents of Old Fig feel valued, respected and safe. I also understand the reality that housing costs have steadily risen throughout Fresno County over the last 4 years, particularly adversely affecting disenfranchised communities and at-risk population groups.

Centers for Living has revolutionized my life and has provided me with an opportunity to successfully transition from a pattern of addiction to become a contributing member of society. We must not target registered offenders who disproportionately find themselves unhoused by repeating the false narrative that "those people" are a nuisance to our neighborhood.

I strongly opposed your ordinance to limit housing options for registered offenders and ask that you oppose it as well.

-Gina Duren

Item #17  
1/16/2024 BOS Meeting

**To the Fresno County Supervisors**

If it wasn't for Centers for Living I probably wouldn't be alive. I have had three major surgeries recently. Because of Centers for Living I have a place to recover and appreciate that this recovery is not taking place on the streets if I were to be homeless. Because of Centers for living I am sober. It has been a year and six months of being sober that allows me to be free from addiction and I credit Centers for Living. Because of Centers for living I have been able to achieve the disability coverage that I need and also current legal status as a citizen. Because of the ability through Centers for Living I am able to continue attending meetings that further my sobriety through accountability in my recovery.

Sincerely, **Everett Villalobos**

Item 17  
11/6/2020 BOS Meeting

To the Fresno City Council:

My name is Jeffrey and I am currently a resident of Centers for Living. After doing some lengthy time within the correction system, I had struggled immensely trying to reintegrate into society. CFL was, and is, the support system that has helped me transition into the community in a meaningful and productive manner. With the help from all those at Centers for Living, I have been able to acquire all of my necessary vital documents, transportation to essential medical appointments at the VA, and a place to live. Due to my advanced age, as well as diabetes and melanoma; the potential outcomes of this upcoming city ordinance could very likely put my overall well-being in grave danger if I am to become unhoused. It is very difficult to keep and store the life saving medication I use while also sleeping on the streets. Centers for Living has provided me and so many others with positive life changing resources. Without these resources, I believe that Fresno City as a whole would become a worse place rather than better.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Gridley

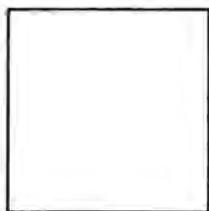
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**From:** Benjamin, Marc on behalf of District 1  
**Sent:** Monday, January 5, 2026 5:10 PM  
**To:** Clerk/BOS  
**Subject:** FW: my letter that was asked for :)

BAIL #17

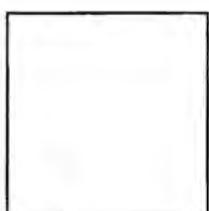
**From:** Tammy Wolfe <[tammy@centersforliving.org](mailto:tammy@centersforliving.org)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 5, 2026 3:43 PM  
**To:** District 1 <[District1@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:District1@fresnocountyca.gov)>; District 2 <[district2@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:district2@fresnocountyca.gov)>; District 3 <[District3@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:District3@fresnocountyca.gov)>; District 4 <[District4@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:District4@fresnocountyca.gov)>; District 5 <[District5@fresnocountyca.gov](mailto:District5@fresnocountyca.gov)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: my letter that was asked for :)

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----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** [Tammy Wolfe <tammy@centersforliving.org>](mailto:Tammy Wolfe <tammy@centersforliving.org>)  
**Date:** Tue, Dec 30, 2025 at 8:56 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: my letter that was asked for :)  
**To:** Tammy Wolfe <[tammy@centersforliving.org](mailto:tammy@centersforliving.org)>



----- Forwarded message -----

From: Cole Morgan <[taylor31794@gmail.com](mailto:taylor31794@gmail.com)>

Date: Tue, Dec 30, 2025 at 8:21 PM

Subject: my letter that was asked for :)

To: [tammy@centersforliving.org](mailto:tammy@centersforliving.org) <[tammy@centersforliving.org](mailto:tammy@centersforliving.org)>

My name is cole morgan i was entered into the dewolf house may 21<sup>st</sup> 2025

My experience here has been a humbling one. I have had the opportunity to stay ever since. Learning to stay sober has been a great lesson this house has been a help to me tremendously. Learning to stay sober really opened up my eyes. I battle with schizophrenia and socialization issues staying here has taught me how to meet friends and the friends that i have met are all the sober kind. The people that i have met here have given me the chance to learn that I can be kind and humbled but in a way that some of my issues have been exposed. From character flaws to curse words i have been trying to change myself into a person that one day i can either be happy or content with. John and Dawn Coyle have been very welcoming and have given me a chance to find some brothers in christ that i will never forget. I learned that little things in life are important again. Specifically the ways i talk about my own problems and show accountability to not only the managers but every person that i live beside.

Item 17  
116/2026 BOS Meeting

To whom it may concern,

This letter is to attest to the power of God's Word and promise found in 2Corinthians 5:17 that "If any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away, behold all things have become new!" I have been a roommate of Stan Medez's for the past year and had the privilege of seeing the transformation of him and his life personally.

I was there when Stan came willingly on his own accord to Centers for Living because he recognized his need for help and surrender. I was there when he found a home church, got baptized, and started taking others under his wing to lead them into a closer relationship with the Lord so that they could also experience the transformation that he has. I was also there when he became a Manager for Centers for Living where he has helped several others in our program to stay clean and sober and submit to what God has planned for their lives and lead a life based on faith.

I don't know much of Stan's past nor do I need to, because of God's grace and promise, I know the "born again" Stan who is full of compassion, love, and generosity. I have seen Stan have a genuine desire to grow closer to the Lord and the process of spiritual formation in his life which is to become more "Christ like."

We live in a faith based sober living home called Centers for Living where we are responsible for 14 clients. While maintaining a full-time job Stan has continued to go above and beyond to be available to them and help Jesus with the restoration process that is occurring in their lives. He has poured into them continuously, without hesitation, and has always been available and willing to help in any way, shape, or form that he can.

I know Stan as a good, respectful, giving, sober, kind, and humble man who puts the needs of others before his own. But, most importantly I know him as a strong brother in Christ who is trying to lead others along the straight and narrow path that leads to eternal life. When you consider the quality of a man, what is more Christ-like and deserving of a second chance than someone who is fulfilling Christ's great commission to "make disciples of all nations."

"To love the Lord with all your heart, with all your strength, and with all your soul and love others as yourself." To care more about others than himself that's the Stan I know and admire- to care more above all else what Christ thinks and desires.

I know based on Stan's works and character, if you knew him personally, if you saw first hand the transformation that Jesus and Centers for Living is solely responsible for you would be proud of his daily deeds, sacrifice, service and conduct. It's one thing to be saved yourself but it's a different thing entirely to be a part of helping Christ save others and that's just one of the several things Stan is doing well. And a testament to the maturation of his relationship with Jesus Christ.

If you have any questions at all feel free to contact me at any time. I'm also available to come in and speak with you in person. It's been a blessing to write this letter, God bless!

Sincerely,  
Matthew  
Client at Centers for Living

Item 17  
1/6/2026 BOS Meeting

To whom it may concern:

I have been living at Centers for Living without the prejudice I experienced in society and in prison. While being a client at Centers for Living I have met all of my parole requirements including weekly counseling I attend at Sharper Future. I have also maintained my sobriety for 30 years.

I have gained gainful employment and am a productive member of society being of great help to my community and housemates. I have enjoyed the accountability that Centers for Living provides as well as having a safe home where I can lay my head at night without worry.

Recently I started attending church at Celebration Church where they have welcomed me with open arms. Without Centers for Living I wouldn't have a place to live and would have to live out of my truck. Please consider the impact this ordinance would have on us here at Centers for Living who have served our debt to society and have moved on from past mistakes by the grace of God.

Sincerely,  
Ray Williams

Item 17  
1/6/2026 BOS Meeting

December 29th, 2025

Dear fellow members of the Fresno Community and Council:

There is a decision to make on the horizon regarding the housing of men and women in group homes within our community. While I can not speak for anyone other than myself and or about the different organizations that provide housing I feel I can speak with confidence about the one such organization and that is the non-profit organization called Centers for Living.

Over the past three to four years I have established a personal relationship with at least 60 to 70 of the clients. I've employed many of them on a short term basis and have had many opportunities to hear their life stories, about the challenges and their triumphs. To me none of them belong in a category of societal outcasts, not even those who must register as sex offenders. A good number of them endured traumas that no child or adult should have to endure.

So often I've thought that had I endured such hardships my life's path could easily have diverted from what it has been. I was fortunate in that before I got my teaching and administrative credentials to serve an internship with the San Diego County Progration Department working with juveniles . For many of the offenders they had just not been appropriate and nurturing structure in their lives. That experience was very helpful in understanding the educational needs of children and adults. Many of which would become my students for most, if not all my years as an educator.

I could not see them as outcasts but as worthy human beings that deserved every chance for success in life that I could give them. I witnessed first hand the transformations that would take place if given the opportunity to thrive in a highly structured and nurturing environment.

Now that I've chosen the experience of actually living in one of the Centers for Lliving homes for about a month now I can speak to the compassionate accountability that almost every client will attest is helping them choose a new life path of self respect and honesty whether it be a past of incarceration homelessness, addiction and more. The present structure provides the components needed for life transformation like little else can. I urge the council members not to legislate a change to living environments less than what exists presently in the Centers for Living homes.

I would not understand reasons for moving away from a recovery model that is likely to be adopted by cities and counties nationwide. They have a slogan in the organization that expresses the need to not quit before the miracle which will inevitably happen if we just wait a little longer. For myself I dont need to wait because I've seen so many miracles already.

God bless you all.

Sincerely,  
Douglas K. Nowlin

Item 17  
1/6/2026 BOS Meeting

December 30, 2025

To whom it may concern:

My name is Michelle Brown. I have been associated w/ Centers for Living, Fresno, CA, since 2022. I was going through the toughest time of my life as I lost my child through social services, struggling w/ domestic abuse, homelessness, employment, and a serious drug addiction. I was referred to John and Dawn Coyle of Centers for Living by a member of our local recovery community. I found John and Dawn and was offered possible employment @ a thrift store they opened and ran in town offering proceeds back to their clients. They were generous to clients and allowed them to work @ their store. They also offered housing as they had a woman's home. CFL helped me move when I had no one by sending clients to pitch in and move my furniture. John has offered court support by helping w/ paperwork. I am always invited to their events of fellowship, food giveaways, church gatherings, and holiday celebrations

CFL offers togetherness @ their homes for all of us struggling whose families left us. Because of their gatherings, I've made lasting friendships w/ their clients who offer me support to stay clean, hold a job, and prayer. I attend their morning devotional on zoom daily. They have followers who rely on their ministry. Without them....we may be dead. Thank you CFL, John, and Dawn. Please call if questions. 559-213-7894  
[dillonrose2017@gmail.com](mailto:dillonrose2017@gmail.com).

Sincerely,

*Michelle Brown*

Recovery Devotional Member, Centers for Living

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**From:** Benjamin, Marc on behalf of District 1  
**Sent:** Monday, January 5, 2026 5:12 PM  
**To:** Clerk/BOS  
**Subject:** FW: A heart felt email to our Board of Supervisors

FYI – BAI#17

**From:** Tammy Wolfe <tammy@centersforliving.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 5, 2026 4:37 PM  
**To:** District 2 <district2@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 3 <District3@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 1 <District1@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 4 <District4@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 5 <District5@fresnocountyca.gov>  
**Subject:** A heart felt email to our Board of Supervisors

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Dear Board of Supervisors,

You are hitting the best asset you have in your County that is truly making a difference by taking in the homeless off the streets in your county. You are welcome to come and visit our homes anytime, any day.

The change in the ordinance will hurt a company that has been very successful in helping all people move forward with their lives by helping them get clean and sober, bring them to God, give them the kindness and love that they need to heal. We are very strict in our rules of the house.

Our motto is Love all Serve all, and that's what we do. Changing the number of people that live in our homes will make it very unlikely to be able to be as successful as CFL is now. All businesses need a certain amount of money to be viable, we are a self pay model and our budget is tight.

The healing of these men and women is a blessing to our County. They are no longer a menace to society. I have been helping them get jobs, go to college, get their GED, etc.

We help them become clean in all areas of sin. God is our center, and He shows up!

Sincerely,  
Tammy Wolfe

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**From:** Benjamin, Marc on behalf of District 1  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 6, 2026 8:33 AM  
**To:** Clerk/BOS  
**Subject:** FW: Letter from Thomas

FYI BAI 17

**From:** Tammy Wolfe <tammy@centersforliving.org>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 5, 2026 7:38 PM  
**To:** District 1 <District1@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 2 <district2@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 3 <District3@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 4 <District4@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 5 <District5@fresnocountyca.gov>  
**Subject:** Letter from Thomas

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To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Parole Department of the State of California, as well as Centers for Living of Fresno, California, for their support, guidance, and continued efforts in assisting me with my reintegration into society after more than twenty years of incarceration. Your professionalism and commitment have been meaningful during this critical transition in my life.

I respectfully wish to share that prolonged isolation in one location is a concern of mine, as I find it may be detrimental to my continued progress and successful reintegration into society. Remaining engaged, connected, and active within the community is essential to my rehabilitation and forward momentum. Thank you for your continued support and consideration.

Respectfully,  
Thomas



**From:** Benjamin, Marc on behalf of District 1  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 6, 2026 9:06 AM  
**To:** Clerk/BOS  
**Subject:** FW: Ordinance #

FYI BAI 17

**From:** Melinda Bohannon <melindalouisebohannon@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 6, 2026 9:01 AM  
**To:** District 1 <District1@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 2 <District2@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 3 <District3@fresnocountyca.gov>; District 4 <District4@fresnocountyca.gov>; District5@fresnocountyca.gov  
**Subject:** Ordinance #

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Dear Gentlemen,

I am a specialist teacher who has worked for more than 30 years, the past 17 years of which was spent teaching for Fresno. I am also an active member of the community and churches, leaning on these resources to provide food for the hungry families of our children. I am also the author of the prison publication, Breakthrough, which has brought change and gives hope to incarcerated individuals.

It has recently come to my attention that an ordinance has been proposed that you are voting on today which will remove support for homes for sex offenders. This is extremely concerning to me for many reasons.

First of all, I am the mother of a child who was abused, and I have lived, first hand, the devastation, shame, and heartbreak this causes. I find it hard to believe people who have not had experience in this type of tragedy and who are seeing them from the outside in can fully grasp how complicated and painful these situations are. It's not black and white: drive the monster out. If you take away the residences from these offenders, then they will end up on our streets where we cannot track them or hold them accountable. I watch every day as my students walk past dangerous homeless people on the streets on the way to school, and it terrifies me.

Second of all, most of these offenders were victims themselves. It's very easy for a person to say what they would or would never have done when they were not subjected to this type of damage. It is **life-changing** and not everyone has the coping skills or support to lead them out of the experience as a whole person.

As much as we want to see these people as monsters, they are broken human beings, and, believe it or not, many of them have families (even including victims) who still love them. After all of the pain their dad has caused, my children still love him because they understand the horrific circumstances that lead their dad to become broken as a young man and the severe PTSD that he has battled his whole life. Any person who hurts a child deserves to be punished. However, a person who was never given a chance to be a child, and has served his sentence, should have a chance at rehabilitation. I have been in the position to see numerous deeply damaged individuals struggle to put their lives back together, and strive to give something to the community by helping others like them get back onto a the right path. There are exceptions, but I've found most of these people want desperately to be normal and to live just one day without shame and self-loathing. It is better to have a rehabilitated person as part of the community than a broken person on the streets.

Putting broken people on the streets is the worst thing this county could ever do. Nothing positive will come from it.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

*Melinda Bohannon*

Item #17  
11/6/2026 BOS Meeting

01/02/2026

To whom it may concern,

My name is Melissa Sotelo, and I am an Intake Coordinator at Centers for Living. I first learned about Centers for Living in 2024 through a close friend, at a time when I had just begun my recovery journey. I was in need of sober living to continue moving forward in a safe, supportive, and positive environment. Resources for both women and men in Fresno County are extremely limited, and I am grateful every day that I was referred to Centers for Living.

As I learned more about CFL and everything they stand for, I felt called to be part of such a meaningful place. Centers for Living is not perfect, nor do we strive to be—but we are committed, compassionate, and purpose-driven.

I am not the same person I was during active addiction. Through my time here, I have learned tools to process past trauma and gained access to resources that I can now encourage others to seek. I have a strong support system and am living proof that recovery is possible. Without Centers for Living and my faith in God, I truly believe I would be lost.

The Coyle family believed in me when I was broken and helped lay the foundation for a promising future. Being welcomed into the CFL family was God's way of saving my life. Today, I look forward to being a lifeline for others who are facing similar struggles. No matter what, we will continue to be here for those in need.

Centers for Living is committed to providing safe, sober, and empowering housing for individuals who are displaced. "Displaced" may include those experiencing homelessness, incarceration, job loss, grief, divorce, or recovery from drug and alcohol addiction. Through thoughtful care of both essential needs and personal goals—combined with the love and dignity every person deserves—we build trust with those we serve.

In addition to housing, Centers for Living offers supportive services that serve as a critical first step toward healing, stability, and long-term progress. An essential guiding principle of our ministry is to "Love all, Serve all." We proudly support our most vulnerable populations regardless of background or past circumstances. Our only requirement is an earnest desire to improve one's future.

Melissa Sotelo  
Intake Coordinator, Centers for Living

Item 17  
1/6/2026 BOS Meeting

To Whom it May Concern,

I wanted to let you know how CFL has helped me in my life now.

I was an addict for 20 years. I didn't know what love and sobriety was and being cared for looked like until I got here to CFL, I was showed who God , love and what being cared for is. Also, CFL has helped me in my recovery, I am 10 months sober and don't have any desires to go back to that lifestyle. Now that I have found God with CFL , I feel safe. It's a shame that people don't see how much CFL has done for our lives and how much hope there is to be willing to live life. May God bless them and keep on changing me to become a better person. I thank God First and John and Dawn Coyle for always being by my side and never giving up on me as well as supporting me in my sobriety and recovery.

Jackie Reyes

Item #17

1/6/2026 BOS meeting

Dear Fresno County Supervisors,

My name is Jericho. I am a client of Centers for Living. I have strong faith in the Centers for Living Program and has helped me with housing and getting off the streets. I am no longer on the streets. I have been going to AA meeting and mental health classes, along with attending church regularly.

They provide me with the service I need to accomplish my goals. I am working on getting my California ID and my Medical card. I am also working on getting my tattoos laser off. I am trying to get my SSDI reinstated and get my social security card and birth certificate. I have a long term goal for housing and to get a job. I am looking for jobs and all of the above goals.

Centers for Living offers me an opportunity to exercise in good weather and I enjoy exercising and lifting weights, it helps me stay fit. Most of my time is used up with productivity and keeping myself busy to create a better life for myself.

Sincerely,

Jericho

Item #17

1/6/2026 BOS Meeting

To whom it may concern,

My name is William Mabrey. I am currently a resident of Centers for Living. I am a person who has battled addiction for many years. I've been through two long term programs with the Fresno Mission. After each I did well for a period of time but wound up slipping back into addiction. Centers for Living offers me something that the Mission did not. It offers me a "safe" place for sobriety and strong structure while continuing to live life. With the mission I was "safe" until my time was up and then I had to jump back into society/life and many of the outside influences that are difficult to deal with (for me). Here at C.F.L. I am able to receive help, structure, safety while balancing life. I believe this allows me to grow and heal while learning to deal with the very things that have caused me to stumble in the past. I'm not suddenly reintroduced to these problems after living isolated from them. I cannot express how important this is. Not just the structure, support, safety. Something C.F.L. offers that no other homes can do is that I do not have to live in the "hood" while working on myself and living life. This opens my perspective and all residents' perspective on what it is like to live in a nice neighborhood. We aren't made to feel like that is all we should expect from life. It shows us that we can have a life that many of us thought was just for other people.

This experience is more positive than any recovery experience I've ever had. C.F.L. offers a hope that we cannot get from other recovery options. Please don't take this from us.

Sincerely,  
William Mabrey

Item 17

1/6/2020 BOS Meeting

To Fresno County Board of Supervisors.,

I want to express my sincere gratitude to John & Dawn Coyle, and everyone at Centers For Living, for accepting me into your program and giving me an opportunity I do not take lightly.

After more than 50 years living with addiction—an addiction that ultimately led me to spending nearly four years in prison—I arrived at your doors in need of more than just a place to stay. I needed stability, safety, structure, and a real chance to confront the patterns that had shaped my life for decades.

Through your program, I was provided housing and food, but just as importantly, I was given a safe and supportive environment where real change could begin. The atmosphere you've created made it possible for me to focus on recovery, accountability, and growth without fear or chaos—something I had not experienced in a very long time.

I am deeply thankful for the staff and house managers who show up with patience, consistency, and genuine care. Their presence, guidance, and willingness to hold both compassion and boundaries have made a meaningful difference in my journey. It has been clear to me that this is not just a program, but a place where people are treated with dignity while being encouraged to do the hard work required for lasting change.

Thank you for believing that people can rebuild their lives, even after decades of struggle. Thank you for providing a foundation where healing, responsibility, and hope can coexist. I am grateful for the opportunity to be here and for the chance to continue becoming a healthier, more grounded version of myself.

With sincere appreciation,

Sean J. Ruth

Item #17

1/6/2026 BOS meeting

My Name is Antonio Diaz Jr ( Tony ) , as of April 17th 2024 my 290 registration was terminated by the state after 28 yrs. I probably wouldn't have accomplished this had I not been living at CFL since 9/27/20.

I came to CFL thanks to Governor Newsome ,Covid and the Stop program. Honestly I truly believe it was the commitment I made with God while I was still in prison to walk the path He laid at my feet, to have Faith in Him and trust that no matter where or how, He would take care of me much better than I had been doing while living out in the world previously. To this day, I live up to that commitment and He has kept me here at CFL, where I have discovered a calling , a way to help heal my lifetime of wounds and to give those wounds and hurts validation by helping so many people who come through our doors. I've also learned how to allow those people to help me heal and grow as a man, a gay man, as a child of God and a man living in recovery .

When I was released from prison I reported to my PO as ordered and let her know I was homeless. She told me she had a new transitional home that I could go to but it would take 5 days, was I willing to go anywhere? I said yes and slept on mom's couch for the last time . I reported to the Centers for Living's firehouse and it was their only 290 home which housed 12 men. It was not the best looking place but God led me there and Newsome was paying for it and I had nowhere else to go. I felt fellowship, a sense of family as we sat down for dinner of 12 men each night . something I hadn't done since I was a kid with my family. I felt the need to help out and contribute my time, I've had a lot of management years under my belt. Within a month I was slowly moving more and more into support. I was managing as a house manager for 3 months and have been for over 5 yrs now.

Today I manage the home on San Jose Ave, which houses six 290 men and 6 other men . I have 4 men who are retired and a varied range of professions of men. Addiction is not picky and will steal from any and every lifestyle and salary range.

God has also used CFL to grant my prayers of bringing me back into the working class. I was taken out by a severe psychosis due to a full blown AIDS diagnosis and meth addiction. Then spinal stenosis diagnosis in 2023. Because of the latter, I believed my dreams and hard work of restoring my mental health were for nothing and I would never go back to work. Today I am employed as Centers for Living Quality Assurance Coordinator.

If the ordinance you are trying to put in place had been in place back then, my story would have never been written. We, 290s, deserve the opportunities that every other citizen receives. When given the chance , anyone can achieve the stars. I'm 54 and I'm not done yet. I still have things to check off on my TO DO list. Buying a Home is definitely on the list, maybe in Fig Garden, so my vote can count one day .

Thank you,  
Tony Diaz

Item #17

1/6/2026 BOS meeting

To whom it may concern,

I do not agree with the ordinance. I'm a resident at CFL. CFL took me in when I had nowhere to go and I really appreciate that because I could have been homeless on the streets. I have no family to turn to and they took me in with open arms with love care and kindness and they are now my family! I am so happy to be here. I feel safe here. I found God here. This is my safe place and if I did not have CFL I would have probably relapsed and be on the streets but I'm still clean and sober 14 months!

-MWP

Item #17

1/6/2026 BOS Meeting

Dear County Supervisor,

I am writing in support of Centers for Living and the life-changing work being done every day for individuals, families, and our community.

Even though I am still new to Centers for Living, the impact I have already witnessed on the individuals who reach out for support has been truly eye-opening. I was drawn to this organization after learning about the dedication, compassion, and purpose behind its work, and seeing it in action has been deeply inspiring. Each day, I am moved by the way staff meet people with respect, care, and encouragement, helping them take the first steps toward healing and independence. Experiencing this firsthand has made me proud to be part of a team committed to making such a meaningful difference.

I fully believe in Centers for Living's dedication to standing with individuals during some of the most challenging moments of their lives. The organization consistently demonstrates its commitment to its mission by meeting people where they are, offering guidance and support, and empowering them to rebuild their lives with dignity and hope. Being part of this mission has shown me the profound difference that thoughtful care, encouragement, and consistent support can make in someone's journey toward a better future.

Centers for Living provides a safe, sober, and empowering housing environment for people who are displaced—whether due to homelessness, incarceration, job loss, grief, divorce, or recovery from substance use. By addressing both essential needs and personal dignity, the organization builds trust with those it serves, often as the first step toward healing and progress toward independence. Guided by the principle to "Love all – Serve all," Centers for Living supports some of our most vulnerable populations regardless of background or past experiences, asking only for an earnest desire to improve one's future. The impact of this work is far-reaching: lives are restored, families are strengthened, individuals return to work, education, and faith, and our communities become safer and healthier.

I strongly believe in the continued growth and future of Centers for Living and the role it will play in strengthening our community for years to come. I respectfully hope you will support this organization so it can continue providing stability, restoration, and opportunity for those who need it most.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and commitment to our community.

Danae Dabbs  
Intake Coordinator  
Fresno, CA

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