



# SACRAMENTO CHILDREN'S HOME

Family Unity

November 24, 1998

To Whom It May Concern:

This is a letter of support to the issues identified by Mr. Jim Woodson regarding code enforcement and the criminal activity in our business neighborhood. Sacramento Children's Home has had a community-based sight in this neighborhood for nearly four years and has witnessed the criminal activity of prostitution, drug dealing, assaults, and vandalism throughout this period. Safety is paramount, with three programs and a large staff, we have clients and community members coming to our office on a daily basis, many of them, small children. As Mr. Woodson stated, law enforcement is not the problem as both our NPO's and the police department in general has been ever vigilant and supportive.

My staff and I moved to this location in August and since then, we have seen one drug dealing family move out only to be replaced by another suspected drug dealing family. In addition, since this newest criminal element has moved in, tensions between the neighbors have risen and verbal confrontations have already occurred. In addition, the number of individuals, particularly young people, just "hanging around" have increased.

If anything can be done to stop the turn-style type of one problem replacing another, both my staff and I would truly appreciate it. As Mr. Woodson has suggested, addressing the absentee landlords (i.e. a contributing problem) versus the tenants (i.e. the symptom) may well help to turn this neighborhood around. I know from recent community activities that there are many non-criminal neighbors who would also like to see the neighborhood be allowed to improve itself without the intimidation and isolation that criminal activity creates.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

Lydia Enz  
Program Supervisor  
CCI program