

**Council**

Bob Margolis, Mayor  
Howard K. Coates, Jr., Vice Mayor  
Matt Willhite, Councilman  
Anne Gerwig, Councilwoman  
John Greene, Councilman

**Manager**  
Paul Schofield

March 17, 2014

Mr. Richard Radcliffe  
Executive Director  
Palm Beach County League of Cities  
P.O. Box 1989 Governmental Center  
West Palm Beach, FL 33402

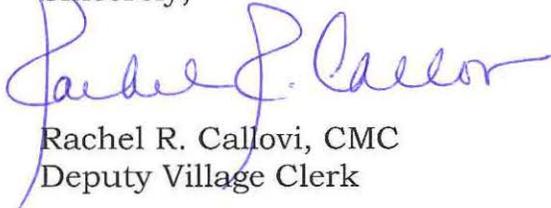
**Re: Village of Wellington Resolution No. 2014-16: Urging the Florida Legislature to Adopt, and Governor Rick Scott to Support, Legislative Changes providing for the Regulation of Recovery Residences or “Sober Houses” in the form of Statewide Licensing and Registration.**

Dear Mr. Radcliffe:

At the March 11, 2014 Wellington Village Council meeting, the Village Council approved Resolution No. 2014-16 urging the Florida Legislature to adopt, and Governor Scott to support, legislative changes providing for the regulation of Recovery Residences or “Sober Houses” in the form of Statewide Licensing and Registration.

At Council’s request, we respectfully enclose a copy of the above-mentioned resolution. In addition, we have also forwarded copies to the Governor, Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate, the Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation, and the Florida League of Cities.

Sincerely,

  
Rachel R. Callovi, CMC  
Deputy Village Clerk

/rrc  
Enclosure

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**RESOLUTION NO. 2014-16**

**A RESOLUTION OF WELLINGTON'S COUNCIL URGING THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE TO ADOPT, AND GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT TO SUPPORT, LEGISLATIVE CHANGES PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF RECOVERY RESIDENCES OR "SOBER HOUSES" IN THE FORM OF STATEWIDE LICENSING AND REGISTRATION; AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, recovery residences, also known as "sober houses," are not required to be licensed under state law; and

**WHEREAS**, sober houses impact residential neighborhoods and when unlicensed and unregulated, create safety and welfare hazards for both their residents and surrounding neighbors; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Council of the Village of Wellington urges the Florida Legislature to adopt, and Governor Rick Scott to support, regulations and licensing requirements for sober houses in order to:

1. Create a consistent standard of operation to provide uniform and safe operation throughout the state;
2. Provide for accountability for the owners/operators of these homes;
3. Help end abuses that are occurring in some homes;
4. Require background checks for owners/operators of these homes similar to those required for owners/operators of substance abuse treatment providers, assisted living facilities, adult family-care homes and adult day care centers, and community residential homes; and
5. Ensure that certain life safety standards similar to those already in place for the homes and facilities referenced above are followed in order to keep residents safe; and

**WHEREAS**, the community housing component of licensed day or night treatment facilities is already licensed pursuant to Chapter 397, Florida Statutes, and such housing performs the same function as a sober house; and

**WHEREAS**, uniform regulation of sober houses will provide safety to a disadvantaged group and protect both the residents and their surrounding communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Council has determined that the regulation of sober houses

1 would be in the best interests of and would protect the health, safety and welfare of its  
2 residents, both temporary and permanent.

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4 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE VILLAGE COUNCIL OF THE**  
5 **VILLAGE OF WELLINGTON, FLORIDA** as follows:

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7 Section 1. The foregoing recitals are hereby ratified and incorporated herein.

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9 Section 2. The Wellington Council of the Village of Wellington urges the Florida  
10 Legislature and the Governor to support the regulation and licensing of recovery  
11 residences (sober houses) located throughout the State of Florida.

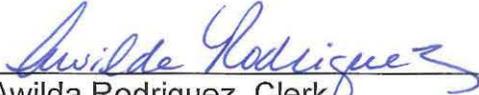
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13 Section 3. The Wellington Council directs that a copy of this Resolution shall be  
14 provided to the Governor, the Speaker of the House, the President of the Senate, the  
15 Palm Beach County Legislative Delegation, the Florida League of Cities, and the Palm  
16 Beach County League of Cities.

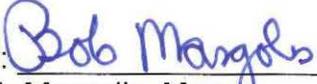
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18 Section 4. This Resolution shall become effective immediately upon adoption.

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20 **PASSED AND ADOPTED** this 11th day of March, 2014.

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22 **ATTEST:**

**WELLINGTON**

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25 By:   
26 Awilda Rodriguez, Clerk

By:   
Bob Margolis, Mayor

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28 **APPROVED AS TO FORM**  
29 **AND LEGAL SUFFICIENCY**

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32 By:   
33 Laurie S. Cohen, Village Attorney  
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