

OR SAY ABOUT TODAY'S TOPIC. SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR ONLINE.

## VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

### Overturn parolee ban

I am appalled that members of the San Bernardino City Council earlier this fall voted to ban the establishment of any new group homes for parolees or probationers.

It is astonishing that our local elected officials are so totally disconnected from reality. While City Attorney James Penman is screaming to end the violence and homelessness plaguing San Bernardino, he is prohibiting the very establishments that will help to bring that end about.

It was only Councilman Dennis Baxter who had the guts to stand up and do the right thing, instead of the politically popular thing. He realizes that programs that work, like the Time for Change Foundation's transitional housing, should not be prevented from expanding simply because there are a few bad homes out there.

I can personally attest to the success and the necessity of these safe havens. I was released from prison more than four years ago with a desire to change the course of my life and leave the criminal activity, illegal drug dependency, and mental health issues behind me.

I truly believe that without the group home provided by the Time for Change Foundation, I would be right back in prison or in the community wreaking havoc.

This ordinance must be overturned. It cannot be a crime in America to feed, clothe and give a helping hand to one of the down-trodden.

Have we forgotten the Book of Matthew and the Savior's words, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me ... in prison and you visited me?" Where has that fellowship gone?

Overturn this bad law and create meaningful reform.

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San Bernardino