



# PRESS RELEASE

## CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER  
JAMES MAKSHANOFF, CITY MANAGER

Contact: James Makshanoff, City Manager  
(949) 361- 8322

or

Laura Ferguson, Public Information Officer  
(949) 361-8254

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **CITY FILES SUIT AGAINST SOVEREIGN HEALTH FOR VIOLATING LOCAL ORDINANCES**

November 3, 2016...San Clemente, California...The City of San Clemente recently filed a First Amended Complaint against Sovereign Health, a provider of alcohol and drug dependency treatment and mental health based in San Clemente, for violating numerous municipal ordinances.

The City's October 25, 2016 amended complaint includes the following causes of action:

- Public Nuisance (Violation of Civil Code Sections 3479, 3480, 3491, 3494. Violation of SCMC Section 1.16.030. Violation of SCMC Chapter 8.52)
- Disorderly Conduct (Violation of SCMC Sections 9.040.010. Violation of SCMC Chapter 8.48)
- Litter (Violation of SCMC Chapter 8.40)
- Loud and Unruly Gathering (Violation of SCMC Chapter 9.16)
- Operating without a Business License (Violation of SCMC Chapter 5.04)
- Operating without a Home Occupation Permit (Violation of SCMC Chapter 17.28)
- Work without Permits (Violation of SCMC Section 15.08.010)
- Violation of California Building Code Section 105.1

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- Treatment without a State License (Violation of California Code of Regulations Sections 10500 et. Seq. 80001 et. seq.)
- Violation of Health and Safety Code Section 11834.30
- Operation of a Boarding House (Violation of SCMC Section 17.32.030, Violation of SCMC Section 17.40.030)
- Unlawful Referrals (Violation of Business and Professions Code Section 650. Violation of Health and Safety Code Section 445)
- Professional Clinical Counseling Services without a License (Violation of Business and Professions Code Sections 4999.20, 4999.30)

“The City of San Clemente has a duty to the citizenry to ensure that all businesses follow local laws established to ensure the safety and welfare of the community. Despite numerous notices from the City to seek compliance, Sovereign Health has refused to abide by local laws, prompting the City’s suit against the company,” said Mayor Bob Baker.

The City of San Clemente originally filed suit against Sovereign Health in 2015. Sovereign has opposed that lawsuit and filed its own lawsuit against the City in federal court. Although the parties had discussed settlement of that 2015 litigation, those settlement discussions ultimately failed.

*(See attached list of addresses named in complaint)*

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1 44. The City is informed and believes that SOVEREIGN HEALTH offers some sort of  
2 treatment at the following addresses, without a state license<sup>1</sup> (“Unlicensed Residential  
3 Properties”):

- 4 a. 23 Via Jacobea, San Clemente, CA
- 5 b. 14 Via Lampara, San Clemente, CA
- 6 c. 408 Camino Bandera, San Clemente, CA
- 7 d. 216 Avenida La Cuesta, San Clemente, CA
- 8 e. 1303 Calle Toledo, San Clemente, CA
- 9 f. 3006 La Ventana, San Clemente, CA
- 10 g. 923 Avenida Salvador, San Clemente, CA
- 11 h. 763 Calle Vallarta, San Clemente, CA
- 12 i. 764 Calle Vallarta, San Clemente, CA
- 13 j. 1505 Calle Sacramento, Unit A, San Clemente, CA
- 14 k. 1505 Calle Sacramento, Unit B, San Clemente, CA
- 15 l. 2931 Via San Gorgonio, San Clemente, CA

16 45. The City is informed and believes that SOVEREIGN HEALTH offers some sort of  
17 treatment at the following addresses, with a state license (“Licensed Residential Properties”):

- 18 a. 307 East Avenida Cordoba, San Clemente, CA (licensed by the Department of Social  
19 Services for 6 or fewer patients).
- 20 b. 105 Avenida Pala, San Clemente, CA (licensed by the Department of Health Care  
21 Services for 6 or fewer patients).

22 46. The Unlicensed Residential Properties and the Licensed Residential Properties shall  
23 collectively be referred to as the “Residential Properties.”

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26 <sup>1</sup> The state of California regulates treatment and licensing for mental health and drug and alcohol addiction. The state  
27 licensing scheme and licensing requirements are totally separate and apart from the City’s local licensing scheme.  
28 The City’s licensing scheme is an additional layer of regulation applicable to all operations within the City, and as  
applicable here, relates to short term lodgings and local businesses licenses, which is discussed in further detail  
below.