

# MEMORANDUM

## Development Services

**ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT NO.** 17-036

**DATE:** January 26, 2017

**TO:** Dennis W. Beach, City Manager

**VIA:** Robin M. Bird, Development Services Director *rm*

**FROM:** Karen Friedman, Principal Planner *KBF*

**RE:** Resolution of Support for Palm Beach County Sober Home Task Force and Grand Jury Reports  
February 14, 2017 City Commission Hearing

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In 2016 the Office of the State Attorney, Fifteenth Judicial Circuit in and for Palm Beach County, convened the Palm Beach County Sober Home Task Force. The mission of the Task Force included addressing substance abuse, treatment and, ultimately, fostering the protection of vulnerable consumer and elevating the standards and practices of the recovery industry. On January 1, 2017 the Task Force issued a report entitled "Identification of Problems in the Substance Abuse Treatment and Recovery Residence Industries with Recommended Changes to Existing Laws and Regulations". This report includes numerous recommendations, including adequate funding of the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF), the agency which oversees licensing of substance abuse treatment facilities. The recommendations also include creating a licensing requirements for sober homes.

In 2016 the State Attorney's office also convened a Grand Jury to investigate how government agencies are addressing the proliferation of fraud and abuse occurring within the addiction treatment industry and make appropriate findings and recommendations on how these agencies can better perform their duties to ensure that communities remain safe and individual's with substance use disorders are protected. The Grand Jury's report entitled "Report on the Proliferations of Fraud and Abuse in Florida's Addiction Treatment Industry" was issued in December 2016 and includes numerous recommendations to be implemented at the federal and state level.

By adopting the proposed Resolution, the City Commission is formally showing its support of the recommendations put forth in both the Task Force and Grand Jury reports and urging the Florida Legislature and Governor to pursue and implement the recommendations.

A copy of the aforementioned reports are attached to the Resolution as Exhibit A and Exhibit B.