



Social Services and Public Safety (SSPS) Committee

October 14, 2025

Summary and Motions (Partial)

Chair Jennifer Reynolds called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. Committee Members Vice Mayor Dan Wu, Council Members Chuck Ellinger II, Tyler Morton, Shayla Lynch, Lisa Higgins-Hord, Joseph Hale, Amy Beasley, Whitney Elliott Baxter, and Hilary Boone were present. Council Members James Brown, Emma Curtis, Liz Sheehan, and Dave Sevigny were present as non-voting members.

Recovery Residences (Sober Living Homes)

Michael Cravens, Managing Attorney in the Law Department, provided a summary of proposed amendments to the Revised Draft Ordinance for Recovery Residences (also known as Sober Living Homes). The Fair Housing Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act protect persons from discrimination when enacting any ordinance. Those in recovery from substance abuse disorders generally qualify as disabled persons, which prohibits the use of regulations in a way that would discriminate against the disabled.

The proposed draft ordinance will adopt state law requirements for recovery residences. Minor amendments were made for clarification and to clean up language. The ordinance includes a 6-month amnesty period following the Council's passage for operators to get into compliance. The ordinance will require operators to obtain a Recovery Residence License and provide proof of certification to LFUCG. Other key changes include an occupancy limit that aligns with the Zoning Ordinance, an enforcement scheme, and a rehousing section/notification requirement. The proposed ordinance does not regulate recovery residences differently in terms of land use, as this is a residential use and should be treated like other residential uses.

Motion by Morton to approve an Ordinance amending the Code of Ordinances of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government to adopt state law requirements for certification of recovery residences and regulations for the licensing of recovery residence operators, including enforcement regarding the same. Seconded By Ellinger. Motion passed without dissent.

Motion by Morton to suspend the rules and have this reported out at the Work Session on October 14, 2025. Seconded by Lynch. Motion passed without dissent.

The full summary of the October 14, 2025 Committee meeting will be reported to the Council at the Work Session on January 13, 2026.