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Former Little Sisters of the Poor campus in San Pedro eyed for \$100M recovery facility

Nonprofit Fred Brown Recovery Services seeks to transform the 6-acre property into a recovery center, drawing opposition from local officials and residents.

Mar. 17, 2026 at 10:48pm

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Fred Brown Recovery Services, a nonprofit that operates recovery homes in San Pedro, is proposing to purchase and convert the former Little Sisters of the Poor campus into a \$100 million recovery facility called the Serenity Recovery Campus. However, the plan has faced opposition from local officials and residents who are concerned about the lack of public outreach, potential issues with the facility's proximity to schools and daycares, and the fate of the existing elderly residents on the property.

WHY IT MATTERS

The proposed conversion of the former Little Sisters of the Poor campus highlights the ongoing challenges of balancing the need for addiction recovery

services with the concerns of local communities. The plan raises questions about land use, zoning, and the impact on vulnerable populations currently residing on the property.

THE DETAILS

Fred Brown Recovery Services is seeking \$100 million from the state to purchase and repurpose the nearly 6-acre campus at 2100 S. Western Ave. in San Pedro, which previously housed the Little Sisters of the Poor. The nonprofit plans to transform the property into the Serenity Recovery Campus, a facility that would provide "whole-person, accessible, culturally sensitive care and housing that supports recovery and reintegration for veterans, the justice-involved, the unhoused and those with co-occurring conditions." However, local officials, including City Councilmember Tim McOsker, have raised concerns about the lack of public outreach, potential issues with the facility's proximity to schools and daycares, and the fate of the existing elderly residents on the property.

- In February 2020, the Little Sisters of the Poor announced they would be withdrawing from the San Pedro facility once a buyer was found.
- In 2021, Grace S. Mercado, who operates three skilled nursing facilities in the state, was selected as the new owner of the property.
- Late last year, a recovery wing temporarily operated on the property, leading to neighborhood problems and increased calls for services.
- In March 2026, Fred Brown Recovery Services is seeking \$100 million from the state to purchase and repurpose the former Little Sisters of the Poor campus.

THE PLAYERS

Fred Brown Recovery Services

A nonprofit that operates recovery homes in San Pedro and is proposing to purchase and convert the former Little Sisters of the Poor campus into a \$100 million recovery facility called the Serenity Recovery Campus.

Tim McOsker

The Los Angeles City Councilmember who represents the 15th District, which includes the former Little Sisters of the Poor campus, and has expressed opposition to the proposal.

Grace S. Mercado

The owner who was selected in 2021 to take over the former Little Sisters of the Poor facility, which she currently operates as the Serenity Senior Village.

Janice Hahn

The Los Angeles County Supervisor who lives near the former Little Sisters of the Poor campus and has stated that she is not against the proposed recovery facility project, but understands the need for thoughtful review.

Catalina Hinojosa

The founder and CEO of the San Pedro Recovery Alliance, who was honored as Hahn's Woman of the Year after receiving help at a Fred Brown facility in San Pedro while recovering from addiction.

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WHAT THEY'RE SAYING

“We need more places where someone who is suffering from addiction can get the help they need.”

— Janice Hahn, Los Angeles County Supervisor

“There's been zero public outreach.”

— Tim McOsker, Los Angeles City Councilmember

WHAT'S NEXT

The South Shores Community Association is still weighing the issue, and the Coastal San Pedro Neighborhood Council has put the item on the agenda for preliminary discussions, though no one from Fred Brown Recovery Services has spoken or appeared to answer questions. The Los Angeles City Council will likely need to review and approve any proposed change of use for the property.

THE TAKEAWAY

The proposed conversion of the former Little Sisters of the Poor campus into a recovery facility highlights the ongoing challenges of

balancing the need for addiction services with the concerns of local communities. The lack of public outreach and transparency around the plan has raised questions about land use, zoning, and the impact on vulnerable populations currently residing on the property, underscoring the need for a thoughtful and inclusive review process.

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