



Franklin-McKinley School District

PREPARING ALL CHILDREN AS GLOBAL LEARNERS

September 7, 2019

The Honorable Maya Esparza
San José City Council District 7
200 E. Santa Clara St.
San José, CA 95113

Dear Councilmember Esparza,

I am writing to request your full consideration and decision to discontinue the Safe Parking for Families Pilot Program at the Tuesday, September 10, 2019 city council meeting. I am the current President of the Franklin-McKinley School District Board of Trustees and represent myself in this role and as a constituent of San Jose City Council District 7.

As President of the Board of Trustees, it is a high priority that we maintain and remember the safety of our children who attend our schools. The Safe Parking Pilot Program is in obvious conflict with the safety of our children as the participants have not been fully vetted to make certain that there are no registered child predators parking in the designated lot adjacent to our two schools. It is clear that the Housing Department staff failed to completely research the implications of this program being placed next to schools. I expressed my concerns and objection to this program at a meeting with the housing department leadership as a representative of the school district, yet, they failed to include the district's concerns in their presentation.

No where in the Housing Department's presentation is there mention of children at two schools adjacent to this pilot program's parking lot. While the Franklin-McKinley School District expressed concerns at a meeting in City Hall with the Housing Department leadership and Councilmember Esparza, the staff has failed to note the concerns in the presentation about the safety of the children attending both schools (Kipp and Los Arboles). This is a clear omission and I am obligated to note this prior to your decision to discontinue the Safe Parking Pilot Program.

Included in Councilmember Maya Esparza's memorandum:

"Accept staff's recommendation to discontinue the Safe Parking For Families Pilot Program at Seven Trees Community Center and transition families to a motel voucher program.

Our support for staff's recommendation to discontinue the Pilot Program at Seven Trees and transition to a motel voucher program is based upon the program results, feedback and discussion with the community, the Franklin-McKinley School District, and the desires of the families themselves.

At a community meeting in May, both the Franklin-McKinley superintendent and the President of the Franklin-McKinley School Board voiced their opposition to continuation of the program, a position echoed by the other community members in attendance."

Board of Education

[Redacted signature line]



[Redacted footer text]



Franklin-McKinley School District

PREPARING ALL CHILDREN AS GLOBAL LEARNERS

I am in complete agreement with Councilmember Esparza’s recommendations and comments regarding this program. Please take these comments into consideration as you make your decision regarding this pilot.

Included in the Housing Department Staff memorandum:

“The neighborhood where the pilot program is taking place has several existing conditions such as RV dwellers, issues with crime and safety, illegal dumping, trash, and blight that will take the focused efforts of many stakeholders to address.”

To clarify the Housing Department’s above statement, the conditions such as RV dwellers, issues with crime and safety, illegal dumping, trash, and blight were not as prevalent prior to the Safe Parking Pilot Program. And, one additional concern that began when this pilot program started is the safety of our children and the risks associated with adults being in RV’s and parking in the lot who are registered child predators.

Included in Councilmembers Jimenez’ and Peralez’ memorandum:

“However, given the success we have seen in transitioning families at Seven Trees to more stable living environments, as well as the positive experience with the Safe Parking Program at Southside Community Center in District 2 and Roosevelt Community Center in District 3, we feel it is premature to terminate all safe parking at Seven Trees.”

I respectfully strongly disagree with Councilmember Jimenez and Councilmember Peralez that it is premature to terminate all safe parking at Seven Trees. Taking into consideration of the safety of our children attending the schools adjacent to the parking program, it is not premature. We must discontinue this pilot program now to prevent any criminal activity on our children. While it is a pilot program, now is the time to direct the housing department staff to fully research the implications this program will have on our children.

It is for these reasons that I strongly urge your vote to discontinue the Safe Parking Pilot Program.

Sincerely,

Rudy J. Rodriguez
President, Board of Trustees

Board of Education

[Redacted signature area]



[Redacted footer area]



Franklin-McKinley School District

PREPARING ALL CHILDREN AS GLOBAL LEARNERS

September 7, 2019

The Honorable Sam Liccardo
Mayor, City of San José
200 E. Santa Clara St.
San José, CA 95113

Dear Mayor Liccardo,

I am writing to request your full consideration and decision to discontinue the Safe Parking for Families Pilot Program at the Tuesday, September 10, 2019 city council meeting. I am the current President of the Franklin-McKinley School District Board of Trustees and represent myself in this role and as a constituent of San Jose City Council District 7.

As President of the Board of Trustees, it is a high priority that we maintain and remember the safety of our children who attend our schools. The Safe Parking Pilot Program is in obvious conflict with the safety of our children as the participants have not been fully vetted to make certain that there are no registered child predators parking in the designated lot adjacent to our two schools. It is clear that the Housing Department staff failed to completely research the implications of this program being placed next to schools. I expressed my concerns and objection to this program at a meeting with the housing department leadership as a representative of the school district, yet, they failed to include the district's concerns in their presentation.

No where in the Housing Department's presentation is there mention of children at two schools adjacent to this pilot program's parking lot. While the Franklin-McKinley School District expressed concerns a meeting in City Hall with the Housing Department leadership and Councilmember Esparza, the staff has failed to note the concerns in the presentation about the safety of the children attending both schools (Kipp and Los Arboles). This is a clear omission and I am obligated to note this prior to your decision to discontinue the Safe Parking Pilot Program.

Included in Councilmember Maya Esparza's memorandum:

"Accept staff's recommendation to discontinue the Safe Parking For Families Pilot Program at Seven Trees Community Center and transition families to a motel voucher program.

Our support for staff's recommendation to discontinue the Pilot Program at Seven Trees and transition to a motel voucher program is based upon the program results, feedback and discussion with the community, the Franklin-McKinley School District, and the desires of the families themselves.

At a community meeting in May, both the Franklin-McKinley superintendent and the President of the Franklin-McKinley School Board voiced their opposition to continuation of the program, a position echoed by the other community members in attendance."

Board of Education

[Redacted signature line]



Franklin-McKinley School District

PREPARING ALL CHILDREN AS GLOBAL LEARNERS

I am in complete agreement with Councilmember Esparza’s recommendations and comments regarding this program. Please take these comments into consideration as you make your decision regarding this pilot.

Included in the Housing Department Staff memorandum:

“The neighborhood where the pilot program is taking place has several existing conditions such as RV dwellers, issues with crime and safety, illegal dumping, trash, and blight that will take the focused efforts of many stakeholders to address.”

To clarify the Housing Department’s above statement, the conditions such as RV dwellers, issues with crime and safety, illegal dumping, trash, and blight were not as prevalent prior to the Safe Parking Pilot Program. And, one additional concern that began when this pilot program started is the safety of our children and the risks associated with adults being in RV’s and parking in the lot who are registered child predators.

Included in Councilmembers Jimenez’ and Peralez’ memorandum:

“However, given the success we have seen in transitioning families at Seven Trees to more stable living environments, as well as the positive experience with the Safe Parking Program at Southside Community Center in District 2 and Roosevelt Community Center in District 3, we feel it is premature to terminate all safe parking at Seven Trees.”

I respectfully strongly disagree with Councilmember Jimenez and Councilmember Peralez that it is premature to terminate all safe parking at Seven Trees. Taking into consideration of the safety of our children attending the schools adjacent to the parking program, it is not premature. We must discontinue this pilot program now to prevent any criminal activity on our children. While it is a pilot program, now is the time to direct the housing department staff to fully research the implications this program will have on our children.

It is for these reasons that I strongly urge your vote to discontinue the Safe Parking Pilot Program.

Sincerely,

Rudy J. Rodriguez
President, Board of Trustees

Board of Education

[Redacted signature area]



Franklin-McKinley School District

PREPARING ALL CHILDREN AS GLOBAL LEARNERS

I am in complete agreement with Councilmember Esparza’s recommendations and comments regarding this program. Please take these comments into consideration as you make your decision regarding this pilot.

Included in the Housing Department Staff memorandum:

“The neighborhood where the pilot program is taking place has several existing conditions such as RV dwellers, issues with crime and safety, illegal dumping, trash, and blight that will take the focused efforts of many stakeholders to address.”

To clarify the Housing Department’s above statement, the conditions such as RV dwellers, issues with crime and safety, illegal dumping, trash, and blight were not as prevalent prior to the Safe Parking Pilot Program. And, one additional concern that began when this pilot program started is the safety of our children and the risks associated with adults being in RV’s and parking in the lot who are registered child predators.

Included in Councilmembers Jimenez’ and Peralez’ memorandum:

“However, given the success we have seen in transitioning families at Seven Trees to more stable living environments, as well as the positive experience with the Safe Parking Program at Southside Community Center in District 2 and Roosevelt Community Center in District 3, we feel it is premature to terminate all safe parking at Seven Trees.”

I respectfully strongly disagree with Councilmember Jimenez and Councilmember Peralez that it is premature to terminate all safe parking at Seven Trees. Taking into consideration of the safety of our children attending the schools adjacent to the parking program, it is not premature. We must discontinue this pilot program now to prevent any criminal activity on our children. While it is a pilot program, now is the time to direct the housing department staff to fully research the implications this program will have on our children.

It is for these reasons that I strongly urge your vote to discontinue the Safe Parking Pilot Program.

Sincerely,

Rudy J. Rodriguez
President, Board of Trustees

Board of Education

[Redacted signature area]

From: Juan Cruz

Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 10:52 AM

To: The Office of Mayor Sam Liccardo <TheOfficeofMayorSamLiccardo@sanjoseca.gov>; District1 <district1@sanjoseca.gov>; District2 <District2@sanjoseca.gov>; District3 <district3@sanjoseca.gov>; District4 <District4@sanjoseca.gov>; District5 <District5@sanjoseca.gov>; District 6 <district6@sanjoseca.gov>; District7 <District7@sanjoseca.gov>; District8 <district8@sanjoseca.gov>; District9 <district9@sanjoseca.gov>; District 10 <District10@sanjoseca.gov>

Cc: Grp - Board Members <grp-board-members@fmsd.org>; Grp - Executive Cabinet <grp-executive-cabinet@fmsd.org>

Subject: Agenda Item 5.1--Seven Trees Safe Parking Program

Good morning Mayor Liccardo and City Council,

I have attached a letter outlining the District's concerns with continuing the Safe Parking Program at the Seven Trees Community Center with the new staff recommendation to serve single adults. While the other two locations may be successfully serving single adults neither one of those locations are surrounded by homes and directly across from two schools. I urge the council to not accept the staff recommendation and to direct them to hold community meetings at the community center. It is imperative that we give the residents that live in the neighborhood an opportunity to have their voices heard.

Attached you will also find a picture of just one of the vehicles that was still parked in the parking lot as of 8:15 this morning.

Juan

--

Juan Cruz

Superintendent





Franklin-McKinley School District

PREPARING ALL CHILDREN AS GLOBAL LEARNERS

September 9, 2019

To Mayor Sam Liccardo and Councilmembers of the City of San Jose:

I am submitting this letter on behalf of our Franklin-McKinley School District community, specifically the Seven Trees community that we serve. I have been present at the community meetings that the city staff has held and there has been overwhelming opposition to the Safe Parking program. Every time I visit the school, the parents have approached me with their concerns and the impact that the program has had and what they witness as they are walking their children to and from school.

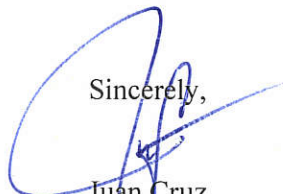
There are many reasons to support services for our most vulnerable residents that are struggling with homelessness. However, I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed plan to keep the program directly across from our elementary school that will now serve single adults. I want to support the Memo by Councilmember Esparza to Agenda Item 5.1 for tomorrow's city council meeting. I strongly urge the City Council to explore alternate locations that are not directly across two schools serving 900+ children. Los Arboles Elementary serves children between the ages of 4 and 8 and KIPP Charter School serves children between the ages of 11 and 14.

Again, while I fully support the need for additional housing and services for those facing homelessness, I do not support the current location of this program given the impact that it has had on the overall community and our students and families. I agree that families are better off transitioning to Motel Vouchers. The school district has a long history of providing services and partnering with various organizations that support youth, families and individuals facing homelessness, including Catholic Charities of Santa Clara County and Amigos de Guadalupe. We will continue to extend our support to help those experiencing homelessness.

If the city is going to consider changing the program from serving families to serving single adults, then the Housing Department staff should conduct community meetings before the council makes this decision. The Housing Department's work load and lack of capacity to conduct community outreach should not be the reasons the city does not solicit input from the community on the proposed change to the program or to find an alternate location.

I would have delivered this message in person but unfortunately our board meeting is scheduled at the same time when the city council will be hearing this agenda item.

Sincerely,



Juan Cruz
Superintendent

Board of Education





