



COUNCIL AGENDA: 2/26/19
ITEM: 4.1

Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Esparza

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: February 25, 2019

Approved

Naya Esparza

Date

February 25, 2019

SUBJECT: SAFE PARKING SHELTER OF HOMELESS PEOPLE

RECOMMENDATION

Accept Planning Commission's recommendations with the following modification:

1. Require that if a participant is unable to sleep in their vehicle, due to, for example, weather conditions, or physical illness or discomfort, they be provided a hotel voucher for the night.

BACKGROUND

I appreciate the work that has gone into developing this pilot and ordinance from both PBCE and the Housing Department. This can be an important tool in our efforts to confront the homelessness and housing crisis, if implemented with care. The Mayor and a number of my colleagues on the Council have recommended that Safe Parking operators be given the discretion to allow participants to periodically sleep outside of vehicles. This poses a serious health and safety issue to participants, and those who are unable to sleep in vehicles need to be given a reasonable alternative.

A hotel voucher provided by the City is the most sensible solution in these scenarios. This will help to ensure the health and safety of the participants, as well as prevent Safe Parking areas from turning into de facto encampments, particularly during the summer months. No one who is unable to sleep in a car should be sleeping outside in a parking lot. And nearby residents and neighbors deserve the peace of mind that Safe Parking areas will remain what they were intended to be—a secure location for those who would otherwise be sleeping in their vehicles elsewhere.