



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Sylvia Arenas

SUBJECT: Update on the Safe Parking
Pilot Program

DATE: September 10, 2019

Approved by:

Date: September 10, 2019

RECOMMENDATION

Incorporate Family Safe Parking as one of the strategies that the Housing Department is currently exploring, in response to Homelessness and Housing Insecurity among families with children.

BACKGROUND

I'd like to thank the Housing Department staff for their work to support homeless families that have benefited from the Seven Trees safe parking program, as well as their updates to the Neighborhoods Services and Education (NSE) Committee.

As Chair of NSE, I have been working with the Housing Department on building a strategic plan to address homelessness and housing insecurity among families with children. The item is a key part of the Family Friendly Initiative that I've been working with the City Manager's Office to continue to advance.

The report on this item will be heard in committee this Thursday, and then be cross-listed to full Council for consideration. It will seek to address family homelessness and housing insecurity through a comprehensive strategy based on qualitative and quantitative data of homeless families with children, as well as bringing forward new programmatic solutions and process improvements.

The report will include their research on:

- Defining homelessness for families;
- Combining available data on homeless families in Santa Clara County;
- Reporting on the impacts of homelessness on families;
- Reviewing the current inventory of programs available for homeless families; and
- Presenting future opportunities to enhance programs for homeless families.

The outcomes of the research will incorporate into upcoming local and federal 5-year plans on Housing and Homelessness, and will provide strategic guidance as we review future funding.

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
September 10, 2019
Subject: Update on the Safe Parking Pilot Program
Page 2

Safe parking maybe one of many approaches to keep families and children safe. More importantly, we must ensure that Housing staff's data and research leads us to solutions that are fitting for families and children as well as inform us of future areas to target.

As we move forward today, let's ensure that not only do we not remove an important tool from our toolbox, but that we move towards a more carefully planned and strategic approach for supporting families.