



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Matt Mahan
Mayor Sam Liccardo

**SUBJECT: SANTA TERESA VTA SAFEPARK
PREFERENCE ZONE PILOT**

DATE: 11/4/2022

Approved

Date: 11/04/2022

RECOMMENDATION

Accept the staff recommendation and direct the City Manager to return to Council on November 29, 2022 as part of the RV Parking Ordinance and Programs Evaluation report, with specific recommendations for the implementation of a 6-month SafePark pilot program consisting of the following components:

1. Exclusive outreach to known lived-in RVs within a specified radius, such as two miles, of the Santa Teresa SafePark site for the first 30 days of the site's operation in order to prioritize reducing the impact of RVs on the neighboring community,
2. Followed by the establishment and enforcement of an abatement zone for all lived-in RVs within a specified radius of similar distance from the site for the duration of the pilot,
3. Enforcement of a strict encampment abatement zone within a narrower radius, such as 1,000 feet, of the site, and
4. Immediately following the conclusion of the 6-month pilot, a report to Council on the performance of the pilot program, any recommended adjustments, and the option to extend the program.

BACKGROUND

Thank you to City staff, colleagues, and members of the community who are stewarding efforts to scale solutions to the homelessness crisis in our city. As we work to achieve community buy-in for scalable solutions such as EIH, BIH, and SafePark sites we should strive to provide neighborhoods with a guarantee that their on-street conditions will improve—not worsen—as a result of hosting new solutions. We know that we have a dire need for better management of the hundreds of lived-in RVs parked on our city streets and, as such, we propose a proactive pilot program that helps build greater community buy-in for the implementation of these solutions.

Since first proposed, hundreds of community members have expressed concerns about the potential for this new SafePark site to make their neighborhood less safe and clean. While we have great faith in LifeMoves' expertise in operating safe parking sites, and we strongly believe that moving forward

solutions like this SafePark site is the right thing to do, we acknowledge neighbors' concern that LifeMoves will not have any control over what happens in the immediate vicinity of the site.

Rightly or wrongly, many residents believe the site might become a "magnet" for additional RVs that cannot be served by the site or new encampments seeking services. Neighbors worry that those who hear of the new site but do not qualify to participate in the SafePark program due to a criminal background or drug use will end up parked in the surrounding area.

Neighbors' concerns stem in part from the overall concentration of sites within a small radius of San Jose's 181 square miles. Currently, fifty-five percent of the beds provided by our BHC's and quick-build apartment sites are located within a roughly one-mile radius of the VTA SafePark site. Moreover, if approved, D2 and D10 would additionally host two of the five proposed EIH expansion sites, with 200 of the total 300 new beds provided (67%).



Map of existing and proposed supportive housing sites with one- and two-mile radii

Of course, our unhoused neighbors should have a safe place to reside and receive supportive services, host neighborhoods should feel good knowing they're part of the solution, and that solution should improve life for everyone. It is incumbent upon us to design the implementation of these solutions so that they provide such a win-win outcome.

In that spirit, we ask staff to assess our existing policies and available resources to bring forward proposals for an initial exclusive outreach zone within a specified distance of the new SafePark site, followed by an abatement zone of similar size for RVs and smaller size for tent encampments. This way, residents will see a tangible improvement in their quality of life as a result of the new SafePark site. We

hope that seeing cleaner neighborhoods and being able to point to their role in addressing our overall homelessness crisis will create support for the solutions and a stronger incentive for other neighborhoods to embrace them.