



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Mayor Matt Mahan
Vice Mayor Rosemary Kamei
Councilmember Omar Torres
Councilmember David Cohen
Councilmember Dev Davis

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: December 8, 2023

Approved

SUBJECT: ACTIONS RELATED TO THE 10338 - 1300 BERRYESSA SUPPORTIVE PARKING PROJECT

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Accept staff recommendations (a)(1) and (b).
2. Direct staff to return to Council in January 2024 with
 - a. A detailed, itemized breakdown of the proposed \$5 million operations budget and \$15 million construction budget;
 - b. A policy alternative that reduces the operations budget to \$2.5 million;
 - c. A revised construction budget that reduces the total project cost by 25% to 50% and considers a phased approach that prioritizes opening the site sooner; and
 - d. A timeline detailing when individuals will be allowed onto the site.
3. Continue to work with the County on a potential cost-sharing model for operations.

DISCUSSION

Our greatest opportunity to reduce unmanaged RV encampments hinges on our ability to stretch our limited resources to help as many people as possible. We won't get very far if we spend \$19 million to build and \$5 million a year to operate one safe parking site that will serve approximately 130 vehicles when there are approximately 700 RVs – and 4,400 people – living on city streets. While we appreciate and understand staff's desire to provide robust infrastructure, amenities, and services at the Berryessa site, the crisis on our streets demands we maximize the impact of our finite dollars and move people out of unmanaged conditions faster.

Other cities have proven that they can provide safe parking at a much lower cost, offering valuable insights and effective strategies for a cost-effective approach. [Mountain View's safe parking program costs \\$1.68 million per year to operate for 133 vehicle slots, and they spent only \\$2 million to stand up their sites.](#) They've done this by providing the most basic but essential

amenities at each site and rotating case management across multiple sites, as opposed to providing these services at every site around the clock.

When it comes to reducing unsheltered homelessness, we can't let the perfect be the enemy of the good. Our proposal seeks more transparency into staff's proposed capital and operating costs so that we can better understand the various line items associated with each of the estimates and make an educated determination regarding the final scope of site work and level of services. The recommendation to develop a budget for services at \$2.5 million will serve as a reference point, and Council may decide to layer on additional services based on the details provided in an itemized budget breakdown.

We're confident that somewhere between staff's proposal and providing basic infrastructure and services lies a project delivery and operations model that achieves our primary goal of moving people off of our streets quickly while providing services that helps participants onto their next step. Staff should also evaluate a phased approach that prioritizes opening the site sooner, then layering in additional amenities and services later on.

The signers of this memorandum have not had, and will not have, any private conversation with any other member of the City Council, or that member's staff, concerning any action discussed in the memorandum, and that each signer's staff members have not had, and have been instructed not to have, any such conversation with any other member of the City Council or that member's staff.