



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Councilmember Sergio Jimenez
Councilmember Raul Peralez

SUBJECT: Update on the Safe Parking Pilot Program **DATE:** September 6, 2019

Approved by:

Date: September 6, 2019

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Direct the City Manager to coordinate outreach, emergency service, and enforcement efforts across all departments that play a role in addressing homeless concerns, including vehicle dwelling, in the City. This should include but not be limited to SJPD, DOT, PRNS, ESD, and Housing, with support from PBCE, PW, and the San José Public Library where appropriate.
2. Direct the City Manager's Office to identify locations suitable for daytime safe parking.
3. Direct staff to evaluate options that would allow for more effective enforcement action against vehicles on public right of way that leak sewage/hazardous waste, generate trash and illegal dumping, create visibility and other traffic hazards, or are inoperable or otherwise incapable of moving (like an unhitched trailer).

ANALYSIS

We would like to express our gratitude to staff for the status report and to both staff and LifeMoves for administering the Safe Parking Program. It is encouraging to see this program effectively transition homeless families into stable living environments. We concur with the recommendation to discontinue the Safe Parking Program for families and transition the families to the new Motel Voucher Program.

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. We

recommend using the site to help stabilize and transition individuals living in vehicles, just as we are doing in our districts. To address neighborhood concerns as identified in the staff report, we support continuing staff's efforts to provide coordinated response and resources to address the conditions in the surrounding neighborhood.

Back in 2018 the City Manager's Office established the "Creating Housing and Preventing Homelessness" enterprise to improve interdepartmental coordination when working with homeless residents. However, we continue to see that departments impacted by homelessness or involved in response to homeless concerns are siloed. Multiple departments play essential roles, including providing outreach, emergency services, or enforcement. The CMO must coordinate these efforts to ensure effective and efficient response, particularly when targeting heavily impacted neighborhoods.

Furthermore, input from vehicle dwellers participating in the safe parking program reveals a need for daytime parking. The CMO should work with all departments to identify potential sites that would be appropriate for daytime safe parking.

Residents and businesses are deeply impacted by "bad actor" vehicle dwellers. To enhance the coordinated response by the City, new tools to conduct enforcement action are necessary. When there is a bad actor, such as someone dumping hazardous waste on the street, SJPD and other departments should be able to take swift action.

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.