

From: [Roger Moore](#)
To: [CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Safe Parking site at Rincon Valley Library
Date: Friday, June 18, 2021 7:11:41 AM

RESENDING THIS EMAIL

On Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 11:05:53 AM PST, Roger Moore <aremore2@yahoo.com> wrote:

As the father of a freshman student at Maria Carrillo High School, I have serious concerns about your proposal to create a safe parking site at the library adjacent to the high school.

The fact that you're even considering it demonstrates a lack of understanding of the dangers and pitfalls of that proposal. Perhaps you should get out of your office and take a trip to Industrial Dr., Joe Rodota Trail, Jennings Park and any number of other areas where the homeless have been "parking". See and smell the sewage, garbage, and syringes left behind in those areas. Then talk to the citizens who live in the area. I don't think you'll find anyone who thinks you, as servants of the tax payers of this city, have any idea what you're doing.

I understand the homeless issue. I know there are people who need our patience and understanding. I also know that you took an oath to serve the citizens and tax payers of this city.

Putting our children at risk by placing a known hazard that close to a school is, at best, a violation of that oath.

There are other sites that the city has at their disposal to put a safe parking site. I suggest that you use the fairgrounds and also place a temporary police substation at the site. This way, the law abiding parkers will have a safe place to be and have the protection of the police and a place where waste can be managed. Anyone choosing not to use this facility should be encouraged to move on.

The citizens of Santa Rosa don't owe anyone who isn't a tax paying citizen a safe place to be. You, on the the hand, do owe us a safe place to live.

Roger Moore
Coffey Park Home Owner

From: noreply@granicusideas.com
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New eComment for City Council
Date: Friday, June 18, 2021 8:05:46 AM

[SpeakUp](#)

New eComment for City Council

Roger Moore submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council

Item: 3.2 SAFE PARKING PILOT PROGRAM From 2015 to present, safe parking has been the subject of numerous presentations to City Council as part of the Community Homeless Assistance Program (CHAP), shelter expansion efforts, and homeless services programming updates. Most recently, on February 9, 2021, staff provided a study session to review the City's homeless services programming, which included three safe parking program models: basic, program operator, and housing-focused. Based on Council direction provided to staff during the February 9, 2021 meeting, staff will provide a study session to further review these program models and to seek direction on the implementation of a safe parking pilot program (Program) including issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a program operator and the preferred City-owned location for the Program.

eComment: In light of your resolution in the February meeting to continue moving forward with this plan, and your obvious intention to circumvent the democratic process by scheduling the same meeting over and over until you get the result you want - participation fatigue and lack of citizen input, I feel the need to write again and remind you that you have a legal and moral obligation to fulfill the solemn oath that you took to faithfully serve the citizens of Santa Rosa. With your decision to create spaces for transient homeless in or near our parks and schools, you are not only willfully ignoring your oath, you are intentionally placing our children and their families at risk. You have no standing to assert that there isn't a danger to our children from your actions. You are aware of the issues that have occurred at every location that the transient homeless have been allowed to gather. It isn't a secret, it isn't something you can ignore or pretend isn't there and it isn't something you can pretend to have a solution for. If you had a solution, then Industrial Dr and our public biking trails wouldn't be the environmental and public safety nightmares that they are. You created that mess by encouraging the homeless to come to Santa Rosa and stay. You need to put your partisan political beliefs on hold and do what you took an oath to do - serve the CITIZENS of Santa Rosa. You're turning Santa Rosa into Berkeley, San Jose and San Francisco. If you don't know what that means, then take a drive to any of those towns and look along the freeways, at parks and public areas. They're filthy, crime ridden and unusable by the people who pay for them and for whom they exist. Stop listening to out of town consultants and special interest groups and start listening to the people who elected

you to serve their needs and improve their quality of life. Those are the people who voted for you, and those are the people who can vote you out of office if you ignore them. Thank You
Roger Moore Coffey Park Resident Tubbs Fire Survivor Petty Crime Victim

[View and Analyze eComments](#)

This email was sent from <https://granicusideas.com>

[Unsubscribe](#) from future mailings

From: noreply@granicusideas.com
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New eComment for City Council
Date: Friday, June 18, 2021 1:53:17 PM

[SpeakUp](#)

New eComment for City Council

Kirstie Franceschi submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council

Item: 3.2 SAFE PARKING PILOT PROGRAM From 2015 to present, safe parking has been the subject of numerous presentations to City Council as part of the Community Homeless Assistance Program (CHAP), shelter expansion efforts, and homeless services programming updates. Most recently, on February 9, 2021, staff provided a study session to review the City's homeless services programming, which included three safe parking program models: basic, program operator, and housing-focused. Based on Council direction provided to staff during the February 9, 2021 meeting, staff will provide a study session to further review these program models and to seek direction on the implementation of a safe parking pilot program (Program) including issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a program operator and the preferred City-owned location for the Program.

eComment: I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the above agenda study item. I was horrified and appalled to learn that City Staff are considering a "safe parking" location next to Maria Carrillo High School. We live on Baird Road having moved there 3 years ago so our daughter could safely walk to Rincon Valley Middle School and Maria Carrillo, she is a Freshman at Carrillo so has not actually been able to walk to school and now if this goes ahead she never will be able to. Over the last year our neighborhood has seen a significant increase in transient/homeless activity, we and our neighbors have had attempted break-ins to our vehicles, mail theft, abandoned vehicles, unsavory characters in our park and our children do not feel safe when walking alone on the streets of Rincon Valley. I completely understand that this point of view may seem uncaring or coming from a family of privilege but I can assure you it is from first hand personal experience. I am the Property Manager for Coddling Enterprises and currently over 50% of my job is now spent dealing with homeless issues at our properties in Santa Rosa and Rohnert Park. The crews that work for me spend most of their jobs trying to move on dysfunctional RV's that leave trash, drug paraphernalia and vast amounts of human waste all over, this is sometimes dumped in plastic bags that fall apart when picked up, buckets or more often than not our sidewalks are just used as a toilet, it is vile. I would like to be very clear that the RV owners that have been swarming our properties and would be part of this "safe-parking" program are more than often aggressive to us, disrespectful of our properties, our tenants and visitors. My staff have witnessed drug deals and the like on many occasions. Just this week a

guy came careening off Montecito onto Baird at a high rate of speed (speed wasn't the only thing that was high – he was tweeking like crazy), the turn caused all the bags of recycling and trash in his car to fly up over his face and he lost control and slammed into my neighbors mailbox and a light pole, a couple inches over and he would have hit their cars and house or passersby. Of course expired everything and no insurance. This is exactly what you would be releasing into our neighborhoods every morning when our kids are heading to school. PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE THE RINCON VALLEY LIBRARY AS A SAFE-PARKING SITE.

[View and Analyze eComments](#)

This email was sent from <https://granicusideas.com>.

[Unsubscribe](#) from future mailings

From: [Nymbi](#)
To: [City Clerk](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Over night parking
Date: Saturday, June 19, 2021 10:06:49 AM

Please don't put our children at the risk!!! No I've night parking in the city near schools and parks!!!

Sent from my iPhone

From: noreply@granicusideas.com
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New eComment for City Council
Date: Saturday, June 19, 2021 10:57:02 AM

[SpeakUp](#)

New eComment for City Council

Ginny Paige submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council

Item: 3.2 SAFE PARKING PILOT PROGRAM From 2015 to present, safe parking has been the subject of numerous presentations to City Council as part of the Community Homeless Assistance Program (CHAP), shelter expansion efforts, and homeless services programming updates. Most recently, on February 9, 2021, staff provided a study session to review the City's homeless services programming, which included three safe parking program models: basic, program operator, and housing-focused. Based on Council direction provided to staff during the February 9, 2021 meeting, staff will provide a study session to further review these program models and to seek direction on the implementation of a safe parking pilot program (Program) including issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a program operator and the preferred City-owned location for the Program.

eComment: I have been a resident of Rincon Valley for 4 decades, and am also a retired teacher. While I am sympathetic to the homeless parking problem, considering using the Rincon Valley Library and adjacent park for homeless parking is unwise and unsafe for our children. This area is surrounded by several elementary schools, a middle school, and a high school. Innocent children walk through this area daily, and there are evening sports events that draw big crowds. Please consider using the city's many church parking lots as safe places, as this would spread out the population and not endanger innocent children. Thank you.

[View and Analyze eComments](#)

This email was sent from <https://granicusideas.com>.

[Unsubscribe](#) from future mailings

From: noreply@granicusideas.com
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New eComment for City Council
Date: Saturday, June 19, 2021 11:12:56 AM

[SpeakUp](#)

New eComment for City Council

FRED WALSH submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council

Item: 3.2 SAFE PARKING PILOT PROGRAM From 2015 to present, safe parking has been the subject of numerous presentations to City Council as part of the Community Homeless Assistance Program (CHAP), shelter expansion efforts, and homeless services programming updates. Most recently, on February 9, 2021, staff provided a study session to review the City's homeless services programming, which included three safe parking program models: basic, program operator, and housing-focused. Based on Council direction provided to staff during the February 9, 2021 meeting, staff will provide a study session to further review these program models and to seek direction on the implementation of a safe parking pilot program (Program) including issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a program operator and the preferred City-owned location for the Program.

eComment: I am a resident of Santa Rosa and a retired SFFD Officer. I am against any council decision to make Rincon Valley Park and Library parking lot available to overnight homeless parking. This will bring numerous unintended consequences to the area (garbage, drug use etc) I have seen this numerous times in San Francisco and here in Santa Rosa. The old Community Hospital site would work as long as it is supervised and maintained. Every time a parking area is created for the homeless. We as a community fall into this co-dependency trap. I would gladly pay a heavy tax to thoroughly revamp the mental health programs based on a compassionate disciplined approach to the homeless problem in our community. A quality of Life issue has to be based on personal responsibility. This has to have commensurate programs that are mandatory for the helpless. Sincerely. Fred Walsh

[View and Analyze eComments](#)

This email was sent from <https://granicusideas.com>.

[Unsubscribe](#) from future mailings

From: noreply@granicusideas.com
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New eComment for City Council
Date: Saturday, June 19, 2021 10:45:49 PM

[SpeakUp](#)

New eComment for City Council

Maria Vasquez submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council

Item: 3.2 SAFE PARKING PILOT PROGRAM From 2015 to present, safe parking has been the subject of numerous presentations to City Council as part of the Community Homeless Assistance Program (CHAP), shelter expansion efforts, and homeless services programming updates. Most recently, on February 9, 2021, staff provided a study session to review the City's homeless services programming, which included three safe parking program models: basic, program operator, and housing-focused. Based on Council direction provided to staff during the February 9, 2021 meeting, staff will provide a study session to further review these program models and to seek direction on the implementation of a safe parking pilot program (Program) including issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a program operator and the preferred City-owned location for the Program.

eComment: Let us be very real here. Santa Rosans are deeply compassionate when it comes to matters of homelessness and poverty. In fact they are more compassionate than the residents of most cities in all of California. Nevertheless, drug and alcohol use, addiction and drug sharing is sadly a harsh reality of most of our homeless camps. It would be a crime against children and vulnerable teens if we knowingly position these camps near or in the pathway of student travel routes. There are dozens of other low use parking lots to be considered which are far from school grounds. The lack of commonsense involved in this consideration is "alarming" to all. The council should reroute this plane because it does not have enough fuel. Naive foolishness like this will have disastrous outcomes. Parks are a "scared safe zones" for children and teens to participate in positive recreation. Let us put children first! Why we must remind adults that this should be a priority is a sad sign of the times. We all know better.

[View and Analyze eComments](#)

This email was sent from <https://granicusideas.com>.

[Unsubscribe](#) from future mailings

From: noreply@granicusideas.com
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New eComment for City Council
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 7:23:47 AM

[SpeakUp](#)

New eComment for City Council

Tanya Mallan submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council

Item: 3.2 SAFE PARKING PILOT PROGRAM From 2015 to present, safe parking has been the subject of numerous presentations to City Council as part of the Community Homeless Assistance Program (CHAP), shelter expansion efforts, and homeless services programming updates. Most recently, on February 9, 2021, staff provided a study session to review the City's homeless services programming, which included three safe parking program models: basic, program operator, and housing-focused. Based on Council direction provided to staff during the February 9, 2021 meeting, staff will provide a study session to further review these program models and to seek direction on the implementation of a safe parking pilot program (Program) including issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a program operator and the preferred City-owned location for the Program.

eComment: Homelessness is a complex situation which we continue to deal with in this community. I understand the need that is present. However, moving homeless individuals into our city parks seems to be an inappropriate use of park and library space. The location of the Rincon Valley Park and Library seems particularly inappropriate due to the location next to a public school as well as the fact that the area has been evacuated three out of the last four years due to wildfires. Having suffered through these evacuations in the past, the roads become gridlocked quickly and with the current road work that the city of Santa Rosa has approved on Chanate Road during fire season, this could lead to a terrible outcome of the citizens who live in the Rincon Valley area. Parks should be place of play, and enjoyment for citizens who pay for these public spaces with their tax dollars. Having lived in Santa Rosa for over 30 years of my life, I know that there are other city owned properties which are removed from fire zones and residential areas where the homeless could be offered parking and housing. Placing this burden in residential areas throughout the city is inappropriate and I would respectfully ask that you reconsider this plan which will negatively impact the use of our parks by the families and citizens who call these areas home.

[View and Analyze eComments](#)

This email was sent from <https://granicusideas.com>.

[Unsubscribe](#) from future mailings

From: [Jeremy Whitcomb](#)
To: [CityCouncilListPublic](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] 6/22 Agenda # 21-0546 Safe Parking Program Opposition
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 11:43:30 AM

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing this email in opposition to any homeless parking, in or near our city libraries, parks and recreation areas, I can't even to begin to understand the logic behind this proposal, why can you not come up with a centralized location near social and medical services, not just a parking space and a port a potty as a bathroom, everyone in this city deserves better than this proposal, please leave the parks free and secure for our kids and families! As regards the Rincon Valley Library site, you have Maria Carillo High School that shares this same parking lot, how can this not have a negative impact for those students to see the complete failure of capitalism, right there as they start their day each morning? Please find another place for those that need help, again, a central facility is what is needed, not just spreading the problem here and there. I am a native of Santa Rosa, not very socially or politically active, but this issue is forcing me to begin to advocate for a change in the direction this city is headed, am I wasting my digital breath by writing this? Perhaps, and also as many say and some do, maybe the best way to improve Santa Rosa, is to leave it.

Respectfully,

Jeremy Whitcomb
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Statement against Park Safe Program:

My name is Teresa Jepson I am a parent of a Carrillo student and this statement is regarding agenda item 3.2 concerning the Safe Parking Pilot Program.

When beginning the study of this program, you used specific criteria when selecting proposed sites to be considered for this program. These criteria included: Proximity to services, proximity to neighborhoods, schools, or childcare and fire risk. The Rincon Valley Library site within District 3 was not identified as a potential site during the initial July 2020 assessment and the city elected to seek a private partner. Then, on the February 2021 assessment, Rincon Valley Library suddenly appeared as a potential location with no reason given for its addition.

This site is a poor choice for consideration as the Library is directly adjacent to Maria Carrillo High School. There are students on campus at all hours of the day – arriving at 6:30am for the first classes at 7:00am; continuing through until sometimes 10pm at night for athletic events, musical and choral events, and other club activities. This library is also located in a residential area with little or no homeless services nearby. Additionally, as a fire risk, this site makes a poor choice as fires actually burned several classrooms at Maria Carrillo in 2020 and closely threatened the school in 2017.

The Council seems overly focused on some kind of equitable geographic distribution of this program versus choosing a correct option that might actually benefit these people in need. Instead of trying to put a proverbial square peg in a round hole, why not use existing structures or lots that are designed for parking – garages. After hours at the downtown garage areas would also put these people in geographic proximity to the services that would help them, if they truly want help.

I further feel that the costs associated with this program would amount to a gross misuse of taxpayer funds. Your Single Site Pilot Program cost estimates spending up to \$660,000/yr for just 50 parking spots. When you expand that out to the 300 – 500 vehicle number estimates, that comes to between \$3.96 - \$6.6 million dollars a year. There also seems to be no mention of policies/procedures to ensure that only safe, registered vehicles would be allowed to participate in this program.

I feel that NO SITES in proximity to any schools or childcare facilities within Santa Rosa should be considered for this program.

From: noreply@granicusideas.com
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] New eComment for City Council
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 12:07:03 PM

[SpeakUp](#)

New eComment for City Council

Suzanne Landeros submitted a new eComment.

Meeting: City Council

Item: 3.2 SAFE PARKING PILOT PROGRAM From 2015 to present, safe parking has been the subject of numerous presentations to City Council as part of the Community Homeless Assistance Program (CHAP), shelter expansion efforts, and homeless services programming updates. Most recently, on February 9, 2021, staff provided a study session to review the City's homeless services programming, which included three safe parking program models: basic, program operator, and housing-focused. Based on Council direction provided to staff during the February 9, 2021 meeting, staff will provide a study session to further review these program models and to seek direction on the implementation of a safe parking pilot program (Program) including issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a program operator and the preferred City-owned location for the Program.

eComment: Santa Rosa used to be a desirable and beautiful city in which to live. Recent years has brought a decline in my love of Santa Rosa. I oppose the idea of allowing encampment at Rincon Valley Community Park and Sonoma County Library. The City has allowed such encampments through out our City. I am unaware on any encampment that has been successful. All have been allowed to grow until out of control then mass cleansing of the sites when enough people have complained. Unsanitary and unsightly trash piled up when people were allowed to park on Industrial. Fires were frequent and garbage piled up on Joe Rodota Trail. Every day that I drive by Fourth and College that encampment seems to have grown. I don't believe allowing itinerant people to inhabit our City Parks is a good idea. Do we have the resources to monitor to prevent the situation from getting out of hand ... again. The proposed location in Rincon Valley is in proximity to public park, regional library and multiple schools. The City has a responsibility to keep all out our citizens safe.

[View and Analyze eComments](#)

This email was sent from <https://granicusideas.com>.

[Unsubscribe](#) from future mailings

From: [Carrol Gross](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Homeless parking Next to school
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 12:43:24 PM

Under no circumstances is allowing homeless parking next to Rincon Valley park and Maria Carrillo high school a good idea. Rincon valley middle school is just down the street and every school day there are small children walking around that area for pick up and drop off. Homeless bring drugs, alcohol, inappropriate behavior and dangerous trash that should not be allowed next to a school

Sincerely

Carrol Gross

Homeowner and parent Rincon Valley

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Shandell Platt](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Homeless RV library!!!
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 12:51:29 PM

I am concerned have recently learned that the city council is considering putting the homeless at the RV parking lot. This is unacceptable. At the library?! Right by the Highschool?! And right next to the RV park?! Kids of all ages are at all three of these locations! My three kids, age 8-17. Please do not do this! I hope you will consider other locations that are not near our children.

Shandell Platt
Rincon Valley Resident

From: [Meg](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Homeless camp by RV library
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 12:54:54 PM

As a life long Rincon Valley resident who now has children that bike through the RV community park and go to library frequently, I stinky oppose the idea of an encampment being allowed to this area. Please consider alternatives. Thank you. -Meghan Browning

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bridget Paul](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Homeless
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 12:55:12 PM

Hello council members.
Please do not allow homeless camp to go next to our high school

Be Well

From: [Lynn Pizza](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL]
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 1:02:52 PM

Please, please do not allow the RV library to be used for homeless!!!!

From: [Shelby Moeller](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment opposing placement of Transient Parking at RV Library
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 1:08:36 PM

Dear Santa Rosa City Council--

I am writing to oppose allowing overnight parking/camping at the Rincon Valley Library for the homeless/transient population. It is irresponsible to allow this at a lot adjacent to a school. Hundreds of children walk by/through this parking lot daily to attend MCHS, including my daughter, who walks to school through the park. Moreover, the library is a safe place for our high school students after school, and needs to be protected as such.

Possible homeless/transient overnight parking should never be located so close to a school.

Our high school population in Rincon Valley, particularly, has borne the brunt of major trauma, including two sets of wildfires and then a pandemic, which precluded them from over a year of in-person learning. We need to protect them, and let them be kids.

Feel free to reach out with further questions. I hope that you stand up for and protect our most vulnerable population whom you are chartered to protect--our children.

Thank you,
Shelby Moeller
Clerk, Board of Trustees
Rincon Valley Union School District

June 21, 2021

Mayor Chris Rogers
Vice Mayor Natalie Rogers
City Council Member Eddie Alvarez
City Council Member John Sawyer
City Council Member Jack Tibbetts
City Council Member Victoria Fleming
City Council Member Tom Schwedhelm

RE: Safe Parking Pilot Program, Item 3.2 on June 22, 2021 City Council Agenda

Dear Honorable Santa Rosa City Council Members,

We write to comment on the Safe Parking Pilot Program you will consider on June 22, 2021 (Agenda Item 3.2). This type of program is an excellent first step in getting Santa Rosa's unhoused population on the road to housing and providing a safer and healthier environment for all our residents.

Hundreds of our neighbors live in their vehicles. According to the most recent Sonoma County Point-in-Time Count, almost a third of the unhoused population resides in vehicles¹ and we know that vehicular homelessness is on the rise across the country.² All their possessions, everything dear to them, is packed into their car or RV. Every day they have to worry about a safe and secure place to park their home. Sleeping in their vehicle overnight is risky and leaving their home parked on the street during the day can also be unsafe, exposing them to possible break-ins or their home being towed away.

By decriminalizing homelessness, safe parking programs help residents avoid interactions with the justice system, and towing and impoundment that can take away people's shelter and push them into debt.³ By helping people stay healthy and connect to appropriate housing services, safe parking may also help reduce costs to public systems. We encourage the city to pass a robust safe parking program to serve the greatest number of our neighbors.

¹ Sonoma County Point in Time Count, 2020: <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/CDC/Homeless-Services/PDFs/2020-Homeless-Count-Full-Report>.

² Lyons-Warren, Mital and Lowery, Lauren, Vehicular Homelessness and The Road to Housing During and After COVID-19, 2020, <https://www.nlc.org/article/2020/05/28/vehicular-homelessness-and-the-road-to-housing-during-and-after-covid-19/>.

³ Lyons-Warren, Mital and Lowery, Lauren, Vehicular Homelessness and The Road to Housing During and After COVID-19, 2020, <https://www.nlc.org/article/2020/05/28/vehicular-homelessness-and-the-road-to-housing-during-and-after-covid-19/>.

It is encouraging that the staff has identified sites throughout the city. We believe that spreading out safe parking sites addresses segregation and marginalization of our neighbors who live in their vehicles. We hope the city will provide these scattered sites even in the face of opposition from NIMBYs. With a program that includes sanitation facilities and security, safe parking sites will be good neighbors no matter where they are located in the city.

We ask the city to mandate sites to be 24-hour safe parking operations. Many of those who need safe parking cannot afford the gas required to daily move their vehicles and seek out new spots for parking their home during the day. Some are also employed and need to leave their RV or vehicle somewhere while they are at work. Others have RVs or vehicles that are non-operational or not registered and we hope that these obstacles would not prevent them from utilizing the safe parking program. Other considerations include the daily movement of sanitation and security facilities. Our unhoused neighbors would benefit from access to a safe spot throughout the day.

Lastly, we urge the city to use a housing focused model for the safe parking program, including wrap-around services so that any barriers to being housed can be addressed. Because the goal of every safe parking program is to find permanent housing for program participants, providing extensive case management services is a best practice.⁴ Services that address needs like health, income, employment, legal, and housing navigation can stabilize those utilizing the program and ensure their long-term success in securing permanent housing down the road.

Safe parking programs have been operating throughout California and many more jurisdictions are considering these kinds of programs because they work. Santa Rosa City Council should pass a robust pilot program that tracks outcomes effectively and serves as a gateway to housing for many currently unhoused residents of Santa Rosa.

Thank you for your consideration,

Asya Sorokurs, Homelessness Prevention Attorney, **Legal Aid of Sonoma County**
Norman L. Bryan, Chair, **Homeless Ministries Task Force, First United Methodist Church of Santa Rosa**

David Hoffman, Chair, **Interfaith Council of Sonoma County**

⁴ See USC Homelessness Policy Research Institute, Safe Parking Programs, 2018, <https://socialinnovation.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Safe-Parking-Literature-Review.pdf>

Zahyra Garcia, President, **North Bay Organizing Project**

Naomi Fuchs, CEO, **Santa Rosa Community Health**

Teddie Pierce, Managing Founder, **Social Services Data Solutions, Inc.**

Heather Jackson, President, **Sonoma County Acts of Kindness**

Jerry Threet, Chair, **Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights**

Adrienne Lauby, President, **Sonoma County Homeless Action!**

Rachel Marcus, Board President, **Sonoma County Tenants Union**



Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative

Alameda County | City of Berkeley | Contra Costa County | Marin County | Napa County | City and County of San Francisco | San Mateo County | Santa Clara County | Santa Cruz County | Solano County | Sonoma County

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: ASYA SOROKURS (LEGAL AID OF SONOMA COUNTY)
FROM: WILL DOMINIE (BARHII)
SUBJECT: COVID-19, HOMELESSNESS AND HEALTH—SAFE PARKING
DATE: APRIL 27, 2021

This memo responds to your request for information about the potential health impacts of Safe Parking programs in Sonoma County. For BARHII’s broader health and housing guidance during the COVID-19 state of emergency, see our website [here](#).

COVID-19, HOMELESSNESS AND HEALTH

No one should be without a safe, stable, and affordable home. Yet approximately three thousand people are unhoused in Sonoma County at a given time.ⁱ Driven by decades of inequitable policies—from redlining and discriminatory lending to policing—BIPOC communities across the region face dramatically elevated risks of homelessness. In Sonoma County, Black and Indigenous residents are six times more likely to be homeless than the general population.

The COVID-19 pandemic has worsened our homelessness crisis by putting hundreds of thousands of Bay Area residents into financial distress, and either on the brink of, or experiencing homelessness. People experiencing homelessness face increased barriers to staying healthy during this pandemic. For example, many people experiencing homelessness live in environments that are conducive to a disease epidemic, including lack of regular access to basic hygiene supplies and showering facilities, all of which could facilitate virus transmission. They also face serious health issues due to their inability to isolate, quarantine, and recover. Black, Latinx, and Pacific Islander communities in California currently face a 20% higher COVID-19 death rate than the statewide average, driven in part by unstable and crowded housing conditions.ⁱⁱ The homeless population is also disproportionately older—in California, roughly half are 50 years and older—and live with chronic underlying health conditions, which are critical risk factors for contracting COVID-19 and suffering more severe outcomes.

Solving the housing crisis and homelessness may be the single greatest opportunity to improve health in the Bay Area. The intensity of today’s housing and health crisis offers us an opportunity to intervene – to prevent and address inequities that are affecting the health of so many of our friends and neighbors. Over the long term, the

Bay Area can solve our housing and homelessness crisis by: protecting residents so they can stay in their homes and neighborhoods; preserving the approximately quarter million homes that are still relatively affordable to rent for lower-income households and many more that are affordable for lower-income homeowners; producing new homes we can afford; and dedicating the resources to provide the services that some need to stay healthy and housed.

REDUCING HEALTH RISKS DURING COVID-19, SAFE PARKING

In the near term, we also need to take actions that protect the health of unhoused people. While we have made solid progress in making vaccines available to unhoused people, it will still be many months before we reach herd immunity. To protect the health and safety, jurisdictions should continue to help people identify housing options, while also working to decrease the health risks of unsheltered living arrangements like vehicles. Specifically, follow [CDC guidance](#) to “allow people who are unsheltered or in encampments to remain where they are” to avoid causing “people to disperse throughout the community and break connections with service providers. This increases the potential for infectious disease spread”. Cities and counties should also follow CDC guidelines to provide the support necessary to keep unsheltered residents safe by including providing PPE and hygiene supports such as restrooms and handwashing facilities.

Safe Parking programs are one tool to help mitigate the health risks of being unhoused as we work towards permanent housing. Many are already sleeping in their vehicles—the 2020 PIT count found that almost a third of unhoused residents in Sonoma County are living in vehicles,ⁱⁱⁱ and we know that vehicular homelessness is on the rise across the U.S.^{iv} Successful safe parking programs can help improve health through two primary pathways. First, by providing hygiene and other resources, they can help decrease the spread of disease, and make improvements in people’s quality of life. And by decriminalizing homelessness, they help residents avoid interactions with the justice system, and towing and impoundment that can take away people’s shelter and push them into debt.^v Second, these programs can help connect residents to permanent housing—which should be the primary yardstick against which success is measured. By linking residents to housing and resources, safe programs across the country have secured housing for up to two thirds of participants (and as low as 5%).^{vi} By helping people stay healthy and connect to appropriate housing services safe parking may help reduce costs to public systems.

As the Bay Area works towards solutions to our housing crisis, we should continue to do everything in our power to protect the health of our unhoused friends and neighbors. While safe parking programs are not a permanent solution to homelessness and housing instability, they can be a tool to improve health and reduce the risks of disease transmission—especially for the roughly one thousand people in Sonoma County already living in their vehicles.

ⁱ Sonoma County Point in Time Count, 2020: <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/CDC/Homeless-Services/PDFs/2020-Homeless-Count-Full-Report/>

ⁱⁱ Benfer, Emily, et al., Eviction, Health Inequity, and the Spread of COVID-19: Housing Policy as a Primary Pandemic Mitigation Strategy (November 1, 2020). *Journal of Urban Health* (2020)

ⁱⁱⁱ Sonoma County Point in Time Count, 2020: <https://sonomacounty.ca.gov/CDC/Homeless-Services/PDFs/2020-Homeless-Count-Full-Report/>

^{iv} Lyons-Warren, Mital and Lowery, Lauren. Vehicular Homelessness and The Road to Housing During and After COVID-19. 2020. <https://www.nlc.org/article/2020/05/28/vehicular-homelessness-and-the-road-to-housing-during-and-after-covid-19/>

^v Lyons-Warren, Mital and Lowery, Lauren. Vehicular Homelessness and The Road to Housing During and After COVID-19. 2020. <https://www.nlc.org/article/2020/05/28/vehicular-homelessness-and-the-road-to-housing-during-and-after-covid-19/>

^{vi} USC Homelessness Policy Research Institute. Safe Parking Programs. 2018. <https://socialinnovation.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Safe-Parking-Literature-Review.pdf>

From: [Lara Rice](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Homeles relocation to RV library parking lot
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 1:56:33 PM

To whom it may concern,

I have heard that the city has plans to relocate the homeless to the RINCON VALLEY LIBRARY PARKING LOT. I am extremely concerned and disturbed by this plan,

This location serves our community and our families. There is a children's park and a high school right there where children walk back and forth between the library, the school and the park.

The homeless usually have mental health issues, are aggressive and straight up dirty.

This area is a peaceful, and SAFE location for our families. This is NOT the place to put a bunch of shady individuals.

I hope you seriously reconsider the location, because it will damage our neighborhood and SAFETY for our families.

Sincerely,
Lara Rice, DDS
RINCON VALLEY NEIGHBORE.

From: [Bridget Paul](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Homeless
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 1:58:35 PM

Hello council, I'm writing about the vote about homeless camp in the RV library parking lot. Horrible idea, please do not allow this. First, there are a ton of schools and kids go to the library for classes, programs, and more. That library is bustling everyday and the lot gets full during school days. There isn't room, but more importantly, kids shouldn't be exposed to all that comes with homelessness. All the kids walk through the park after school to get there and now? We pay way too much in taxes for this "camp" to be next to a top high school as well. Furthermore, there is a senior neighborhood right there close by.

If you need more people to sit down and create other solutions - please respond to this email. This should absolutely not be an option.

Be Well

From: [Laura D. Fry](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] RV Library
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 2:05:51 PM

Hi there,

I'm a resident of Rincon Valley and heard today that you're proposing the RV Library as a spot for homeless parking. I have 3 children in the district. They walk home from this area that is right next to Maria Carrillo and our neighborhood.

It is deplorable to put homeless near a school. I read in the press Democrat that you're doing this so that everyone in SR has "skin in the game". The homeless problem is not one that myself or my children can solve yet we are the ones who will bear the burden.

What they need is mental health facilities and funding not a parking lot in RV.

Laura Fry

From: [Misty Platt](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Concern for Proposed Site: Safe Parking Pilot Program
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 2:15:30 PM

My name is Misty Platt and I have lived in Sonoma County for the past 13 years. I have 4 children that are currently going to school at Maria Carrillo and Rincon Valley Middle School. This statement is regarding agenda item 3.2 concerning the Safe Parking Pilot Program.

When beginning the study of this program, you used specific criteria when selecting proposed sites to be considered for this program. These criteria included: Proximity to services, proximity to neighborhoods, schools, or childcare and fire risk. The Rincon Valley Library site within District 3 was not identified as a potential site during the initial July 2020 assessment and the city elected to seek a private partner. Then, on the February 2021 assessment, Rincon Valley Library suddenly appeared as a potential location with no reason given for its addition.

This site is a poor choice for consideration as the Library is directly adjacent to Maria Carrillo High School. There are students on campus at all hours of the day – arriving at 6:30am for the first classes at 7:00am; continuing through until sometimes 10pm at night for athletic events, musical and choral events, and other club activities. This library is also located in a residential area with little or no homeless services nearby. My children go to this library often to wait for me to pick them up from sports practices and after school. Additionally, as a fire risk, this site makes a poor choice as fires actually burned several classrooms at Maria Carrillo in 2020 and closely threatened the school in 2017.

The Council seems overly focused on some kind of equitable geographic distribution of this program versus choosing a correct option that might actually benefit these people in need. Why not use existing structures or lots that are designed for parking – garages. After hours at the downtown garage areas would also put these people in geographic proximity to the services that would help them, if they truly want help.

I further feel that the costs associated with this program would amount to a gross misuse of taxpayer funds. Your Single Site Pilot Program cost estimates spending up to \$660,000/yr for just 50 parking spots. When you expand that out to the 300 – 500 vehicle number estimates, that comes to between \$3.96 - \$6.6 million dollars a year. There also seems to be no mention of policies/procedures to ensure that only safe, registered vehicles would be allowed to participate in this program.

I feel that NO SITES in proximity to any schools or childcare facilities within Santa Rosa should be considered for this program

Best Regards,

Misty Platt, Agent

DRE# 02072109

Mason McDuffie Commercial Real Estate

misty.platt@mmrecommercial.com

SonomaCountyCommercialRE.com

From: [Eileen Bill](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Cc: [eileen Bill](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Safe Parking
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 2:18:49 PM

Re: Item # 3.2

Overall, the general public seems to have a completely inaccurate idea of what Safe Parking is. I attribute this impression to pictures posted in the media of trash heaps by non-sanctioned encampments. This is not what Safe Parking is. It is a group of people who are currently residing in their vehicles having lost traditional housing through various life's events. Current programs have less than 10 cars (although we have facilitated up to 20 in one site), the people are registered, the sites have porta-potties or bathrooms and have trash pickup. The areas are kept clean and well monitored by the safe parkers.

All these folks want is to have a safe place to sleep at night, off the streets, so they can rest up for the next day. Ideally, the sites would be open 24/7 so that the residents could get their lives together. Many work, others are seeking work or are trying to "regroup" in between life's incidences. They don't need to be driving around during the day seeking a safe place to park, using up gas and polluting the air, and spending what little money they may have.

Safe Parkers are like any other neighbor group. They just happen to reside in cars or motorhomes instead of houses and they go about their lives as does everyone else. It is great that the City Council is finally seeking places for Safe Parking. There are many people in need and we cannot afford to keep "sweeping" them away and having them lose their possessions and dignity.

Thank you,
Eileen Bill

[REDACTED]
Santa Rosa 95405
[REDACTED]

From: [Terah McIntosh](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Safe parking program
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 3:29:32 PM

Dear City Council Members,

I am writing today to express my concern for putting a homeless safe parking lot at the Rincon Valley library. This site is right next door to a school and on the site of a library. Both of these locations are heavily trafficked by kids on a daily basis. This is not a safe spot to then allow homeless to park in at night and perhaps during the day. The Sonoma County Homeless Census & Survey 2020 sites 38% of homeless people report alcohol or drug abuse in their current health report and 35% have psychiatric/emotional conditions. This is a question of safety for the kids walking past and through that area everyday. Downtown has experienced crime due to homelessness, and I personally have had homeless come up to me cussing or clearly on drugs while in the downtown area. This is not something I want kids dealing with on their daily walk to school or the library. Please reconsider using this parking lot as a safe parking spot for homeless.

Sincerely,
Terah McIntosh

Sent from my iPhone.

From: [Conchetta Fleming](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#); [Alvarez, Eddie](#); [Fleming, Victoria](#); [Rogers, Chris](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Stop!!! Homeless Parking @ Rincoln Valley Library
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 3:35:59 PM

Hello, City Council members.

It's outrageous and absolutely unacceptable you're considering a homeless parking within 8 elementary schools, 1 jr high, 2 charter schools and 1 high school bordering this location. It's furthermore, an extremely reckless and hazard to public health due to the fact the homeless people are notorious unaccountable sex offenders, drug users and drug dealers that should not be encouraged to be located near our youth. How dare you even consider such a frightening idea, our community deserves better!

I urge ALL members to end this campaign that is dangerous and will certainly negatively impact the children and families in Rincoln Valley not to mention the library will become an unsafe place for everyone.

Sincerely,
Sam & Conchetta Fleming

The information in this electronic mail message is the sender's confidential business and may be legally privileged. It is intended solely for the addressee(s). Access to this internet electronic mail message by anyone else is unauthorized. If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, copying, distribution or any action taken or omitted to be taken in reliance on it is prohibited and may be unlawful.

The sender believes that this E-mail and any attachments were free of any virus, worm, Trojan horse, and/or malicious code when sent. This message and its attachments could have been infected during transmission. By reading the message and opening any attachments, the recipient accepts full responsibility for taking protective and remedial action about viruses and other defects. The sender's company is not liable for any loss or damage arising in any way from this message or its attachments.

Nothing in this email shall be deemed to create a binding contract to purchase/sell real estate. The sender of this email does not have the authority to bind a buyer or seller to a contract via written or verbal communications including, but not limited to, email communications be legally privileged. It is intended solely for the addressee(s). Access to this internet electronic mail message by anyone else is unauthorized. If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, copying, distribution or any action taken or omitted to be taken in reliance on it is prohibited and may be unlawful.

From: crystalhelmer3339@gmail.com
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] PLEASE don't have Homeless Live at RV Parking Lot!
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 4:00:49 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a resident and homeowner of Rincon Valley and mother of two daughters, age 12 and 10. My 12 year old will be attending Rincon Valley Middle School and will likely walk home. I am concerned for her safety walking by Rincon Valley Library each day. Both of my parents were addicts so I have seen drug use and prostitution first hand on the streets. I work VERY hard to afford to live in Rincon Valley. When the fires happened in 2017, I wanted to move but I chose to stay. Now I have to deal with this. Rincon Valley won't feel safe anymore. There are multiple schools in that area (ranging from pre-school to High School), and my kids play soccer in that field. I do not think it makes sense to house the homeless so close to so many schools and sports recreation for kids. PLEASE DON'T DO THIS!

Best,
Crystal Helmer

From: [Annemarie Brown](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Cc: [Stephanie Cruz](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Item 3.2 on June 22, 2021 City Council Agenda - Safe Parking Pilot Program
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 4:21:03 PM

We're writing as employees of SRCH's Lombardi Campus so you hear our personal experience as you weigh what to do about Item 3.2 on the agenda for 6/22/2021 – the Safe Parking Pilot. We are located at 751 Lombardi Court and have been facing a homeless encampment for nine months. Every day, 60 employees and over 350 patients must walk or drive through the encampment to get to work and/or to receive critical health care and social supports. (This does not include others on the street like St. Joseph Health dental clinic.)

There is only one way in and out to reach our clinic. This means that we and our patients must find our way along a street and sidewalks that are crowded with debris (including human waste), double-parked vehicles, and doors that are opened into the street. One staff member was assaulted, and another was harassed and blocked from entering her vehicle. Both incidents were reported, but nothing has changed; in fact, it has gotten worse.

It's important you know that 80% of our patients are Hispanic/Latinx, many only speak Spanish, and about 50% of them walk or take the bus. Lombardi Campus also houses a Gender Clinic, where we provide gender-affirming care to over 300 patients from all over Northern California. The conditions with the encampment make it incredibly challenging for all these patients when they *already* face huge barriers to accessing health care. They are afraid to come in for care. Further, because it is not safe, SRCH had to cancel our regular evening clinic, which has always been an important part of caring for patients who cannot get time off during the day or may work multiple jobs.

We're concerned that the safety of our patients is not being prioritized because they are low-income people of color and gender and sexual minorities. When we have all seen the burden that the Hispanic community has carried during COVID, this is incredibly frustrating. The people living in the encampment also need a safe place to park with supporting services to help them be healthy and to start on the path to permanent housing.

Please approve the safe parking pilot so that everyone impacted – regardless of their skin color, gender, identity, income, history, or housing status – may have equitable access to the services and dignity they need to live a healthy life.

Thank you,
60 SRCH Lombardi Campus Employees

From: [Cynthia Evers](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Homeless camp at Rincon Valley Park
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 4:24:15 PM

Councilpeople,

This is a very inappropriate place for a homeless park. It is next to a high school a family oriented park and a neighborhood park.

Thank you for reconsidering,
Cynthia Evers

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jennie Orvino](#)
To: [City Council Public Comments](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item number (3.2)
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 4:57:01 PM

I am a homeowner in south park and have been a resident at 1123 Grand Avenue since 2007. Let me add my voice to the group from Community Building Initiative and the folks who had a meeting last week about the RV parking and homeless encampments on Frazier, Pressley and all around the former senior center.

It is a blight on our neighborhood and dangerous for our children to have the garbage, rats, drug deals, unauthorized outdoor cooking in a drought, etc. etc.

I am also part of the core team trying to foster neighborhood cohesion and safety, and empowerment. Please help us the same way you would help neighbors in the MacDonald neighborhood.

You say the homeless camp here because they were near services. Well, make some safe parking places and camps and bring the services to them there!

Jennie Orvino

