

CITY OF SANTA ROSA
CITY COUNCIL

TO: MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL
FROM: KELLI KUYKENDALL, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
MANAGER
HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
SUBJECT: SAFE PARKING PROGRAM

AGENDA ACTION: MOTION

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended by the Housing and Community Services Department that the Council, by motion, confirm its interest in supporting a Safe Parking program.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

During the October 24 Council meeting, in light of the recent wildfire events and subsequent proclamation of local emergency, Council expressed interest in supporting Safe Parking, a former County-sponsored program which concluded at the end of Fiscal Year 2016/2017. Staff has compiled preliminary information and is seeking confirmation from Council regarding its interest to support a Safe Parking program. If Council confirms its interest, staff will return at a later date with specific program proposals.

This item relates to Council Goal 6: Committed to making Santa Rosa a community where people feel safe to live, work, and play.

BACKGROUND

1. The Sonoma County Community Development Commission (Sonoma County CDC) provided Catholic Charities of the Diocese of the Santa Rosa with \$150,000 annually to operate a Safe Parking program, comprised of a minimum of 80 spots: 50 at the County complex and the remainder at scattered sites primarily located in Santa Rosa. The County-sponsored program concluded at the end of Fiscal Year 2016/2017 to address a funding gap to the Family Support Center as a result of reductions to the State's Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program.
2. The Sonoma County CDC is currently seeking to reinstate and rebrand its former Safe Parking program as a Transitional Vehicle Housing program, focused on

Housing First principles and located at a single site on County property. The preliminary program design includes expanded 24/7 operation, places a cap on participants' length of stay, and provides showers, portable toilets, and a community space. The Sonoma County CDC is currently evaluating County-owned properties and working with Catholic Charities to develop a scope and budget for the program. Catholic Charities has expressed interest in operating one program at a single site.

3. The Community Homeless Assistance Program (CHAP) provides guidelines for the provision of safe parking on private property (meeting facilities or commercial sites) under the declaration of local homeless emergency, which Council approved on August 9, 2016. The declaration of shelter crisis, also approved on August 9, allows for the use of public property to create additional shelter for persons experiencing homelessness, which may include safe parking subject to Council's discretion.

PRIOR CITY COUNCIL REVIEW

On October 11, 2016, Council, by Resolution No. 28868, issued regulations under the City's declaration of homeless emergency to allow for immediate implementation of an expanded year-round Community Homeless Assistance Program (CHAP) to include safe parking, safe camping, the placement and maintenance of portable toilets including access to existing bathroom facilities, provision of temporary overnight shelter, and storage for personal belongings.

On July 11, 2017, Council, by motion, confirmed its direction on homeless service programming. Council considered a number of options, including but not limited to: 1) participation in long-term regional planning efforts through the Sonoma County Continuum of Care to develop a system-wide Housing First approach; 2) implementation of short-term efforts including a pilot program to address the health and safety needs of known encampments and activation of a 50-bed housing-focused shelter; 3) evaluation of existing City-sponsored programs while regional planning recommendations are developed; 4) decision to fund a former County-sponsored program – Safe Parking; 5) decision to develop sanctioned encampments; and 6) other topics. Council supported items 1 through 3, directing staff to prioritize the pilot program; and declined items 4 and 5 opting not to fund Safe Parking or to develop sanctioned encampments.

ANALYSIS

This is an opportunity for the Council to confirm its interest in supporting a Safe Parking program, including collaborating with the County on its development of a Transitional Vehicle Housing program which aligns with the Council's Housing First Strategy.

FISCAL IMPACT

Staff does not know for certain at this time the potential impacts of supporting a Safe Parking program.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

This action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because it is not a project which has a potential for resulting in either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment, pursuant to CEQA Guideline section 15378.

BOARD/COMMISSION/COMMITTEE REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Not applicable

NOTIFICATION

Not applicable

ATTACHMENTS

Not applicable

CONTACT

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