



# ***Agenda Report***

## ***Fullerton City Council***

**MEETING DATE:** OCTOBER 1, 2019

**TO:** CITY COUNCIL / SUCCESSOR AGENCY

**SUBMITTED BY:** KENNETH A. DOMER, CITY MANAGER

**PREPARED BY:** MATT FOULKES, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

**SUBJECT:** TEMPORARY SAFE PARKING PROGRAM FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

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### **SUMMARY**

Consideration of a six-month temporary Safe Parking Program with the Illumination Foundation, or other service provider, as requested by the City Council at its July 2, 2019 meeting to allow for limited overnight parking for people experiencing homeless and / or families who currently dwell in their vehicles. There are no locations for the temporary program yet identified.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. Authorize the City Manager, or his designee, to execute a Lease Agreement or other appropriate document and a Professional Services Agreement with the Illumination Foundation or other qualified service provider, in forms to be approved by the City Attorney, and take all necessary actions to complete the implementation of a temporary Safe Parking Program.
2. Appropriate use of Low-Mod Income Housing Set Aside Fund (Fund 80) in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 (Non-General Fund) to implement a six-month Safe Parking Program.

### **PRIORITY POLICY STATEMENT**

This item matches the following Priority Policy Statements:

- Infrastructure and City Assets
- Public Safety.

## FISCAL IMPACT

Preliminary cost estimates for the provision of on-site security and sanitation infrastructure to implement a six-month Safe Parking Program is \$75,000. Depending on the selected location, up to an additional \$25,000 in site improvements (paving, lighting, fencing, landscaping) may be required. The selected operator will provide in-kind funds to administer the program at an estimated amount of \$30,000. The requested \$100,000 is available in the Low Mod Income Housing Set Aside Fund and is appropriate for the proposed use. There are no General Fund costs associated with this action.

## DISCUSSION

According to the 2019 Point In Time Count, the City of Fullerton has an estimated 308 unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness on a given night, a portion of which are living in vehicles. The exact number of people experiencing homelessness living in vehicles is not known, but estimates provided by the City's Homeless Liaison Officers and Homeless Resources Coordinator places the number between 30 and 50 vehicles. Vehicles provide a sense of security for some homeless individuals and is often the first sleeping option for people who are no longer able to secure housing. In Fullerton, the majority of the public parking areas and streets are designated by ordinances to not allow for overnight vehicle parking and parking in private parking lots without property owner authorization is not permitted. As a result, people experiencing homelessness living in their vehicles must move repeatedly, or face the risk of citations and towing. The lack of safety and stability for individuals living in their vehicles hinders their path back to self-sufficiency, employment and housing.

At its meeting on July 2, 2019, the City Council directed Staff to prepare a request for proposals for a safe parking program in the City. Subsequent to that meeting, City Staff reached out to service providers to gauge interest in administering safe parking programs. Based on these discussions, the Illumination Foundation is currently the only known provider that is interested in administering this temporary program in Fullerton. This would also be the first program of its kind in Orange County. Accordingly, moving forward with a pilot program to gain experience and understanding of such a program prior to issuing a request for proposal is recommended at this time. Recognizing that there are still final details to be determined, including selection of the location for the safe parking program, the recommendation provides flexibility to the City Manager regarding which service provider is ultimately selected to administer the program and where such a program may occur.

The proposed program would allow for overnight parking at a predetermined location for people experiencing homeless and / or families who currently dwell in their vehicles. Safe Parking programs further the concept of "No Wrong Door," as the program will be used to connect homeless individuals to service providers and case management services, including the Coordinated Entry System (CES). The goal of the CES is to effectively connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at-risk of homelessness to appropriate services and housing interventions.

The CES lead agency, Orange County Community Resources, is empowered by the Continuum of Care (CoC) to manage the process of determining and updating the

prioritization for all CoC funded permanent supportive housing and CoC and ESG funded rapid rehousing as well as any other housing resources that participate in the CES. The CES is for anyone experiencing homelessness in Orange County including young adults, single adults, couples, families, veterans and seniors.

The proposed six-month program will allow the City to participate in the provision of a needed resource for Fullerton people experiencing homelessness living in their vehicles and will provide important data regarding the service needs of this segment of the homeless population. At the end of the six-month period, an assessment of the program will be provided by the selected service provider along with recommendations on future programs.

#### Proposed Components of the Safe Parking Program

A "Safe Parking Lot", which provides individuals a safe place to park each night, restroom access, a security guard and, most importantly, social service resources to assist eligible participants into other programs and / or permanent housing can provide early intervention to redirect the path of people experiencing homelessness. The program components referenced below are subject to further refinement with the selected service provider, but represent the basic parameters of the proposed safe parking program:

1. *Hours.* The recommended safe parking program hours will be from 6:30 p.m. to 6:30 a.m. seven-days per week. Program hours may be adjusted incrementally during the temporary program based on the needs and operations of the service provider, the property owner and / or otherwise determined by the City, but in no case will the time allotted exceed the 12-hours that on-site security is to be provided.
2. *Sanitation.* Restroom facilities will be provided on-site during the program and will be maintained in clean and working condition.
3. *Case Management.* The Safe Parking Program is intended to be a transitional "Safe Refuge" for people living in their vehicles. Service needs identified and case management will be provided by the program operator with the intent of getting / providing more services for the vehicle dweller to assist them into other programs and / or housing. The Safe Parking Program is intended for people who want to utilize services and transition out of vehicle dwelling into housing.
4. *Insurance.* Insurance provisions and requirements for both the program operator and property owner will be required during the life of the program. In addition, each vehicle dweller is required to have their own motor vehicle insurance, driver's license and vehicle registration.
5. *Security.* On-site security guards (12-hours per day) to monitor and secure the facility during use as a "safe parking" lot and help enforce hours of use as determined by the program.
6. *Vandalism / Screening.* Although rarely experienced by other cities which have implemented safe parking programs, the possibility of parking lots being vandalized or damaged while used for safe parking is a concern. On-site security, along with oversight by the selected service provider and strategic lighting will be utilized to deter vandalism. Additionally, all participants are screened as part of the intake process which will include an acknowledgement to adhere to the rules and regulations for the

safe parking lot related to: noise, camping, cooking, etc. Screening against the National Sex Offender database, active criminal history will be performed by the selected service provider. Failure to abide by the rules will result in immediate eviction and termination of parking lot privileges. The Fullerton Police Department will be required to assist with removal of vehicles or participants who have violated the terms of use.

7. *Fullerton Vehicle Dweller Participation.* As part of the screening process, priority will be given to participants who are currently living in their vehicles in the City of Fullerton, who have shown historical ties to the City and who begin case management services. As part of the program, Homeless Liaison Officers, the selected program operator and the City's Homeless Resources Coordinator will help ensure that when contact is made with people experiencing homelessness living in the vehicles in Fullerton to direct them to the location of the Safe Parking Program location to maximize the effectiveness of the program in the City.