



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: March 14, 2017

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Administration, Housing & Human Services Division,
Community Development Department

SUBJECT: Oversized Vehicle Off-Street Parking Ad-Hoc Stakeholder Committee
Report and Recommendations

RECOMMENDATION: The Oversized Vehicle Off-Street Parking Ad-Hoc Stakeholder Committee recommends that Council:

- A. Provide a temporary grace period and/or temporary on-street daytime parking permits for Safe Parking recreational vehicle (RV) clients, if needed;
- B. Direct City staff to assist New Beginning Counseling Center in locating additional daytime off-street parking spaces; and
- C. Provide funding in the amount of \$1,500 per space per year, up to \$60,000, for New Beginnings Counseling Center to monitor a new daytime oversized vehicle off-street parking program.

DISCUSSION:

Background

On October 18, 2016, Council approved an Ordinance that restricts oversized vehicle parking on City streets. At that meeting, Council also approved the creation of an ad hoc stakeholder committee to consider additional off-street parking opportunities for persons living in oversized vehicles.

On November 8, 2016, Council formed the committee and appointed Council members Murillo and Hotchkiss to serve on the committee along with Kristine Schwarz, Executive Director of New Beginnings Counseling Center.

The scope of the committee was to locate and consider additional overnight spaces for oversized vehicles in the Safe Parking Program, locate and consider new daytime spaces for oversized vehicles in the Safe Parking Program, and work with New

Beginnings Counseling Center to expand the Safe Parking Program to include monitoring of the daytime spaces.

Safe Parking Program Capacity and Utilization

The Safe Parking Program has forty (40) overnight spaces that can accommodate RVs in the City. Currently, only twenty-one (21) of those spaces are filled by people living in their RVs. Additionally, there are two (2) RVs on the waiting list. Both can be accommodated after they complete the intake process and/or meet the Program requirements (license, registration, and insurance).

Daytime Spaces

The Oversized Vehicle Off-Street Parking Ad-Hoc Stakeholder Committee (Committee) met three times over the course of two months, and discussions were held with thirty-five (35) participating stakeholders. In addition, a subcommittee of City staff, County staff, and New Beginnings representatives met twice to identify potential daytime off-street parking lots. Approximately fifty (50) possible locations were identified and a contact list was developed. To date, fifteen (15) of the sites have been excluded due to heavy daytime use and/or incompatibility, three (3) sites have been confirmed for use (5 total spaces), and approximately thirty (32) sites are still being pursued. New Beginnings reported that the overnight spots for the Safe Parking Program were acquired in small increments, one or two at a time, and it is likely that new daytime spots will be secured in a similar fashion.

The three confirmed sites (5 total spaces) are City lots in in the downtown area, along the Waterfront and at the Airport. Use of these lots is contingent upon clients being assigned separate lots for daytime and overnight use. They will be required to move each morning and evening, which will prevent a situation in which an RV is parked continuously in any one lot.

The City Attorney advises that Council should not single out Safe Parking Program RV clients for special treatment through a grace period or permit system unless it can provide a safety-based rational basis for doing so. In the alternative, Council may suspend or repeal the ordinance.

Additional Overnight Spaces

A total of seven (7) additional overnight spaces have been gained during this process. The addition of these overnight spaces for RVs will help if there is an increase in Safe Parking RV clients due to the City's on-street parking restrictions.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The cost for New Beginnings Counseling Center to monitor daytime spaces is \$1,500 per space per year. This includes staff time, mileage, and insurance. The total cost per year to monitor 40 daytime spaces is \$60,000.

As mentioned above, there are currently twenty-one (21) RVs in the Program in the City of Santa Barbara and only two (2) on the waiting list. If it is determined that less than 40 daytime spaces are needed to accommodate the needs of the Program, then the cost to monitor the daytime portion will decrease proportionately. For example, if only twenty-five (25) daytime spaces are needed, then the cost would be \$37,500 per year.

During Fiscal Year 2016, Council approved one-time funding, up to \$30,000, from the General Fund for the El Nino Daytime Warming Center. Only \$5,900 was expended, and the remaining balance of \$24,100 was carried over to Fiscal Year 2017. The funds will not be expended during Fiscal Year 2017 because the Daytime Warming Center did not operate this year. Council can choose to reallocate the remaining funds to help support this effort.

PREPARED BY: Sue Gray, Community Development Business Manager

SUBMITTED BY: George Buell, Community Development Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office