



Office of the City Manager

September 3, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: *Dee* Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Re: Updates on Safe RV Parking Program at 742 Grayson Street

This memorandum provides updates as to the program model and status of the forthcoming Safe RV Parking Program at 742 Grayson in West Berkeley. Staff are currently in negotiations with Dorothy Day House to amend their contract and add the safe RV parking program to their existing contract for the Horizon Transitional Village Program. We anticipate that the program will be open and accepting referrals no later than September 30th.

Program Model

The Safe RV parking program will provide temporary parking accommodations for up to 40 households living in their RVs, and is designed to be as low barrier as possible. It will have a fence for security, but no nighttime curfews. Pets and partners will be accommodated, but not minor children. (In the event we encounter families with minor children in the course of our outreach, we immediately refer them to family shelter beds through the Family Front Door.) There will be fresh water and port-a-potties; for guests that prefer to use their own septic systems, we are exploring creating a voucher program for vehicles to dump their wastewater at a nearby off-site licensed dump station. Due to cost and timing constraints, we will not be able to provide electrical hookups, but will allow guests to operate a personal generator if they have one. When the program opens, guests will be asked to drive their vehicle onto the lot. In some limited circumstances, we may be able to tow inoperable vehicles to the site.

Referrals

In accordance with prior Council direction, the concentration of RVs parked in Northwest Berkeley (north of Gilman St and West of San Pablo Ave) will be the area that is addressed for the first referrals into the program once it opens. Thereafter, we will begin enforcement of four-hour parking restrictions. We will not begin enforcement until the program is open and operational. During a census conducted on August 31, my

staff counted 32 RVs in this district, meaning everyone here should have a chance at a referral prior to the commencement of parking enforcement. After that, staff will develop a referral process to prioritize referrals into remaining vacant spaces, and I welcome your recommendations on how we might best prioritize.

Budget

The City's lease for the Grayson property ends March 31, 2022, with a month-to-month extension option through Sept 30, 2022, after which point the City will no longer have access to the site. At this duration and with the scope outlined above, the program is expected to cost roughly \$410,000. I will bring an item to Council to approve the contract amendment and appropriate funding as soon as possible. Dorothy Day is prepared to honor the September 30th timeline regardless of the Council agenda timeline.

While the budget will support staff to help operate the site, providing a deep level of services, case management, or housing/rent assistance is beyond the scope of the project. We are fortunate to be working with the staff at Dorothy Day House who are skilled at making referrals and connections to other programs. Additionally, the budget will include some flexible funding to help assist guests with minor vehicle repairs (for example, replacing batteries or wheels), paying for vehicle license and registration fees, and otherwise getting the vehicle back to being "roadworthy."

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Darrin Rafferty, Acting Assistant to the City Manager, and Peter Radu, Assistant to the City Manager.

cc: Paul Buddenhagen, Deputy City Manager
David White, Deputy City Manager
Jenny Wong, City Auditor
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager
Darrin Rafferty, Interim Assistant to the City Manager
Peter Radu, Assistant to the City Manager