



Homeless Services
Panel of Experts

ACTION CALENDAR
April 11, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Homeless Services Panel of Experts
Submitted by: Carole Marasovic, Chair, Homeless Services Panel of Experts
Subject: Recommendation for RV Lot and Waste Management on Streets for RVs

RECOMMENDATION

The Homeless Services Panel of Experts recommends to Council that they refer to staff to expedite all efforts to identify a location for another RV lot(s) to take the place of the now closed SPARK lot at 742 Grayson and that the new lot identified require mandatory safety inspections and fire extinguishers to be provided. The Homeless Services Panel of Experts further recommends that Council refer to staff to develop a waste management plan to be implemented for RVs currently on the streets.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

This two-part recommendation needs to be evaluated by City staff and the Council Budget and Finance Committee to assess the costs of implementation.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The SPARK RV lot at 742 Grayson closed at the same time that Horizon at 742 Grayson closed at the end of December, 2022. While arrangements were made for the residents of Horizon to move into the Berkeley Inn, no lot could be identified to hold the residents of the SPARK lot.

The SPARK lot was a successful endeavor with a capacity of 40 RVs. Safety inspections were not required which may have led to a fire of a vehicle.

RVs formerly in the lot have been left to roam the streets with health and safety risks to the dwellers who formerly resided there and with complaints from the larger community.

RV dwellers have the legal right to shelter in their vehicles. They require a lot to do so. Despite the land limitations, the City needs to amp up efforts to identify another lot to be overseen by a social services provider. Fire extinguishers must be provided and there should be safety inspections.

For health and sanitation purposes, remaining RVS on the street should have waste management services provided. Waste management services were provided at SPARK,

should be provided at the new RV lot and for the health and sanitation of the RV dwellers and the larger community should be provided to RV dwellers living on the streets given the limited capacity of the RV lot provided.

BACKGROUND

On February 1, 2023, the Homeless Services Panel of Experts recommended as follows:

Action: M/S/C Marasovic/Johnson recommends to Council that they refer to staff to expedite all efforts to identify a location for another RV lot(s) to take the place of the now closed SPARK lot at 742 Grayson and that the new lot identified require mandatory safety inspections and fire extinguishers to be provided. The Homeless Services Panel of Experts further recommends that Council refer to staff to develop a waste management plan to be implemented for RVs currently on the streets.

Vote: Ayes: Johnson, Jones, Marasovic, Feller, Kealoha-Blake, and Meany.
Noes: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Bookstein.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

The benefits to the environment in terms of health and safety for the RV dwellers and the larger community, as to both recommendations, are indisputable.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

The need for the RV lot for the health and safety of the RV dwellers and larger community is stated above.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Overnight lots, City or faith-based, could be explored but they are difficult to manage particularly by a single provider. In addition, they leave RV dwellers to wander the Berkeley streets during the day.

CITY MANAGER

See Companion Report.

CONTACT PERSON

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