To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Homeless Commission  
Submitted by: Paul Kealoha-Blake, Chair, Homeless Commission  
Subject: Proposed Vehicle Encampment  

RECOMMENDATION  
Direct staff to identify a location for a vehicle encampment to house up to thirty vehicles.

SUMMARY  
An authorized vehicle encampment to serve homeless persons is needed in Berkeley.

FISCAL IMPACT of RECOMMENDATION:  
Fiscal impacts are unknown. However, any cost of establishing the vehicle encampment will be mitigated by the current costs directed towards parking enforcement citing and removing vehicles, in which homeless persons reside, at other locations such as the Berkeley Marina. Potentially, there could be a small fee associated with the encampment to be paid by vehicle campers which could mitigate additional costs.

CURRENT SITUATION and its EFFECTS  
On June 13, 2018, the Homeless Commission passed the following motion.

**Action:** M/S/C Marasovic/Hirpara that the Homeless Commission recommend to Council to direct staff to identify a location for a vehicle encampment to house up to 30 vehicles.

**Vote:** Ayes: Anglade, Caldeira, Hirpara, Kealoha-Blake, Marasovic.  
Noes: None.  
Abstain: None.  
Absent: Galan.

BACKGROUND  
In January, 1985, a vehicle encampment, Rainbow Village, was opened. It was shut down in March, 1986 after a tragedy transpired.

Banks are not shut down after a bank robbery nor homes demolished after one home-owner engages in illegally activity there. Similarly, one incident should not reflect on homeless persons nor extinguish a viable solution to address the homeless case.
A vehicle encampment is needed in Berkeley as one segment of a plan to address homelessness.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
There will need to be trash removal and porta-potties at the vehicle encampment.

RATIONALE for RECOMMENDATION
Under the 2017 Homeless Count, almost 1,000 homeless persons reside in Berkeley. Over 600 of them were unsheltered.

Although the Pathways shelter is about to open, it only houses fifty persons for six months. Concurrently, the Winter Shelter, which housed up to eighty persons, is about to close on June 30, 2018.

Currently, some homeless persons reside in their vehicles at the Berkeley Marina. The City of Berkeley provided notice to them to move at one location from the Marina, threatening them with removal of their vehicles. The homeless persons, relying on their vehicles, moved the vehicles to another location in the Marina. There is a continuing controversy over whether the Marina is an appropriate place for homeless persons to reside in their vehicles. Thus, the homeless remain under threat of another removal.

All solutions to the Berkeley homeless crisis must be explored. The City incurs costs associated with shuffling people from one location to another. The right of homeless persons to sleep in their vehicles has been upheld by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals (insert cite of case).

A stable City-authorized vehicle encampment is one solution.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED
The Commission did not see a viable alternative to a City authorized vehicle encampment.

CITY MANAGER
See companion report.

CONTACT PERSON
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