

2022 COUNCIL STUDY ISSUE

NUMBER

..Title
CDD 22-02

TITLE Establishment of a Safe RV Parking Program

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BACKGROUND

Lead Department: Community Development Department

Support Departments: Office of the City Manager
Office of the City Attorney
Department of Public Safety

Sponsor(s): Planning Commission

History: 1 year ago: N/A
2 years ago: N/A

SCOPE OF THE STUDY

What precipitated this study?

The City of Sunnyvale recently completed a Housing Strategy which includes establishment of a Safe RV Parking Program. While the strategy is already included in the adopted Housing Strategy as a Tier 3 element, the Planning Commission felt that the study should be prioritized and conducted sooner than that ranking.

With increasing homelessness, some households are living in RVs, which can create safety and neighborhood problems if there are no appropriate places to park RVs. Some cities have sought to address these issues by establishing safe RV parking programs that designate an area within the city where RVs can park safely and legally. These sites often include services such as electricity, water, trash pick-up, security, portable toilets, and mobile showers. Safe RV parking programs may also have eligibility criteria, such as requiring that RVs parked at the site are operational and have valid registrations and that participants in the program enroll in on-site case management.

What are the key elements of the study?

The study would require collaboration between the Housing Division, Planning Division, the Office of the City Attorney, and the Department of Public Safety to fully evaluate the use and determine which zoning districts may be appropriate for the safe parking use.

Additionally, the study may include:

- Conversations with other jurisdictions that have allowed the safe parking programs/lots;
- Discussions with non-profit groups to discuss funding sources, the community need, and potential partnerships in operating the use;
- Creation of a Safe RV Parking Ordinance to establish the regulations and

requirements should an agency want to establish the use with or without City support; and

- Public outreach with community members to understand the need, but to also discuss the use with property owners in potential zoning districts who may have concerns with the compatibility of a safe parking lot in proximity to other uses.

Estimated years to complete study: 1 year

FISCAL IMPACT

Cost to Conduct Study

Level of staff effort required (opportunity cost):	Moderate
Funding Required for Non-Budgeted Costs:	\$25,000 for the study
Funding Source:	Will seek budget supplement

While most of the research could be done by staff, funding for robust public outreach - would be used to ensure sensitive populations, non-profits, and the general public were included in the study.

Cost to Implement Study Results

Unknown. Study would include assessment of potential costs, including capital and operating, as well as revenue/savings.

There would be minimal costs associated with allowing the safe RV parking land use in certain zoning districts, but if the City were to participate in the operation of one of these sites, they can be costly and no funding sources for these operations were determined through the Housing Strategy.