

Date: March 17th, 2019

To: Councilmember Monica Montgomery, Councilmember Barbara Bry, Councilmember Chris Cate, Councilmember Vivian Moreno

CC: Mayor Kevin Faulconer, Councilmember Georgette Gomez, Councilmember Jennifer Campbell, Councilmember Mark Kersey, Councilmember Scott Sherman, Councilmember Chris Ward, Anthony George, Seamus Kennedy

SUBJECT: Ocean Beach Planning Board Recommendations for Overnight Car Habitation Ordinance

Councilmembers,

You will be considering recommending an ordinance today that involves restricting overnight habitation in vehicles. While the community of Ocean Beach supports an ordinance banning such vehicular use, we worry about the amount of support that will be provided to our residents whose only form of shelter is such.

The Ocean Beach Planning Board recently heard from a group called Dreams For Change who run two safe parking lots in San Diego. We were impressed by their model and mission to help people living in their cars and struggling to get back on their feet and into permanent housing.

There was a lot to like about their model. We want to urge every Councilmember to have the foresight to not recommend an ordinance banning vehicle habitation without also supporting safe parking lot and city programs that:

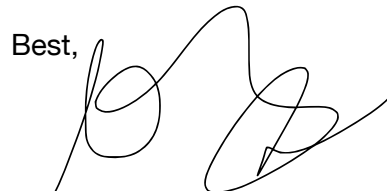
- Have a screening process for persons using the lot
- Case workers that can help with workforce placement and housing assistance
- Continued dedication by the city to provide low and middle income homes
- An accurate count of the cities homeless population that includes people living in their vehicles
- Separation of cars from what would be considered vans, RVs, or oversized vehicles; and treatment of such residents as different populations
- Allowance of pets

Additionally, we do believe that Dreams For Change are the best nonprofit to run these services.

The beach communities are often see the greatest impact from people living on their streets and in their cars. If you have to live on the streets why not do so on one that has a million dollar view. As such we think supporting these marginalized individuals who are trying to get back on their feet, so that we can then address the real problem: the transients, travelers, and chronically homeless.

These groups make up a disproportionate amount of the homeless, crime, and waste in our neighborhoods. Until we make seriously strides to help those who seek to better their lives we cannot take serious action on those who seek to take advantage of San Diegans kindness.

Best,



Andrea Schlageter