

CITY OF OAKLAND

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OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
OAKLAND

2019 MAY 16 PM 5:53

# AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Sabrina B. Landreth  
City Administrator

**FROM:** Sara Bedford  
Director, Human Services

**SUBJECT:** Grant Extension For Safe Parking Program

**DATE:** May 6, 2019

City Administrator Approval

Date:

5/16/19

## RECOMMENDATION

**Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To Amend The Grant Agreement With WeHOPE To Extend The Grant Term Through April 30, 2020 To Continue The Operation Of A Safe Parking Program For Persons Living In Vehicles.**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In October 2018, the City Council authorized the City Administrator to enter into a grant agreement with WeHOPE to manage and operate a Safe Parking program for unsheltered individuals living in their vehicles (**Attachment A**). Due to infrastructure and administrative challenges, the execution of the contract was delayed until March 2019, and services did not commence until May 2019. The program was designed to operate for twelve months, therefore, the delay in implementation requires the grant term to be extended to April 30, 2020.

## BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

On October 16, 2018, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 87379 C.M.S., which established and funded a Safe Parking program for unsheltered individuals living in vehicles. The City Council allocated \$300,000 to fund the 12-month program, however, the contract did not get executed until March 2019. The authorizing Resolution does not include language to extend the grant term beyond October 31, 2019, effectively limiting the duration of the program despite having funding for a 12-month program. Staff seeks the authority to extend the grant term to April 30, 2020. No additional funding is being requested at this time.

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Life Enrichment Committee  
May 28, 2019

**ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES**

Vehicle dwellers face the same challenges as other unsheltered residents, and the Safe Parking program aims to provide a safe place for vehicle dwellers to park while enhancing access to critical services.

Many of Oakland’s unsheltered residents are living in their vehicles. This includes single adults, couples, and families with small children. For these individuals and families, finding a safe and legal place to park is challenging. Vehicle dwellers experience health challenges, safety concerns, and a lack of stability. Additionally, vehicle dwellers face the risk of losing a sheltered place to rest due to unpaid parking tickets or a lapsed vehicle registration. For some, their vehicle is solely used as their dwelling. For others, their vehicle is also their only means of transportation to take children to and from school or to seek employment. A Safe Parking program provides a secure environment for those persons living in their vehicles, while simultaneously reducing the impact in neighborhoods where individuals currently sleep in vehicles on residential streets.

All sites provide basic amenities that include portable toilets, wash stations, and site security. The Safe Parking program provides stability, safety, and critical services. Having people living in a specific location reduces the impact a vehicle has on housed residents in an area by reducing debris, human waste, illegal dumping, and hazardous materials that include motor oil, antifreeze and transmission fluid. Additionally, it reduces the impact on the vehicle owner as well. Vehicle dwellers will not constantly be uprooted or incur additional citations or other punitive measures for being in violation of local vehicle codes. The program also provides a platform to engage clients about other critical services and housing opportunities.

Safe Parking locations are a temporary intervention for unsheltered persons seeking a path to housing. The implementation of the Safe Parking program provides a nexus of services all working toward ending the unsheltered status for its participants.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

Given the approved funding that has already been allocated to operate the program, adopting the proposed Resolution will have no fiscal impact. The table below identifies the funding source that has already been approved and allocated:

Fund	Organization	Account	Project	Source	Amount
1010 General Purpose Fund	<b>78411</b> Community Housing Services	<b>54912</b> Third Party Grants	1003810	Health and Safety FY 2018/19	\$300,000

**PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST**

This report did not require public outreach other than the posting of this report on the website.

**COORDINATION**

Coordination on the proposed Resolution has occurred between the Human Services Department, Budget Bureau, and the Interfaith Council of Alameda County.

**PAST PERFORMANCE**

This is a new program with no previous outcome data to analyze.

**SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

***Economic:*** As noted in the report, all funds identified are for the purpose of providing services and safe space to the unsheltered population in Oakland.

***Environmental:*** The provision of a Safe Parking program is intended to address the environmental degradation caused by unsheltered families and individuals precariously housed or living on the streets.

***Social Equity:*** The expenditure of these funds is targeted to the most vulnerable and at-risk populations in this City, and is providing essential and basic human services, housing and support.

**ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To Amend The Grant Agreement With WeHOPE To Extend The Grant Term Through April 30, 2020 To Continue The Operation Of A Safe Parking Program For Persons Living In Vehicles.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Lara Tannenbaum, Community Housing Services Division Manager, at 510-238-6187.

Respectfully submitted,



SARA BEDFORD  
Director, Human Services Department

Reviewed by:

Lara Tannenbaum, Community Housing Services, Manager

Prepared by:

Daryel R. Dunston, Community Housing Services, Planner

Attachments (1):

A: Staff Report re: Initial Action To Establish Safe Parking Program (9/20/18)



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2018 SEP 27 PM 3:33

# AGENDA REPORT

**TO:** Sabrina B. Landreth  
City Administrator

**FROM:** Sara Bedford  
Director, Human Services

**SUBJECT:** Safe Parking Program For Persons  
Living In Vehicles

**DATE:** September 20, 2018

City Administrator Approval:  Date: 9/27/18

## RECOMMENDATION

**Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To Enter Into A Grant Agreement With A Fiscal Sponsor On Behalf Of The Interfaith Council Of Alameda County In An Amount Not To Exceed \$300,000 To Provide A Safe Parking Program For Persons Living In Vehicles For A Grant Term Commencing On November 1, 2018 And Ending October 31, 2019; And If Additional Funds Become Available Amend The Grant Agreement To Increase The Grant Amount For The Provision Of Additional Safe Parking Sites Within The Grant Term.**

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The most recent Point-In-Time Homeless Count and Survey, conducted in January 2017, estimates that the unsheltered population in Oakland exceeds 1,900 individuals. That is a 26 percent increase compared to the previous survey that was conducted in January 2015.

The City Council appropriated funding for multiple interventions in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 budget to address the homeless crisis. Three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) was allocated to the Human Services Department (HSD) to fund health and hygiene services to the unsheltered population. These funds are being used for the creation of the Safe Parking program.

This report builds upon previous staff reports, and recommends that the City Council authorize the City Administrator to enter into a grant agreement with the fiscal sponsor of the Interfaith Council of Alameda County (ICAC) to provide Safe Parking sites for unsheltered persons who are living in vehicles.

The ICAC has applied for nonprofit status, however, since the organization's nonprofit status is pending, a fiscal sponsor is required to enter into a grant agreement with the City. The ICAC is actively seeking a fiscal sponsor, but at the time this report was submitted, a fiscal sponsor had not yet been identified.

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Life Enrichment Committee  
October 9, 2018

## **BACKGROUND/LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

On November 15, 2016, an informational report titled, "Homeless Encampments/Compassionate Communities," was presented to the Life Enrichment Committee. This report recommended several interim housing options to serve unsheltered people in Oakland, which included the development of a Safe Parking program (**Attachment A**).

On April 13, 2017, an informational report titled, "Funding Strategies To Reduce Homelessness In Oakland," was presented to the Life Enrichment Committee and outlined funding options for encampment health and safety, interim housing, permanent housing development, safe parking locations, and other direct and indirect programs that would mitigate the homeless crisis (**Attachment B**).

Shortly thereafter, the City engaged in discussions with faith leaders and business owners to explore the prospect of using empty parking lots to provide a safe space for unsheltered individuals to park their vehicles. Vehicle dwellers face the same challenges as other unsheltered persons, and the Safe Parking program aims to provide a safe place for vehicle dwellers to park while enhancing access to critical services.

## **ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES**

Many of Oakland's homeless population are living in their vehicles. This includes single adults, couples, and families with small children. For these individuals and families, finding a safe and legal place to park is challenging. Vehicle dwellers experience health issues, safety concerns, and a lack of stability. Additionally, this population faces the risk of losing a sheltered place to rest due to unpaid parking tickets or a lapsed vehicle registration. For some, their vehicle is solely used as their dwelling. For others, their vehicle is also their only means of transportation to take children to and from school or to seek employment. A Safe Parking program would provide a secure environment for those persons living in their vehicles, while simultaneously reducing the impact in neighborhoods where individuals currently sleep in vehicles on residential streets.

### ***Model***

Staff is working with the Interfaith Council of Alameda County to finalize the operational model. There are several models currently being explored, including (but not limited to) a single lot to house many vehicles, or several lots that will dedicate a set number of parking spaces to vehicle dwellers. All sites will provide basic amenities that include portable toilets, access to showers, grey and black water dumping, and site management, in addition to a secure location for vehicle dwellers to park. The grantee shall ensure all sites:

1. Are extremely low barrier with minimal rules and restrictions for participation.
2. Provide access to portable toilets and mobile showers.
3. Accept pets.
4. Provide staffing and services that are adequate to ensure safety within the site.

The Safe Parking program will ensure that residents are connected to the Oakland Coordinated Entry System (CES) in order to be assessed and prioritized for resources. Through CES some

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residents may receive homeless specific housing assistance, and others may receive rental assistance, access to mainstream housing, and/or reunification with friends and family. As individuals exit the program, space for additional vehicles will become available. Not all individuals will end their unsheltered status through this program, and the Human Services Department continues to actively seek out additional interventions.

**Impact**

The Safe Parking program will provide stability, safety, and critical services. Having people living in a specific location reduces the impact the vehicle or RV may have on housed residents in an area - it reduces debris, human waste, illegal dumping, and hazardous materials, such as oil and fluids from the vehicle. Additionally, it reduces the impact on the vehicle or RV owner as well. Vehicle dwellers will not constantly be uprooted or incur additional citations or other punitive measures for being in violation of local vehicle codes. The program also provides a platform to engage clients further in services and housing opportunities.

Safe Parking locations are a temporary intervention for unsheltered persons seeking a path to housing. The implementation of a Safe Parking program at designated locations will offer a nexus of services all working toward ending the unsheltered status for its participants.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

The funds are available in the amount of up to \$300,000 as identified in the table below:

Fund	Organization	Account	Project	Source	Amount
1010 General Purpose Fund	78411 Community Housing Services	54912 Third Party Grants	1003810	Health and Safety FY 2018/19	\$300,000

These funds will be disbursed in a grant agreement to ICAC's fiscal sponsor, in an amount not to exceed \$300,000, for a grant term commencing on November 1, 2018, and ending October 31, 2019, to provide secure parking locations using the local faith based organizations' parking lot properties or similar properties in their control.

The proposed resolution also authorizes the City Administrator to amend the grant agreement and increase the grant amount, if additional funding becomes available, to expand access to additional sites within the grant term.

**PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST**

This report did not require public outreach other than the posting of this report on the website.

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Life Enrichment Committee  
October 9, 2018

**COORDINATION**

Coordination on the proposed Resolution has occurred between the Human Services Department, Office of the City Attorney, Budget Bureau, Interfaith Council of Alameda County, and the City Administrator's Office.

**PAST PERFORMANCE**

This is a new program and therefore has no prior or equivalent data.

**SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

***Economic:*** As noted in the report, all funds identified are for the purpose of providing services and safe space to the unsheltered population in Oakland.

***Environmental:*** The provision of a Safe Parking program is intended to address the environmental degradation caused by unsheltered families and individuals precariously housed or living on the streets.

***Social Equity:*** The expenditure of these funds is targeted to the most vulnerable and at-risk populations in this City, and is providing essential and basic human services, housing and support.




**ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Staff Recommends That The City Council Adopt A Resolution Authorizing The City Administrator To Enter Into A Grant Agreement With A Fiscal Sponsor On Behalf Of The Interfaith Council Of Alameda County In An Amount Not To Exceed \$300,000 To Provide A Safe Parking Program For Persons Living In Vehicles For A Grant Term Commencing On November 1, 2018 And Ending October 31, 2019; And If Additional Funds Become Available Amend The Grant Agreement To Increase The Grant Amount For The Provision Of Additional Safe Parking Sites Within The Grant Term.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Lara Tannenbaum, Community Housing Services Manager, at 510-238-6187.

Respectfully submitted,

  
SARA BEDFORD  
Director, Human Services Department

Reviewed by:

Lara Tannenbaum, Community Housing  
Services, Manager

Prepared by:

Daryel R. Dunston, Community Housing  
Services, Provisional Program Planner

Attachments (2):

A: Homeless Encampments/Compassionate Communities (November 2016)

B: Funding Strategies To Reduce Homelessness In Oakland (April 2017)

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October 9, 2018

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Approved as to Form and Legality

  
City Attorney

# OAKLAND CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_ C.M.S.

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO AMEND THE GRANT AGREEMENT WITH WEHOPE TO EXTEND THE GRANT TERM THROUGH APRIL 30, 2020 TO CONTINUE THE OPERATION OF A SAFE PARKING PROGRAM FOR PERSONS LIVING IN VEHICLES**

**WHEREAS**, approximately 1,902 individuals are living outside and unsheltered in the City of Oakland at any given time; and

**WHEREAS**, approximately 86% of homeless individuals in Oakland resided in Alameda County prior to homelessness; and

**WHEREAS**, many homeless individuals and families in Oakland are living in their vehicles; and

**WHEREAS**, the City entered into a grant agreement with WeHOPE to provide a Safe Parking program for persons living in their vehicles to supplement existing homeless interventions; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council allocated funds in the amount of \$300,000 for the Safe Parking program on October 16, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the Safe Parking Program operates on sites owned or controlled by the local faith based community and the program is projected to provide secure parking for approximately 50 vehicles per night and will provide portable toilets, wash stations, and site security; and

**WHEREAS**, the current grant term ends on October 31, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, the program was designed to operate for 12 months with the funding provided by the City Council; and

**WHEREAS**, due to administrative and infrastructure challenges, the program did not commence until May 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, the City desires for the Safe Parking Program to operate for a full calendar year through April 2020; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**: That the City Council authorizes the City Administrator to amend the grant agreement with WeHOPE to extend the grant term through April 20, 2020 to continue the operation of a safe parking program for persons living in vehicles; and be it

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**FURTHER RESOLVED:** Should additional funding become available, that the City Administrator is hereby authorized to amend the above-referenced grant agreement with WeHOPE to increase the grant amount for the provision of additional Safe Parking sites during the grant term; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the City Council authorizes the City Administrator to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to applications, agreements, amendments, modifications, payment requests, and related actions which may be necessary for the above-referenced grant agreements without returning to Council; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the grant agreement shall be reviewed as to form and legality by the Office of the City Attorney and copies will be filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

IN COUNCIL, OAKLAND, CALIFORNIA,

PASSED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES - FORTUNATO BAS, GALLO, GIBSON MCELHANEY, KALB, REID, TAYLOR, THAO AND  
PRESIDENT KAPLAN

NOES -

ABSENT -

ABSTENTION -

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

LATONDA SIMMONS  
City Clerk and Clerk of the Council of the  
City of Oakland, California