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To: [Mary Gourtley](#); [Lawrence McLaughlin](#); [Kevin Kilgore](#); [ecortes@sebastopolcharter.org](#); [Chris Totham](#); [Dante Del Prete](#); [rhaug@sebastopolcharter.org](#)
Subject: RV Parking Permits - Use Existing Permit Process - Palm Avenue and beyond - Public Comment 12/7/21
Date: Tuesday, December 07, 2021 8:41:28 AM

Dear Council Members,

I'm writing to urge you to immediately enact a Citywide Parking Permit Program based on the existing and extremely simple Residential Parking Permit Program that is already in use in Sebastopol. Documents attached at the end of this letter.

The Sebastopol Police Department was contacted about RVs parked on Palm Avenue on November 19, 2021. It is 18 days later and they are still there. Clearly, the 72 hour rule does not work. This is also clearly evidenced on Morris Street, Taft Street and the Laguna Parkway.

I ask that you implement no overnight parking in any of the City Owned parking lots. As you work with SAVS to offer shelter and resources to the unhoused, we need to have clear parking guidelines in our City parking lots.

Martin v. Boise does not allow any tolerance for people to park for any length of time without entering in a shadowy area of obligation and potential litigation.

As Sebastopol's citizens, taxpayers and small businesses have already put a tremendous amount of resources into transient beds and services, we need to make sure that we will not be obligated to future resources because of an influx of new encampments. We have more homeless beds and services than Rohnert Park (pop. 42,000).

We do not have any tourist accommodations downtown because our only downtown hotel was converted to homeless housing. Occidental (pop. 862) has more tourist beds in its downtown than Sebastopol; we have more transient beds in our downtown than tourist beds.

The loss of the Sebastopol Inn has a significant impact on our City revenue and budget, our local, small businesses and our community amenities. We have a high rate of vacancy in downtown and in our commercial areas which is contributing to the current and on-going budget deficit.

As we have a system already in place for permit parking, it should be very easy to apply it to RVs. People who reside or own a business in Sebastopol could apply using this system and pay a \$10 fee. When a RV is parked, the vehicle could be noticed with this information. It is extremely straightforward and low cost. From my observation, it seems that there are very few residents who actually park their RVs on the street. I would guess the number is less than 50.

RV dwellers use social media to advertise Sebastopol as a place to go and live on the streets. Please see this YouTube video by Rick G. and note at 2 minutes 37 seconds, he says "It's legal to live in Sebastopol as long as you move every three days."
<https://youtu.be/eUeneFLvkAw>

Given our 21st environment of social media, cell phones and communication technology, we need to make sure that people are not coming into Sebastopol and using our City as a free RV park.

It is costly to residents who have to pay to pick up trash, clean public restrooms, have their public spaces impacted and their neighborhoods disrupted. While it is "free" to these RV campers, there is a cost to residents who pay their property taxes and to our local small businesses who generate sales tax, which is the primary source of City revenue and pays for our City services, fire, police, public works and infrastructure. In all other instances of accommodations like a campsite or hotel room, people are required to register their names and vehicle numbers so that people can't float around communities in anonymity. In addition, hotels, vacation rentals and campsites collect Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) to off-set the impact that tourists/transients have on communities.

Residents pay their property taxes in good faith that the money is going back into city services, city infrastructure like sidewalks, roads and parks, and making sure that police, fire and public works are fully staffed and funded.

Currently, Sebastopol is underfunded and understaffed in all areas, Sebastopol's roads are some of the worst in Sonoma County and many parks projects languish because of lack of funding. We need to create fiscal balance and parity in our budget and revenue streams. It is unfair to people who pay property tax and sales tax not to prioritize the immediate needs of the City over those who do not pay any taxes, are not residents and are simply using our town's resources because they are "free" to them.

Adrienne Lauby, Tim Miller and Arthur George are homeless advocates. Their mission and goal is to get resources and funding for their constituents. They are not responsible to the citizens, small business owners and taxpayers of Sebastopol. They are not responsible for the City budget, for funding road repair, staffing the police department or funding capital improvements. They are not advocates for Sebastopol's schools, families and children. Council is supposed to advocate for the needs, health and well-being of the entire City, not a niche population of 60-200 people. I ask that Council make decisions based on the needs, safety and well-being of the entirety of their constituents.

Sonoma County has spent over \$90,000,000 in the last two years on homeless programs and services. The County has reduced the homeless population by less than 300 people. The State of California spent \$13 billion in the last 3 years on homeless programs only to see the homeless population increase. The State intends to spend another \$12 billion over the next two years. There is an incredible amount of money being spent on programs that seem to be completely ineffectual which do not serve the needs of transients nor the needs of the general population. This is an incredible amount of tax money and it's hard to imagine any situation where this type of failure would be acceptable. I urge the Council to work with the County to hold them accountable for failing programs and to not place any more financial or social burden on the citizens of Sebastopol.

Best regards,
Kate Haug

2022

Residential Parking Permits

Permit #: _____

Resident(s) and address: _____

Vehicle #1

Make: _____ **Model:** _____ **Color:** _____ **Plate:** _____

Registered Owner: _____ **Phone#:** _____

Vehicle #2

Make: _____ **Model:** _____ **Color:** _____ **Plate:** _____

Registered Owner: _____ **Phone#:** _____

Vehicle #3

Make: _____ Model: _____ Color: _____ Plate: _____

Registered Owner: _____ Phone#: _____

Vehicle #4

Make: _____ Model: _____ Color: _____ Plate: _____

Registered Owner: _____ Phone#: _____

Resident Only Parking

- 1.) Residential parking permits are for residents only.
- 2.) A resident is a person whose primary residence is on Bonnardel, Taft or Wallace Streets.
- 3.) A Maximum of 4 permits will be issued to each residence.
- 4.) Permits may not be provided to individuals other than residents. They may not be leant, sub-let or in any other way provided to a non-resident. This includes but is not limited to visiting relatives and or friends.
- 5.) If guests are expected at a residence, it is suggested the resident(s) park on the street, utilizing their residential parking permit, allowing the guests to use the driveway or other off street parking.
- 6.) Permits must be renewed by January 30th.
- 7.) Residents who are cited because they forgot to display their permit, may be provided one warning, per calendar year, upon request at the police department.
- 8.) During certain major events in the area, the neighborhood parking regulations will not be enforced. These events may include, but are not limited to, high school graduation and 3rd of July fireworks.
- 9.) Resident only parking is in effect, and enforced, 365 days a year, with the exception of the reasons listed above.

Letter to Residents

December 1, 2021

Dear Bonnardel Avenue, Wallace Street and Taft Street Residents,

____ This is a reminder to come in and purchase your 2022 residential parking permits. The permits are available now. The permits are \$10.00 each, with a limit of 4 per household. Please bring in proof of your residency to obtain your permits.

____ Please fill out the enclosed form and bring it with you when you purchase your permits. We ask that you fill out a new form each year to keep our records up to date and correct.

____ All residents must renew their permits by January 30, 2022 to avoid being cited. If you have any questions please contact Michelle Beckman at 707-829-4400.

Thank You,

Michelle Beckman

Police Technician