

From: [Oliver Marks](#)
To: [Mary Gourley](#)
Subject: Public Comment for Nov 16 council meeting
Date: Monday, November 15, 2021 4:50:08 PM

Hi Mary
Here's my public comment. Thanks!

Enforcing existing laws and implementing parking permits

The current transient street parking situation in Sebastopol city limits requires the urgent reinstatement of **enforcement of existing laws** Citizens of the City of Sebastopol must abide by and the implementation of pre permissioned **RV parking permits**. I urge you to discuss the organization of this, and to reinstate the Morris Street bicycle path.

The Sonoma Applied Village Services non profit corporation proposed partially grant funded 'safe parking' transient vehicle parking concept

Vote no on 'borrowing' City of Sebastopol land for one year adjacent to various Sebastopol civic amenities and tourist revenue generating sites.

There is no reason for Sebastopol to proceed with yet more informally funded short term band aid fixes for the massive California wide transient migration problem. The city has already contributed a disproportionate amount of land, effort and money to a poorly organized state and county problem (the Sebastopol Inn project currently houses 27 people attended to by DEMA, private security at tremendous cost, this is not a viable long term solution to a massive problem involving thousands of people with major issues).

There are multiple reasons the proposed site is not fit for purpose:

- Area is a **flood plain** with recent histories of rapid water level rises (Park Village also flooded in 2019)
- Area is a **major fire risk** both for the laguna undergrowth, packing vehicles closely together invites a major fire event across multiple vehicles based on recent past fires at Park Village and on Morris Street which could spread to other structures
- Not an appropriate site for substance abuse , mentally ill & transient parking given existing citizen uses of adjacent local facilities which are incompatible and could **expose children to inappropriate activities, sights and sounds**
- Recently formed 'Sonoma Applied Village Services' non profit corporation **has no evidence of any track record or experiences of managing a project of anything like this magnitude**, and claims street living transients will suddenly become self governing and orderly aren't credible
- Incomplete **funding, no long term funding** in place meaning Sebastopol will be saddled with costs with an inflation damaged funding cliff on the economic horizon
- Questionable **long term legal status**, campers may become wards of Sebastopol with residential status
- The project is only advantageous to SAVS non profit model, **does nothing to ease the burden of transient street parking** in Sebastopol
- Use of site is **not contingent on sobriety guarantees, local origins** of users
- As community center emerges from pandemic restrictions **visitors will increase and parking will be needed**
- There is no verbiage anywhere in project concept notes that this experiment will merely **attract more transient street parkers** if parking spaces become available in designated industrial streets.

Previous city policies around street camping has arguably resulted in a magnet effect for travelers and has had a very negative impact on tourism as we emerge from the pandemic and start to rebuild our local economy.

There is no reason for Sebastopol to proceed with yet more informally funded short term band aid fixes for the burgeoning California wide transient migration problem. The city of Sebastopol has already contributed a disproportionate amount of land, effort and money to a poorly organized state and county problem.

I urge you to say no to the SAVS request to borrow Sebastopol downtown land and to focus on pressuring our county supervisor Hopkins and the board of supervisors to find sites where SAVS can experiment with their 'applied

villages' thinking on existing unused county acreage and infrastructure, having researched what is working well in Texas and other parts of the country and world.

Thank you for your time and efforts on resolving these issues for the citizens of the city of Sebastopol.

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Downtown Sebastopol

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