

From: [Oliver Marks](#)
To: [Mary Gourley](#)
Subject: Fwd: November 2 meeting Public comment: NO on SAVS transient RV parking camp on loaned downtown land
Date: Monday, November 01, 2021 7:10:23 PM

Dear hard working council members

I am writing on the public record to **formally oppose** SAVS proposed partially grant funded 'safe parking' transient vehicle parking concept, for which they would like to borrow City of Sebastopol land for one year adjacent to various Sebastopol civic amenities and tourist revenue generating sites.

There are multiple reasons for this site not being appropriate:

- 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 **sufferers**, the mentally ill & visiting transient parkers given existing citizen uses of adjacent local facilities which are incompatible and could **expose children to inappropriate activities, sights and sounds**
- Incomplete **funding, no long term funding** in place meaning Sebastopol will be saddled with costs
- 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

What will be appropriate for the current transient street parking situation in Sebastopol city limits is the **enforcement of existing laws**, implementation of **RV parking permits**, I urge you to discuss the organization of this and to reinstate the Morris Street bicycle path.

Having had the only downtown **hotel** in Sebastopol confiscated by county bureaucrats in 2020 (with only mildly insulting compensation of a single year of lost bed tax revenue by county supervisors), pressure on the county and supervisors is **urgently needed** to get a coherent strategy and action plan. The CoC & CDC need to demonstrate they can actually do their job and organize triaged help for the three main categories of transients: substance abuse disorders, mentally ill and indigents at separate county campuses with appropriate services for their needs on county infrastructure.

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).

The liberal city policies around street camping has arguably resulted in a magnet effect for travellers and has a very negative impact on tourism as we emerge from the pandemic and start to rebuild our local economy. **I urge you to say no to the SAVS request to borrow Sebastopol downtown land and and focus on pressuring our county supervisor Hopkins to find sites where SAVS can experiment with their safe parking idea on existing unused county acreage.**

Thank you for your time and efforts on this difficult subject.

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