

Safe Parking Fact Sheet

Please see below for details on the proposed use of the gated city lot at the Westchester Municipal Building for a Safe Parking LA program.

What: Councilmember Bonin supports the implementation of Safe Parking programs, both in Council District 11 and citywide as a strategy under the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA) Continuum of Care and Coordinated Entry System. Safe Parking LA is a non-profit that coordinates Safe Parking programs on underutilized parking lots throughout the city. Safe Parking LA is the proposed operator of the site and would work within the existing Coordinated Entry System to:

- stabilize and support people who are living in their vehicles and actively working with a service provider to seek housing,
- connect people experiencing homelessness in their vehicles with the resources and services they may not know are available for them.

Who: Council District 11, Safe Parking LA, St. Joseph's Center (other CES)

When: The program is currently in the planning stages, and there is not yet a confirmed start date.

Where: Fully-enclosed parking lot at the southeast corner of Manchester/Lincoln, directly adjacent to Westchester City Hall. Currently, only city-owned vehicles are able to park in this lot.

Why: People living in their vehicles need to sleep at night in a way that is safe and legal while they are working to get back into housing. Voters have repeatedly said they are willing to invest in long-term built solutions to homelessness in addition to immediate and innovative solutions. Safe Parking programs address the vulnerability of people experiencing homelessness in their vehicles, protecting them from being victimized while they sleep, and unburden westside neighborhood streets. Safe Parking programs prevent vehicle dwellers from falling further into homelessness and becoming encampment dwellers who will need additional services and stabilizing measures to get back into housing.

GENERAL INFO ABOUT SAFE PARKING PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT LOS ANGELES

PILOT PROGRAM:

Operating the programs for a stated duration with a fixed number of concurrent vehicles served provide for contracts to be updated, continued, or closed, based on the information gleaned in the duration. Each community has unique needs, locations to offer, and services available.

TOP THREE COMMUNITY CONCERNS:

What if there are problems with patrons? We can evict and tow immediately, per our rules and regulations (City Attorney's Office/LAPD)

I am concerned about the safety of children. There is no overlap of use between children outside of a Safe Parking program and participants. Current Safe Parking programs operate directly adjacent to preschools and primary schools with full support of the neighborhood & LAUSD.

What about RVs? The size of the vehicle is the primary limitation. Secondly, it is difficult and costly to move an RV and find parking during the day. There are no RVs currently in any Safe Parking program, though RV-specific studies are being conducted by the city and the county.

Safe Parking Fact Sheet

ALL SAFE PARKING PROGRAMS THROUGHOUT THE CITY PROVIDE:

- Entry to the program through an application/interview process, requiring current driver's license, registration, and insurance.
- Rules and regulations specific to that location that patrons adhere to
- Mechanism for legal and immediate ejection from program/property
- Connection to homeless services and the Coordinated Entry System
- An unarmed security guard who opens and closes the program and interacts with patrons, checking them in and out on a log
- Restrictions regarding daytime parking within a 500 ft radius
- Access to restrooms, either on-site or portapotty with washbasin
- A safe and legal place for people already seeking services to sleep at night

Questions specific to the Westchester/Playa Del Rey Neighborhood Council:

PROPOSED FOR MUNICIPAL LOT:

(all of the standard framework, mandated by LAHSA, plus/specifically)

- 90-day pilot for a nighttime-only program, approx 12 hours/day.
- Up to 6 vehicles with no RVs
- ADA accessible portapotty and washbasin (serviced 3 X per week)
- First cohort of patrons already working with St. Joseph's Center and actively seeking housing.

Comments/Questions raised regarding this program:

1. Moving of vehicles into residential streets during the day.

Part of the Rules & Regulations package that is put together for each program includes a 500 ft radius "Good Neighbor" parking map. At penalty of expulsion of the program, participants are not allowed to simply drive out of the program location and park for the rest of the day. All other public spaces and city streets are available for use as they are to any member of the public during stated hours.

2. Others being attracted to the park because of the program.

Safe Parking programs have a positive impact on neighborhoods by lifting the burden and safety concerns for vehicle dwellers. The parking lot that is currently unguarded will now have greater visibility due to having a nighttime presence, and along with Safe Parking programs comes more LAPD patrol.

3. Why not use a larger footprint such as the old bus station in Venice?

Starting a 6-car pilot program on this property does not preclude other locations and programs from being suggested. Other neighborhood councils showing support to bring Safe Parking to their area include West LA Sawtelle (full board vote) and Del Rey (Homeless Committee).

4. No community support or perceived lack of outreach for this program.

As an elected body charged with providing a conduit of communication from the community to City Hall, neighborhood councils and their publicly-noticed accessible meetings are a type of outreach that is conducted at the neighborhood level.

5. LAPD will not enforce the program.

LAPD is an enthusiastic supporter of Safe Parking programs, and we maintain an active relationship with Pacific Division (Sgt. Lowe & Senior Lead Officers) beginning in March, continuing for the opening of the pilot and any on-going program. To date, we have had zero calls to LAPD across all our programs and no

Safe Parking Fact Sheet

emergencies on our lots. LAPD embraces this strategy as it prevents crime and victimization for people who are falling into homelessness and don't know where to find safety. All onsite security is non-LAPD.

6. Motion does not have a limit on number of vehicles.

The limit on the number of vehicles for the pilot is six. This is the maximum allowable number of vehicles in the fully-enclosed lot that has been identified.

7. Current Driver's License and Registration along with a safety inspection.

A current driver's license, registration, and insurance are part of the Safe Parking program criteria. There is a way to connect participants to low-cost insurance, help with registration, parking citations, and connecting to other programs that address these needs. There is no safety inspection for vehicles beyond the smog and registration verification.

8. How are the applicants vetted? What are the qualifications criteria?

The application and documents required are part of a multi-step but low-barrier process, in accordance with the "no wrong door" policy adopted by the city and county. All single men are screened in the National Sex Offender Database. Beyond providing the necessary documentation and the aforementioned screening, the primary criteria becomes ensuring that the applicant will be able to adhere to the Rules & Regulations of the program and work with their case manager to find housing.

9. How is sanitation and trash pickup being organized? Who pays for it?

All Safe Parking programs provide for trash and either pay for service directly or coordinate costs with the lot owner/facility.

10. Security on site? What are the conduct policies? Are friends allowed?

There is onsite security for all Safe Parking programs for the duration of the program hours. The Rules & Regulations/Code of Conduct that govern behavior and expectations for the program are drafted for each location with the hours of operation and specifically address concerns for that community. Only registered members of the program are able to participate and are checked in by the guard every night.

11. What sort of insurance does Safe Parking have?

Safe Parking LA operates as a 501c3 through its fiscal sponsor, Social & Environmental Entrepreneurs. It provides a standard general liability insurance certificate for the operating address, naming the lot owner as the additional insured certificate holder on its \$1M-\$2M policy.

12. What services are the patrons directed to?

St. Joseph's Center is the lead agency for all people experiencing homelessness in West Los Angeles, with the exception of Transitional Age Youth. This means that anyone actively working toward housing with St. Joseph's Center and living in their vehicle can be referred to Safe Parking LA and begin the application process. Conversely, people who are falling into homelessness for the first time by recently losing a job or not being able to pay a rent increase are not well-connected to homeless services and often start to look on the internet for where they can sleep in their vehicles. By coming to Safe Parking LA's website, they find a resource that helps to address immediate concerns of safety and compliance with local laws and provides them with a warm hand off to services for to address other issues but always with the focus of housing.