



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: March 22, 2023

SUBJECT: Safe Parking Program Update

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

N/A

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

Per Board direction, staff is drafting a Safe Parking Program for Board consideration to be adopted into Deschutes County Code to allow limited overnight parking in the unincorporated County for people experiencing homelessness to aid in transition to stable housing. Staff is researching several programs for guidance and options.

The programs are intended to provide a legal place to park, often equipped with hygiene stations, laundry facilities, electricity, and shower services. For service providers, safe parking programs can help connect people experiencing homelessness with services and supportive housing options. Some safe parking programs include overnight security guards.

Safe Parking programs are generally only allowed on properties owned or leased by businesses, non-profits or religious or public entities. Some programs limit overnight parking up to three vehicles under certain circumstances and up to six or more vehicles in other circumstances.

Programs vary between low-barrier and high-barrier requirements. Most have strict requirements regarding dogs, the storage of belongings, and more.

In the unincorporated County, and based on longstanding statewide land use restrictions, there appear to be few options where Safe Parking may be authorized. For example, Safe Parking appears to be allowed in unincorporated communities and inside urban growth boundaries (outside of city limits). It is important to note that lands inside UGBs and outside city limits are subject to Joint Management Agreements between the County and cities, which address land use, building, and code compliance jurisdiction, among other related issues.

It is unclear if Safe Parking can be authorized as a temporary use in other rural zones, such as the Exclusive Farm Use (EFU), Forest, Rural Residential-10 or Multiple Use Agricultural-10 Zones.

In April, staff will bring an initial draft Safe Parking Program memo with options for Board decisions, such as zones, lot sizes, number of vehicles, and site and service requirements.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

None.

The intent is to provide an opportunity for property owners or properties leased by businesses, non-profits or religious or public entities to participate in the program. The provision of services would be determined separately.

ATTENDANCE:

Nick Lelack, County Administrator

Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator

Cheyenne Purrington, Executive Director, Coordinated Houseless Response Office

Stephanie Marshall, Assistant County Attorney

Peter Gutowsky, Community Development Director