



BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST & STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE: June 21, 2023

SUBJECT: Discussion and Possible Board Direction on a Safe Parking Program in Unincorporated Deschutes County

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

Provide staff direction.

BACKGROUND AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

The cities of Bend and Redmond have implemented Safe Parking programs to allow for limited overnight parking for people experiencing homelessness. At the direction of the Board of County Commissioners, County staff has explored the possibility of the County adopting a safe parking in the unincorporated County.

City of Bend's Safe Parking Program

The City of Bend's Safe Parking Program has two levels: overnight camping (up to three vehicles) and transitional overnight parking accommodation (up to 6 vehicles). Key elements of each level are listed below.

- Overnight Camping
 - Property owner/lessee must provide access to sanitation, including a bathroom, hand washing facilities, and trash disposal.
 - No formal City authorization required.
 - Property must be leased or owned by a business, non-profit, or public entity.

- Transitional Overnight Parking Accommodation
 - Property owner/lessee must provide a plan and provide access to sanitation, including a bathroom; hand washing facilities; trash disposal; supervision, and policies on who can stay, how long, and what hours.
 - Notice of an application to neighboring property owners.
 - Applicants need to accept liability and demonstrate insurance

- coverage acceptable to the City.
- Individual residential property owners are not eligible to participate.
- This program requires case management or supervision.
- Applications are processed administratively, not through land use.
- City Manager approves/denies applications.

City of Redmond's Safe Parking Program

The City of Redmond's program is limited to properties operated by a religious institution, non-profit, public, or commercial entity, and not currently used for residential use. Other key elements include the following:

- The property owner/lessee applies for and receives approval from the Community Development Department.
- The property owner/ lessee accepts liability and demonstrates insurance coverage.
- Limited to up to six vehicles.
- Property owner/lessee makes available on the premises sanitary facilities, including a restroom, handwashing facility, and trash disposal.
- Reasonable policies that set out what supervision will be provided.

Deschutes County Options

With the passage of House Bill 2006 (2021), Deschutes County is able to create a Safe Parking program inside an Urban Growth Boundary (UGB). At this point, there are differing opinions if state land use allows safe parking in the unincorporated county outside of UGBs. Staff is seeking Board direction on whether to propose a safe parking program code for the unincorporated county and has identified the following options:

1. Status quo – do not adopt a safe parking program in the unincorporated county.
2. Draft a safe parking program code within UGBs and outside city limits and bring back to the Board for discussion and consideration.
3. Draft a safe parking program code for the unincorporated county both within and outside of UGBs. This could be accompanied with an emergency declaration by the Board of County Commissioners regarding homelessness.

BUDGET IMPACTS:

TBD

ATTENDANCE:

Erik Kropp, Deputy County Administrator