

Safe Parking Pilot Program Proposal

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Safe Parking Overview

- What is Safe Parking?
- City History with Safe Parking

City Role

- Determination of Requirements

Program Proposal

- Details of Pilot Program Proposal
- Neighborhood Engagement

Discussion

Are Councilmembers interested in City staff bringing code updates to allow a Safe Parking program to operate in Fort Collins?

If yes, what considerations for code updates and enforcement are top of mind for Councilmembers?

What is Safe Parking?

Safe Parking Programs allow people experiencing homelessness to legally sleep in their vehicles overnight in sanctioned parking lots.

- Participants must meet requirements, apply, and be accepted
- Not considered shelter or housing program; participants have access to case management
- Light touch, low investment option
- One solution within a larger suite of solutions
- Can provide stability for clients working toward self-sufficiency
- Often used by those who can't or won't go to shelter



2022

- City staff began exploring
- Met with Larimer County, League of Women Voters, CSU
- Presented to Fort Collins Interfaith Council (IFC)

2023

- Met with City of Loveland – Loveland SafeLot opened in Nov.
- HOPE for Longmont site tour
- Capstone student research project
- City staff team began meeting

2024-Present

- Multiple churches show interest in hosting
- Current program team began collaborating in 2025



The City would determine parameters for approval of Safe Parking Programs in Fort Collins

No direct client involvement or day-to-day oversight

Continue to enforce other laws related to nuisance, health and safety, and criminal activity

Determine what conditions would lead to early termination of program

Assess whether to retain code changes after proposed one-year pilot period

Current Pilot Program Proposal



Partners	Trinity Lutheran Church, First United Methodist Church Catholic Charities, Family Housing Network
Cadence	Each lot hosts every other month
Hours of Operation	7pm – 7am
Max Capacity	7 passenger vehicles
Eligibility Criteria	Must pass background check and have valid license, registration and vehicle insurance
Intake Process	Completed by FHN and CC
Resource Navigation	Case management available through FHN and CC
Restrooms & Trash	Will provide portable toilets and trash receptacles
Pet Policy	Pets are allowed and must remain in the vehicle or leashed at all times
Security	Cameras will be installed and monitored by staff at CC
Extreme Heat/Cold	Will provide space inside during inclement weather

First United Methodist Church

- Connected with neighbors both door-to-door and during an open house
- Mostly positive response but not unanimous support
- Selected portion of parking lot nearest supportive neighbors

Trinity Lutheran Church

- Hosted one open house and one panel presentation that included nonprofit partners and Fort Collins Police Services
- Received mixed response from neighbors; several neighbors, including a neighboring business that serves children, have expressed concerns and reservations

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