



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEMO

DEPARTMENT	PRESENTED BY	DATE
Community Development	Bill Almquist - Community Development Director	April 18, 2022

ITEM

Safe Outdoor Space/Overnight Parking Permit Program for Spring/Summer/Fall 2022

BACKGROUND

City Council directed staff at the last Council meeting to work on identifying a location(s) where local workforce who are living in their vehicles can safely park overnight and remain during the day, if they so choose. This concept originated with Bringing Everyone Through the Crisis of Housing (BETCH) organization. Previously, staff had recommended a overnight parking location (by permit only) of the Touber Building; however, due to the amount of use of that lot by both City and County staff, as well as members of the public doing business within the building, overnight vehicles would need to vacate the premises by 7:30AM. This was viewed as a challenge to those individuals, some of whom work into the late hours and because they would still need to find other locations to park during the day where they would not be forced to move frequently or risk being cited.

Staff has assessed several potential locations for a “Safe Outdoor Space”/overnight workforce parking permit program, based upon several markers, including: ample space, proximity to downtown, accessibility, availability of water, shade protection, public parking opportunities, and safety, among others. We will present our preferred location, along with the framework for an agreement with BETCH (or other qualified organization) to administer/oversee the program from approximately May through October. City Council’s feedback and direction is appreciated.
