



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION MEMO

DEPARTMENT	PRESENTED BY	DATE
Community Development/ Administration	Bill Almquist - Community Development Director Drew Nelson – City Administrator	April 4, 2022

ITEM

Temporary Housing/Safe Space Options for Spring/Summer/Fall 2022

BACKGROUND

While the City has recently taken numerous steps towards increasing the supply of affordable housing to be built over the next several years (e.g. Inclusionary Housing policies, collaboration with the Chaffee Housing Trust, reductions of various fees for rental and affordable units, relaxation of certain zoning restrictions, etc.), there is currently an extreme shortage of all types of housing—especially affordable long-term rental units. This housing shortage puts a sizeable burden on individual members of the workforce, and their employers in turn are faced with staffing challenges that threaten the reduction of services and even closure.

The City has recently received requests from parts of the community to create a “safe space” campground for the local workforce this summer. Unfortunately, there are a variety of challenges to such a use on public lands (not the least of which include the availability of unrestricted land, the provision of related services, and various other zoning and/or legal matters that could delay such a project several months, if not longer). There may, however, be some other feasible and inexpensive (or at least more substantive) options to address the immediate needs, including: a seasonal overnight permit parking program within the Toubert Building parking lot; and a City-owned RV rental program located at a local RV Resort.

Staff will present Council with further information regarding these concepts aimed at helping “unhoused” members of the local workforce during the work session. City Council’s feedback and direction is appreciated.
