

# TIGARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SAFE PARKING GOOD NEIGHBOR GUIDELINES

Tigard United Methodist Church (TUMC) hosts a Safe Parking lot as part of the Safe Parking Program operated by Just Compassion of East Washington County (JCEWC) at 9845 SW Walnut Place, Tigard, OR 97223.

JCEWC is a non-profit organization that addresses the needs of individuals experiencing houselessness by providing shelter, resource navigation, and wraparound services.

The Safe Parking lot hosts up to three households living in their vehicles at the TUMC parking lot location.

The Program's purpose is to help people obtain stable housing by offering a safe and secure place to sleep at night and a Case Manager to help them reach their goals.









# TIGARD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SAFE PARKING GOOD NEIGHBOR GUIDELINES

These guidelines serve as a shared understanding between TUMC, JCEWC, and the Tigard community for how the Safe Parking lot will operate, how rules will be enforced, and the expectations for addressing issues at the site.

These guidelines apply to the Tigard United Methodist Church site.

These guidelines will prioritize neighborhood safety and access to services. Inherent in this document is the assumption that all parties have certain basic rights, including the right of all community members to feel safe and welcome and the right to access available community resources, services, and public facilities.



## **Mutual Goals**

We aim to accomplish common goals, which include:

- Reduce the number of individuals experiencing unsheltered. houselessness in Tigard.
- Maintain a peaceful, safe, and clean neighborhood.
- Share open and honest communication.

- Help each other address concerns and solve problems.
- Offer public service for the benefit of the Community.
- Respect others and their properties.
- Allow community members to safely access services.

## **Safety and Security**

We understand that safety and security are essential for community members to live peacefully, free from harm, and for neighborhoods to remain desirable and attractive.

To promote safety and security for the entire community, the City and JCEWC entered into a Grant Agreement that requires the JCEWC establish a system for providing on-call crisis intervention services.

Below is the process for reporting concerns and JCEWC's process for response:

If a community member witnesses anything of concern at the Safe Parking lot, they should follow this protocol:

- If it is an emergency (defined as an immediate threat to life or property) call 911.
- If the concern is not an emergency, contact JCEWC at their 24-hour contact number; 503-624-4666.
- The community may also contact police non-emergency if the concern is not an immediate threat to life or property, but you feel a police response is necessary. The number is 503-629-0111.

Any incident reported to JCEWC's 24/7 contact line will be reported to the Safe Parking Coordinator who will respond as soon as practicable but no later than 48 hours after JCEWC is notified of the incident.

If the incident involves a report of a violation of the Code of Conduct, the Safe Parking Coordinator will investigate the report.

If it involves a violation of the no drugs, no alcohol, or no violent activity rules, the participant will be exited from the Program.

For all other Code violations, the Safe Parking Coordinator will document the violation and work with the participant to correct the behavior. A participant may be exited from the Program for one or more Code of Conduct violations at the discretion of JCEWC.

Program exits will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will be evaluated based on these criteria:

The safety and security of other participants

- successfully completing the program
- The safety and security of the surrounding neighborhood
- The likelihood of the participant correcting their behavior and



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## **Property**

The Safe Lot property needs to be presentable to maintain the neighborhood's appearance.

The Grant Agreement between the City and JCEWC requires that JCEWC place and maintain one locked portable restroom, one hand-washing station, and one locked storage pod at the site.

TUMC will provide trash services for the participants.

The Code of Conduct requires participants to deposit all trash and pet waste in the provided trash can.

Anyone not enrolled in the Safe Parking Program cannot live in their cars on the property and will be excluded by Tigard Police Department if required.

No tent camping is permitted within 350 ft. of Tigard United Methodist Church. The map of this prohibition is available online and will be communicated by the Tigard Police Department to anyone in violation.

## **Participant Guidelines**

Individuals are free to act as they please, provided their actions are lawful and do not harm others or infringe upon their rights, and are within the boundaries of the Code of Conduct. The Safe Parking Program's Code of Conduct is attached.

JCEWC staff will inform all participants of the Code of Conduct and the Code must be signed by participants before they are enrolled in the Program. Violations of the Code can result in consequences ranging from written warnings to exit from program services.

Violation of the no drug and alcohol use policy or any violent act is grounds for immediate exit from the Safe Parking Program.

## **Communication**

It's important for the success of the Program that the City maintain a direct line of communication with the community. The City will communicate the status and outcomes of the Program in the following ways:

- JCEWC is required by the Grant
   Agreement to submit a monthly report to the City on the status of the Program that will include:
  - Number of current participants
  - Number of participants that have successfully exited to stable housing or alternative services (month and year-to-date)
  - Number of participants that have unsuccessfully exited the program (month and year-to date)

- Participants' City and State origin before entering the Program
- Participants' City and State destination exiting the Program
- Summary of any incidents that have occurred at Host Sites, including all calls for emergency service.
- The City will review the monthly report, remove any personal identifying information, and post the report on the City Safe Parking website each month.

## **Community Expectations**

Safe Parking is a new Program in Tigard and has sparked community curiosity and concerns. We ask the community to provide Safe Parking participants with dignity and space in the Program.

While participants are in the Program, their parking space is their home, and we ask that you do not enter their space.

The desire to approach and interact with participants comes from compassion and a desire to help others. If you would like to volunteer your time, provide goods, or give money, please consider one of our excellent houseless providers in Tigard for your generosity:

**Just Compassion of East Washington County** 

www.justcompassionewc.com

Family Promise of Tualatin Valley

www.familypromiseoftv.org

Good Neighbor Center https://gncnw.org

Project Homeless Connect www.phcwc.org





www.tigard-or.gov/SafeParking



## **CHILD & FAMILY SAFETY POLICY**

All families with children that are placed in the program must agree to the Just Compassion Family and Child Safety Policy, which is comprised of the following:

## 1. Eligibility & Legal Guardianship

- 1.1. Families with children under the age of 18 may participate in the Safe Parking Program, provided that the parent or legal guardian can provide documentation verifying guardianship (e.g., birth certificate, custody agreement, court order).
- 1.2. Any concerns regarding custody or guardianship disputes must be resolved prior to program entry. The program does not mediate legal disputes.
- 1.3. In the case of a documented Joint Custody arrangement, the guardian can provide the name and contact information of the alternating parent for emergency purposes.
- 1.4. If alternating parent's rights have been removed by the courts, documentation of this must be provided to the program.

## 2. Child Safety & Supervision

- 2.1. Parents or legal guardians are responsible for the direct supervision of their children at all times. Children may not be left unattended in vehicles or program facilities.
- 2.2. If staff observe a child left unsupervised, they may conduct a welfare check and, if necessary, notify appropriate child welfare authorities.

## 3. School Attendance & Educational Support

- School-aged children (6-18) must be enrolled in and regularly attend school. Parents must provide proof of enrollment upon request.
- 3.2. Families who choose to homeschool must provide verification of their child's registration with the Oregon Department of Education (ODE) as required by state law.
- 3.2. The program may assist families in connecting with local school liaisons, transportation options, and educational resources.
- 3.3. Truancy concerns may be reported to appropriate educational and child welfare authorities.

## 4. Health & Wellness Requirements

- 4.1. Parents are responsible for ensuring children receive adequate medical care, including vaccinations and regular check-ups. The program can provide referrals to local health clinics.
- 4.2. Oregon state law (ORS 811.173) prohibits smoking in a vehicle when a minor under 18 is present. Violation of this law within the program will result in program dismissal.

## 5. Prohibited Conduct & Program Compliance

- 5.1. Any form of child abuse, neglect, or endangerment will result in immediate removal from the program and a report to the Oregon Department of Human Services (DHS).
- 5.2. Alcohol and drug use are strictly prohibited in vehicles occupied by children. Violation will result in immediate removal from the program.

## 6. Reporting & Accountability

- 6.1. Staff and volunteers will report any suspected child abuse, neglect, or endangerment to DHS or law enforcement.
- 6.2. Participants may report safety concerns to program staff. All reports will be reviewed and addressed according to program procedures.





## **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Respect and Dignity

Treat everyone with respect and dignity, including host site personnel and guests, program staff, neighbors, and visitors. No violence, intimidation, sexually explicit behavior, nudity, harassment, or abusive language (e.g. degrading racist, sexist, homophobic, or other degrading remarks) is allowed.

2 Alcohol and Drug Use

Any use of alcohol, use of marijuana, or illegal drugs on church property will not be tolerated and such usage will immediately disqualify participants from the Safe Parking Program. Prescription drugs prescribed to a participant are exempt from this prohibition.

**3** Smoking

Smoking is only allowed in your vehicle, otherwise, cigarette smoking is not permitted on church property. Please dispose of cigarette butts appropriately and do not throw cigarette butts on the parking lot or lawn of the church.

4 Case Management

Follow through with case management plan and attend check-in meetings with Just Compassion Case Manager at least once a week.

**5** Trash

Participants are responsible for placing all trash in the garbage bins near their parking space and must keep the area around their vehicle clean and free from trash.

6 Parking lot

Participants are to park ONLY in the designated space which has been assigned to them. All the other parking areas are utilized by the church, its ministries, and authorized community groups.

Pets

Participants must clean up after their pets and dispose of their waste in the provided trash cans. Pets must be on a leash no longer than 6 feet anytime they are not in the vehicle. Pets that are aggressive towards people or animals should be constantly monitored inside and outside the vehicle.

**8** Guests

Only registered Safe Parking Program participants are permitted in the Safe Parking Program area. Participants are not permitted to invite others onto the property or share provided services with them.

**9** Quiet Hours

Observe quiet hours 10pm-7am and refrain from playing loud music or creating disruptive noise at all times.

10 Belongings

Belongings should be stored in the vehicle or provided storage container. Flammable substances and weapons are not permitted in the storage container. There will not be any type of temporary structure as part of the Safe Parking program. This includes tarps, tents, canopies, etc. The use of grills and other cooking equipment is not allowed and prohibited.

11 Vehicle

Vehicle must be in good working condition, including not continually leaking fluid. RVs are not allowed in the program.

12 Security

Tigard UMC contracts with a cleaning and security company who locks the building every evening. They are aware of the Safe Parking Program. There are security cameras all around the church property. If you see a security concern such as theft or vandalism, please call the Tigard Police Department. The non-emergency dispatch number is 503-629-0111. For emergencies, call 911.

Preschool

There is a preschool affiliated with our church that uses our facilities in the back of the church. This area is specifically for the preschool and its teachers only. Please stay away from this area. No exceptions will be made regarding this.







The City of Tigard is partnering with a houseless service provider and local property owners to provide safe, legal places for people living in their cars to sleep.

While no one should have to live in their car, providing a safe place to park can help families and individuals in this situation stabilize their lives and gain better access to services.



## SAFE PARKING BY THE NUMBERS



Each designated host site will allow three households to park and sleep in their parking lot.

All guests must pass a criminal background check before being enrolled in the program.



The City will fund one Case Manager to review applications for participants, address concerns at the Safe Parking locations, and help participants find stable, permanent housing.



62 PEOPLE FIND STABLE HOUSING

Last year, Beaverton's successful program helped 62 people find stable housing. Over the last four years, the program has helped over 110 people!



Guests in the program start with a 30-day probationary period where they meet with the Case Manager to create a case management plan. As long as guests follow the site rules and meet with their Case Manager, they are welcome to stay for up to 120 days.



#### **FEATURES OF EACH HOST SITE**

Each host site also has one portable restroom, one hand-washing station, and one storage pod for guests to store their belongings.

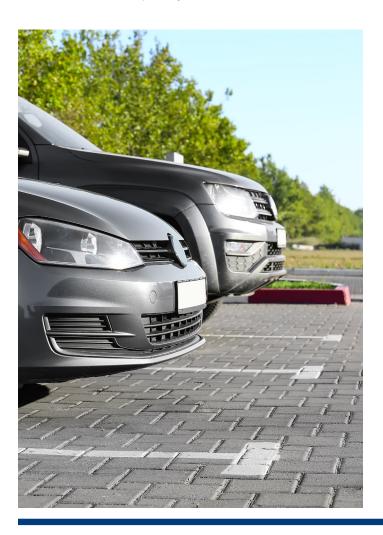


## SAFE PARKING PROGRAM FAQS

## Who is eligible for the program? How do they enroll?

Washington County families and individuals that are experiencing homelessness and using their vehicle as primary residence are eligible to apply for this program. Vehicles must be operational with up-to-date registration.

Potential guests contact the contracted management organization to enroll in the program. The Case Manager will invite the applicant in for an interview and intake process, during which they will complete a background check and inquire about individual needs and challenges in finding housing and their strengths and abilities to contribute, follow rules, and abide by the structure and rules of the program. Applicants will need to commit to working on a case management plan to transition into housing. Beaverton's successful program has found that many of their guests are seniors on fixed incomes and the gap between their fixed income and rent is the primary reason for homelessness.



## Will this program cause more people to park in my neighborhood?

The Safe Parking Program provides a safe place for families and individuals in crisis to park but they must apply and be assigned to a host site. Guests accepted into the program are the only ones permitted to stay, and are not allowed to have visitors onsite.

## What guidelines will participants need to follow while they are in the Program?

Guests will sign agreements with the host sites that they will abide by the rules and program expectations. Guests are expected to attend regular case management meetings with their Case Manager. There will be zero tolerance for violent behavior or drug and alcohol use on-site. No firearms or weapons are allowed on the property. Guests are expected to keep the site tidy, refrain from disruptive behavior, and be good neighbors. They are responsible for parking only in their designated space and displaying their parking pass, notifying the Case Manager if they will not be on-site for more than three consecutive days, and observing quiet hours. The Tigard Police Department will be aware of program host sites and should be contacted if an emergency occurs.

## Will other individuals be allowed to camp or park at the Safe Parking Lot?

No, only households enrolled in the program will be allowed to park in the parking lot. Also, the City prohibits any camping within 500 ft. of a shelter or shelter alternative. This applies to any properties enrolled in the Safe Parking program.

To learn more about the Safe Parking Program please visit:



www.tigard-or.gov/SafeParking





Data Point	Month (June)	Year-To-Date	
# Currently Enrolled Households/People	5 Households   5 People	12 Households   16 People	
# Households Transitioned to Stable Housing/Alternative Service	1 Household	4 Households	
# Households with Neutral Exits	Zero	3 Households	
# Households with Non-Voluntary Exits	Zero	Zero	

## **Participants' City and State Origin Before Entering the Program**

Households 10 - Tigard, OR 2 - Beaverton, OR

## Participants' City and State Destination **Exiting the Program**

Households

- 1- Forest Grove, OR (Alternate Shelter)
- 1- Aloha, OR (Alternate Shelter)
- 3- Tigard, OR (Housing, Neutral Exit\*)
- 1- Gresham, OR (Neutral Exit\*)
- 1- Hillsboro, OR (Transitional Housing)



Summary of Any Incidents that Have Occurred at the Host Sites Including Tigard **Police and Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue Calls** 

Total calls for service: 0



## **Additional Program Information**

- This month, one participant exited from the program into transitional housing.
- The Safe Parking Coordinator has been checking in with folks during hot weather to make sure they have water, gas cards, and know about access to showers and other services at the Just Compassion Resource Center.





#### **Definitions:**

- **# Households Transitioned to Stable Housing/Alternative Service:** This is the number of households in the program that have transitioned directly to housing, or to an alternative service such as family or non-congregate shelter. We consider these to be successful exits that are part of a larger housing case management plan that is supportive and sustainable for our participants.
- # Households with Neutral Exits: This category refers to households who decide to leave the program on their own and have stated they are able to self-resolve their own situation or need to move due to other factors. For example, we have had individuals leave the program because there is a family emergency they need to attend elsewhere, they have found a job that takes them to a different community, or they feel that the program is not the right fit for them. Households that chose to leave the program are provided with resource/service information and advised on local ordinances around parking/camping.
- # Households with Non-Voluntary Exits: This category is the number of households that were asked to the leave the program because of noncompliance with program guidelines. This includes households that do not engage in a case management plan or follow through on housing. Households that are asked to the leave the program are provided with information about alternative services and advised on local ordinances around parking/camping.









## Safe Parking Program

Frequently Asked Questions

## What is the Safe Parking Program?

The Safe Parking Program supports families and individuals experiencing homelessness and provides assistance to transition from living in their vehicles into housing. For people who have lost their homes, living in a vehicle may be their only option besides sleeping on the street. Providing designated places for people to park while living in their vehicles helps stabilize lives and improve the chances of gaining access to services and employment.

## How does the program work?

The program will consist of host sites distributed throughout the city with assigned parking spaces and onsite portable restrooms, storage, and garbage removal, as well as case management. The Program Manager will manage intake and case management of guests, assignment of parking spaces, and coordination of host sites in collaboration with the city.

## Who operates the sites?

The City of Beaverton contracted with Just Compassion of East Washington County, a non-profit that will provide program management. Just Compassion will be responsible for intake and case management of the guests participating in the program.

The focus of Just Compassion is to serve as a community centered response for addressing the needs of people experiencing homelessness by building relationships and creating a community that connects people to services that expand their support system and help them overcome barriers to housing. Just Compassion has been managing the Beaverton Severe Weather Shelter for the last three years and currently operates a day center in Tigard twice a week. The organization actively fosters permanent solutions for individuals in need.

### How long can guests stay in the program?

Guests start with a 30-day probationary period in which they must meet with Just Compassion to complete a case management plan. Guests that complete the plan and comply with program rules throughout the probationary period will be able to stay for up to 120 days. After 120 days, quests may request an extension if housing is imminent.

#### What do host sites provide and where are they located?

Host sites provide space for three vehicles to park and two spaces for an ADA portable restroom, hand-washing station and small storage unit. They also provide trash services. Each host site will have a dedicated contact person that communicates site needs and concerns to Just Compassion. Site locations are dispersed throughout Beaverton at faith-based organizations and public agencies. Once a guest is approved to stay in the program, they are assigned a space at one of the host sites – they cannot drive up and park in a space.









### Who is eligible for the program? How do they enroll?

Washington County families and individuals that are experiencing homelessness and using their vehicle as primary residence are eligible to apply for this low barrier program. Vehicles must be operational with up-to-date registration.

Potential guests contact Just Compassion to enroll in the program. Just Compassion staff will invite the applicant in for an interview and intake process, during which they will complete a background check and inquire about individual needs and challenges in finding housing and their strengths and abilities to contribute, follow rules, and abide by the structure and rules of the program. Applicants will need to commit to working on a case management plan with the intention of transitioning into housing. We have found that many of our guests are seniors on fixed incomes and the gap between income and rent is the primary reason for homelessness.

## Will this program cause more people to park in my neighborhood?

In June 2018 Beaverton City Council passed an ordinance banning overnight camping in the public right-of-way. Host sites must be approved by the City of Beaverton, with up to five sites. The Safe Parking Program provides a safe place for families and individuals in crisis to park but they must apply and be assigned to a host site. Guests accepted into the program are the only ones permitted to stay, and are not allowed to have visitors onsite.

### How are the host sites and guests kept safe?

Guests sign agreements with the host sites that they will abide by the rules and program expectations. Guests are expected to attend regular case management meetings with Just Compassion. There is zero tolerance for violent behavior or drug and alcohol use on-site. No firearms or weapons are allowed on the property. Guests are expected to keep the site tidy, refrain from disruptive behavior and be good neighbors. They are responsible for parking only in their designated space and displaying their parking pass, notifying Just Compassion if they will not be on-site for more than three consecutive days, and observing quiet hours.

The Beaverton Police Department is aware of program host sites and as always, should be contacted if an emergency occurs; however, it is important to note that this program provides much greater management and safety for individuals and families living out of their vehicles than currently exists without it.

#### How do I volunteer or donate to the program?

There is no volunteer component to the program and we do not need any donations currently. One of the best ways that you can help is to refer anyone living out of their vehicle in our community to this program.

#### Who should I contact?

- For intake and referral:
   Just Compassion of East Washington County
   503-624-4666 | safeparkingbeaverton@gmail.com
- For program questions and concerns:
   City of Beaverton Community Services Program commserv@BeavertonOregon.gov
- For general information: www.BeavertonOregon.gov/safeparking



## Safe Parking Program Year 5 Report

#### **About**

The City of Beaverton's Safe Parking Program provides a safe, legal place to park for people experiencing homelessness and living out of their vehicles. Safe parking helps families and individuals in this situation stabilize their lives and gain better access to services. Just Compassion of East Washington County continues to act as the operating partner by providing intake and case management for guests.

During the fifth year of the program, there were gaps in services that became more evident. Families experiencing homelessness are still experiencing increased wait times for access to other family shelters and/or transitional housing programs. Another shift that was noted this year is an increase in elderly adults experiencing homelessness due to not being able to afford rent with their only income from SSI or SSDI. Guests in the program are currently staying longer than the 120-day enrollment period due to these other transitional housing programs being at capacity.

Site hosts include the City of Beaverton, Tualatin Hills Park & Recreation District, and three faith-based partners, who each provide space for up to three vehicles to park, a portable restroom, and a storage unit.

## Program Statistics (April 2023 – June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024)

## Overview of people served:

- # of individuals served: 67 (63 adults, 4 children)
- # of vehicles in the program: 54
- # of vehicles exited into housing: 26 (38 individuals)
- # of vehicles continuing in the program: 14
- # of vehicles exited <u>not</u> into housing (noncompliance or self-exited): 12 (16 individuals) To-date served since program initiated: 240 individuals total, with 149 of them transitioned successfully into housing.

#### Participants' Demographic Information:

	Race	Gender	Veterans	Ages
Adults	White – 47 Black – 12 Latinx – 8 Native American 1 Middle East - 1 Not reported – 3	Female – 27 Male – 40	1	0-17: 4 18-29: 2 26-33: 12 34-41: 8 42-49: 15 49-56: 6 57-64: 10 65+: 10

## Common Challenges:

During this year, one of the most common reasons people enrolled in the program was not being able to afford rent and making ends meet. It's hard to find a place to rent when your only income is SSI/SSDI, it's not enough without some kind of assistance.

#### Guests Exited from the Program:

• 3 vehicles chose to leave the program for different personal reasons. • 6 vehicles were exited due to issues related to not showing progress on their case management plan or not following guest guidelines. 3 Declined referral to another program when called from Community Connect.

### Police Calls:

- There was a police call because there was an RV parked on a side street in front of a
  path that leads up to the church which was easy access to the site and the
  electricity. A guest asked them to leave and when they refused they called nonemergency. They came out and told them to leave or they would be trespassed.
  They left.
- There was another non-emergency call when a vehicle not in the program parked in the SP lot at night. Non-emergency came out and asked them to leave.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Year Safe Parking Guest Success Story:

Medically fragile couple were forced to move out of their living situation in California. They moved to Washington County to be closer to their kids and grandchildren. There wasn't enough room for them all to live together, the medically fragile couple had to live in their truck through the winter months. After 4 months in the Safe Parking program, they were approved for a voucher and housed working with a housing case manager with Just Compassion.

### **Program Highlights**

• Partnership with Washington County Services. Continuing to work closely with other organizations in Washington County. Creating these partnerships is key to being able to collaborate, discuss resources, events and to make the process easier for those in crisis.