



## MEMORANDUM

TO: Wilsonville City Council

FROM: Amanda Guile-Hinman, City Attorney

DATE: February 7, 2023

RE: Initial Public Outreach – Prohibited Camping Code Update Project

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### I. INTRODUCTION

This memorandum provides the initial public outreach undertaken by staff regarding the prohibited camping code update project. **Exhibit 1** attached hereto is the Let’s Talk, Wilsonville! questionnaire results report. The questionnaire received the largest community response of a Let’s Talk, Wilsonville! survey at 437 responses. This memorandum details the other outreach components already undertaken and those planned in the coming days.

### II. OUTREACH EFFORTS

In addition to information collected internally from staff members such as City Parks maintenance staff, Library staff, and Public Works staff, and Police, staff has contacted, or attempted to contact, Wilsonville Community Sharing, Heart of the City, fourteen religious organizations located in the city, the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Wilsonville Alliance for Inclusive Communities, and 26 local homeowners associations. Staff also contacted the West Linn-Wilsonville School District; Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue; Clackamas County Health, Housing, and Human Services; and several regional, state, and federal agencies that work with unhoused individuals and the housing crisis.

Thus far, staff met with Wilsonville Community Sharing, Creekside Bible Church, Clackamas County Housing and Community Development staff, Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue staff, West Linn-Wilsonville School District staff, the Wilsonville Alliance for Inclusive Communities, the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board, and the Chair of the City’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. Staff is also scheduled to provide presentations to the Library

Board on February 22, 2023 and the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee on March 14, 2023.

Staff is also planning an anonymous survey for Tuesday, February 14, 2023, coordinated through Wilsonville Community Sharing, for unhoused individuals to provide information to the City about camping regulations.

### **III. INFORMATION FROM OUTREACH**

This memorandum summarizes the information obtained from interviews conducted thus far.

#### **A. Services Provided**

Below is information regarding services provided to unhoused individuals<sup>1</sup> by those organizations staff interviewed:

- Wilsonville Community Sharing (WCS) provides “grab and go” food for unhoused individuals on Tuesdays from 12:30 pm to 2:30 pm and 6 pm to 7:15 pm at its food pantry located in the City’s Art Tech Building at 29796 SW Town Center Loop East. Community members will sometimes donate to WCS small dollar gift cards to local restaurants and grocery stores that are given out to unhoused individuals. WCS noted that they provided food to 52 unhoused individuals last year, but that number is duplicative because many people came to WCS each week for food. They estimate that they provided approximately 1,000 pounds of food to unhoused persons last year.
- Clackamas County Housing and Community Development department discussed with City staff several important resources available to unhoused individuals.
  - Clackamas County has a program called Coordinated Housing Access, which serves as the starting point to get individuals connected to housing and support services. People can call **(503) 655-8575** and leave a message or fill out the online form at <https://www.clackamas.us/communitydevelopment/cha>.
  - Clackamas County also has a number people may call when an individual appears to be experiencing a mental health crisis, but does not appear

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<sup>1</sup> These organizations in many cases provide other services to individuals based on other life circumstances, but the interviews are specifically focused on services provided to unhoused individuals.

dangerous or need a police response. That phone number is **(503) 655-8585**. Individuals experiencing suicidal crisis or mental health-related distress can also dial **988**, which is the National Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

- The West-Linn Wilsonville School District staff explained that the school district works to remove barriers that prevent unhoused students from attending school. One way the school district does this is by providing transportation to the student's "school of origin." If a student's family is unhoused and staying in location(s) outside of the school or school district boundaries, the school district will provide transportation to ensure the student is able to attend their school of origin. Providing transportation to an unhoused student's school of origin is a requirement under federal law (42 USC §11432(g)(1)(J)(iii)). Another way the school district works to remove barriers is by offering free or reduced lunch. Applications for the program should be submitted during the summer prior to the start of the school year or at the beginning of the school year. The application can be found here: <https://www.ode.state.or.us/apps/frlapp>.

#### **B. Other Notable Discussion Points**

In these interviews, staff also inquired about the service providers' general experiences, barriers to providing services, and any considerations that should go into a prohibited camping code update. Below is a summary of some notable discussion points raised:

- One provider noted that many of the unhoused individuals they serve live in their vehicles and camp at the rest stop. They estimated approximately 80% of the individuals are senior citizens and mainly men. They also stated that almost all of the individuals that sought services are not addicted to drugs or drug users nor appear to have significant mental health disorders.
- Another service provider stated that the unhoused individuals they serve are generally not unsheltered, but rather living in others' homes or temporarily in vehicles.
- A service provider explained that a barrier that does occur for some unhoused individuals in the community is what to do when their vehicle breaks down. Since this provider's experience is that many unhoused residents in the community live in

their vehicles, a vehicle breaking down means they cannot drive and move their car and are more likely to have their vehicle (their home) towed.

- None of the providers were overly enthusiastic about a private property camping program – though some expressed a willingness to work with the City on a City-sponsored program.
- Clackamas County is planning to launch new programs and infrastructure for supportive housing through Metro’s new Supportive Housing Services tax.
  - Clackamas County staff will be providing a presentation to the City Council on February 23, 2023 about some of its new initiatives.
- Clackamas County provides utility payment assistance and limited water and wastewater payment assistance to low-income individuals. People can call **(503) 650-5640** or fill out an application request at <https://www.clackamas.us/socialservices/energyassistance>
- One provider noted that some COVID-19 emergency benefits are coming to an end in March 2023. February is the last month that the federal government will allow Oregon to issue pandemic emergency food benefits for eligible SNAP households. For more information about this change and regular SNAP benefits, visit <https://www.oregon.gov/dhs/ASSISTANCE/FOOD-BENEFITS/Pages/Emergency-Allotments.aspx>.
- One interviewee explained that many unhoused individuals in the area do not want to be visible to the community. Visibility often means that the camp will closed down, unhoused individuals could be harassed, or items might be stolen.
- One interviewee connected with unhoused individuals at the rest stop from approximately 2008 through 2010. Most people lived in their vehicles. The interviewee explained that for most of those individuals, the biggest hurdles were not drugs, alcohol, or severe mental health disorders, but rather a lack of basic life skills.
- Another interviewee similarly noted that most unhoused unsheltered individuals in Wilsonville live in their vehicles. A suggestion was to look at the regulations for vehicles differently (and more permissively) than tent camping or sleeping directly on sidewalks and City property.

- Interviewees were generally supportive of continuing to close parks at night to all people, including unhoused individuals.
- Supportive sanitation facilities was a common theme in many of the interviews, particularly focusing on garbage receptacles and restrooms. This is an item that will be discussed among the inter-departmental team as allowable places to camp are identified.

# Survey

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## **SURVEY RESPONSE REPORT**

19 July 2019 - 05 February 2023

### **PROJECT NAME:**

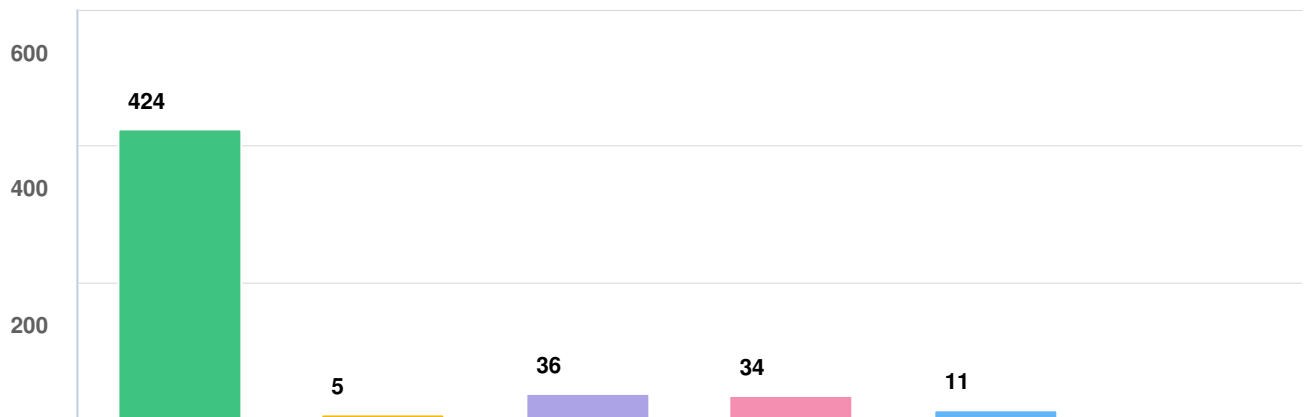
Legal Review of Prohibited Camping Code





SURVEY QUESTIONS

**Q1** What is your relationship to the City of Wilsonville?



**Question options**

- I live in Wilsonville
- I go to school in Wilsonville
- I am employed by a Wilsonville business
- I operate a Wilsonville business
- I am a frequent visitor to Wilsonville
- None

Optional question (437 response(s), 0 skipped)  
Question type: Checkbox Question

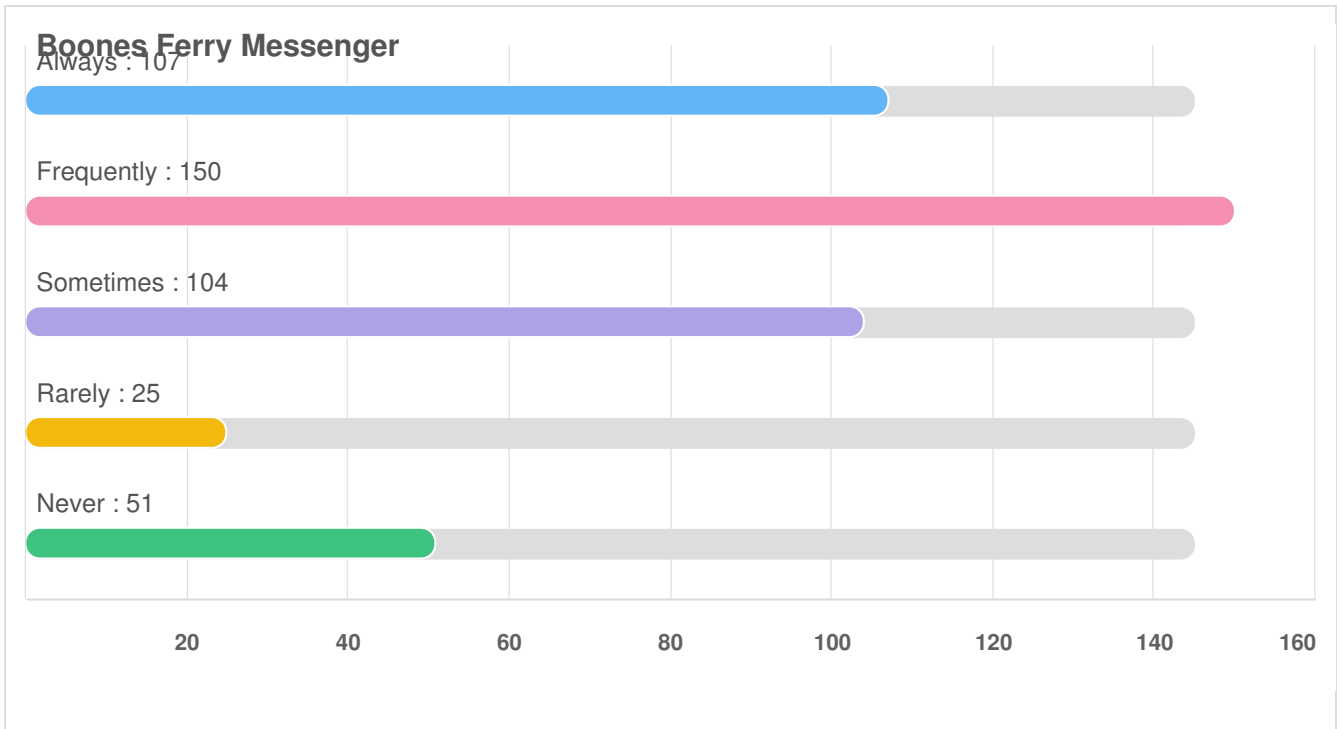


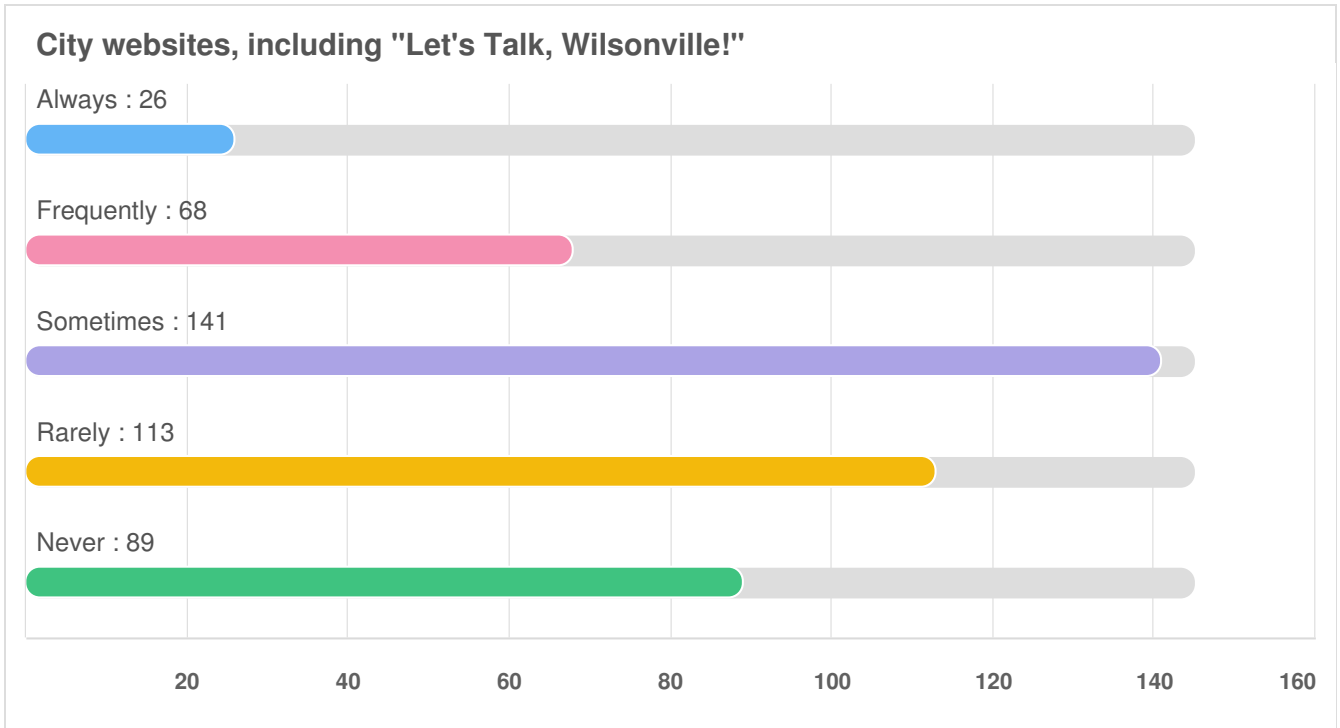
**Q2** How do you typically stay informed about City projects of interest to you?

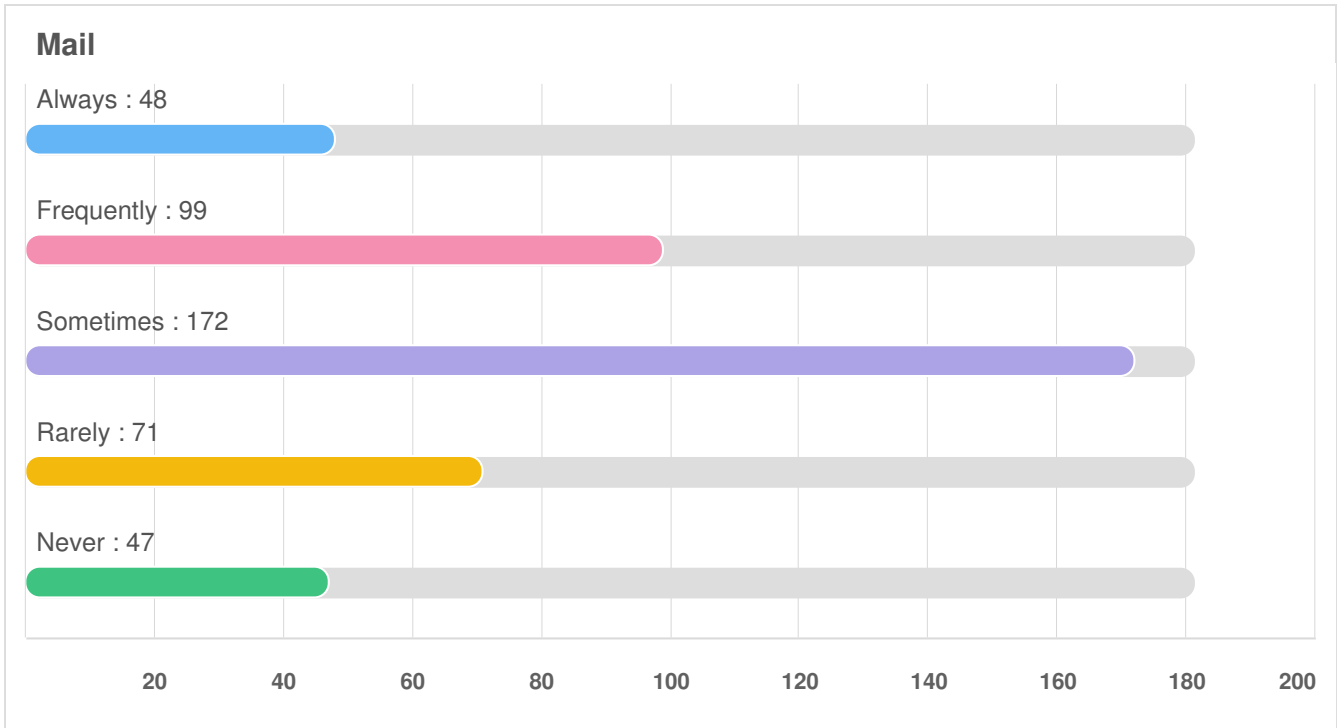


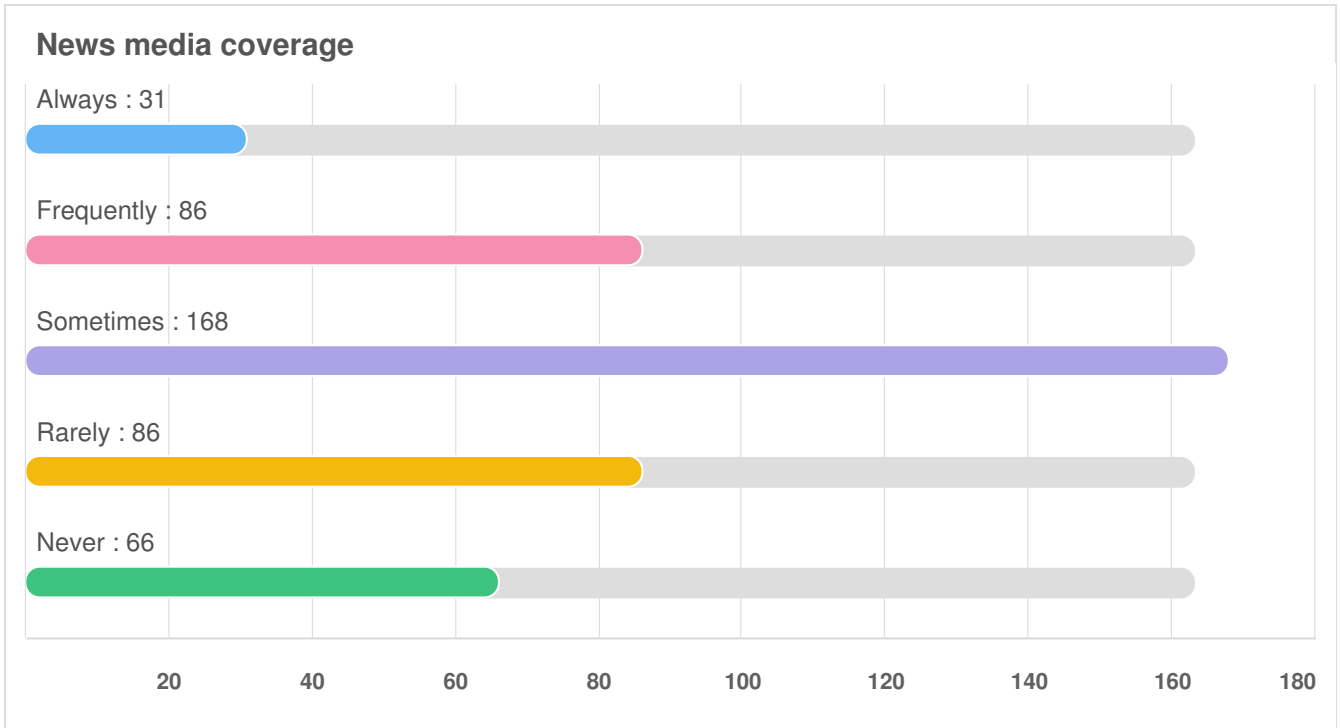
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 Question type: Likert Question

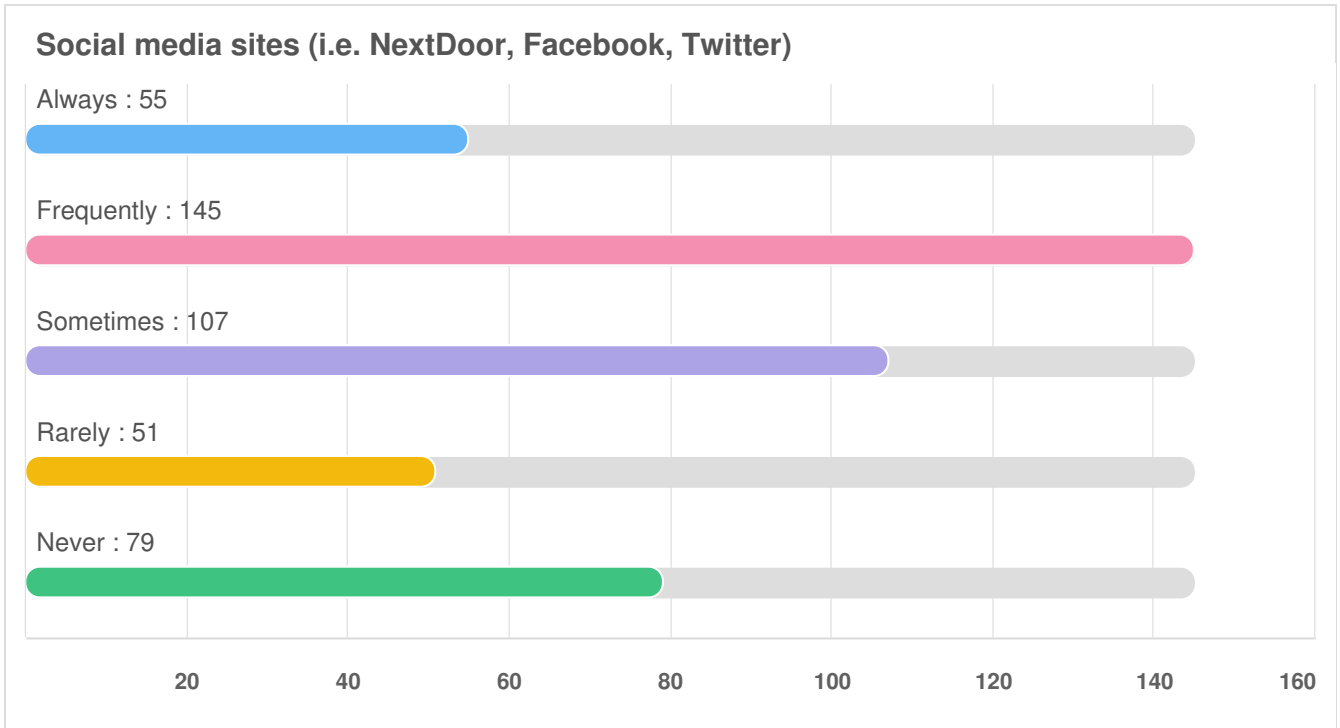
**Q2 | How do you typically stay informed about City projects of interest to you?**

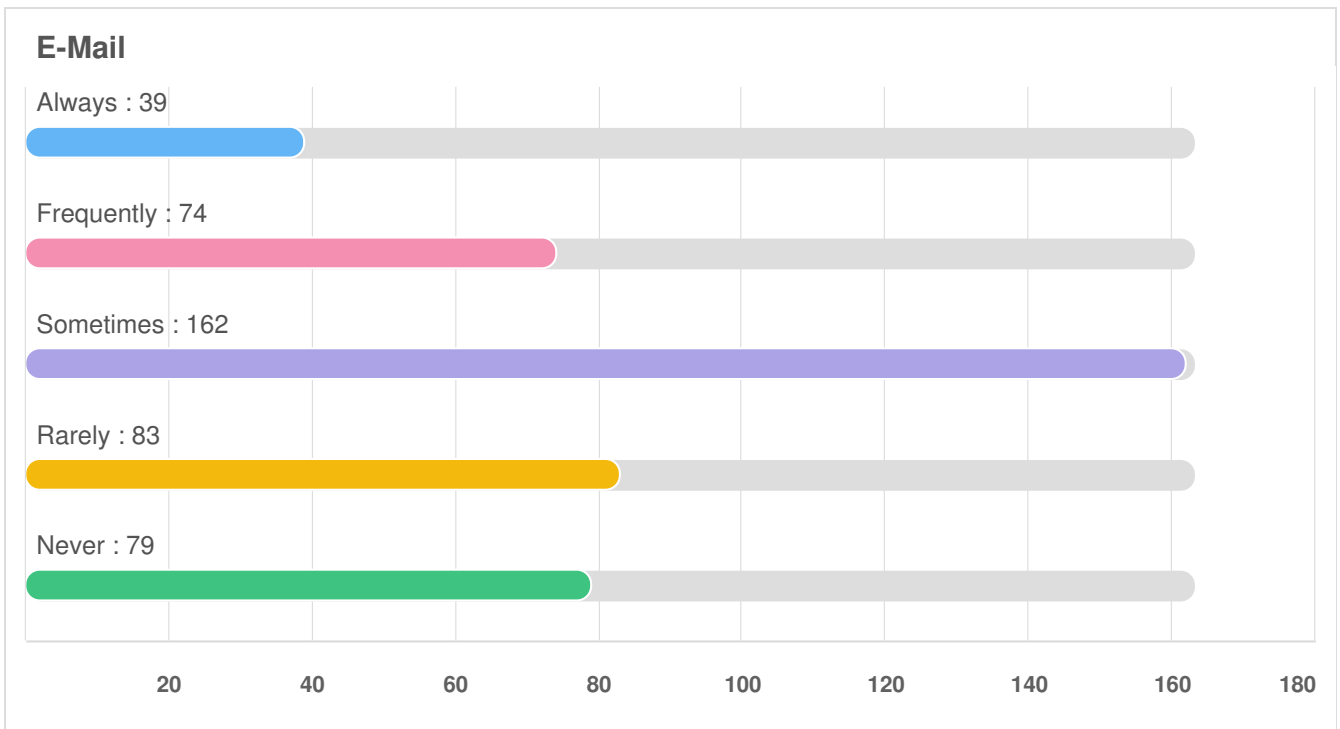




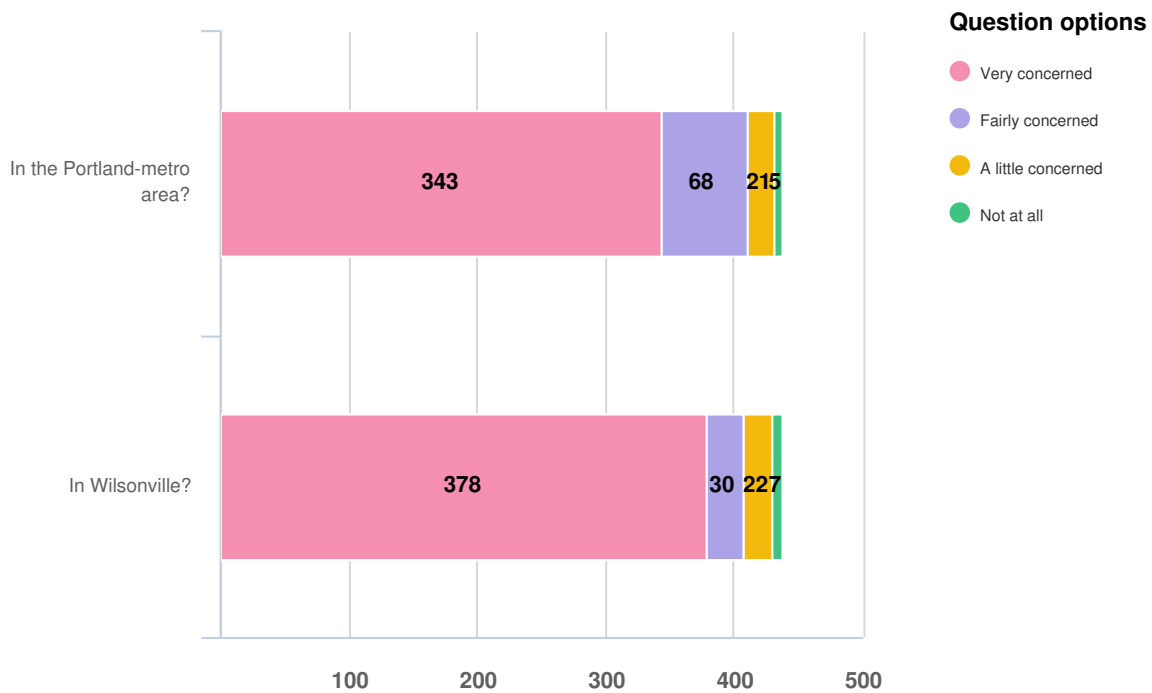






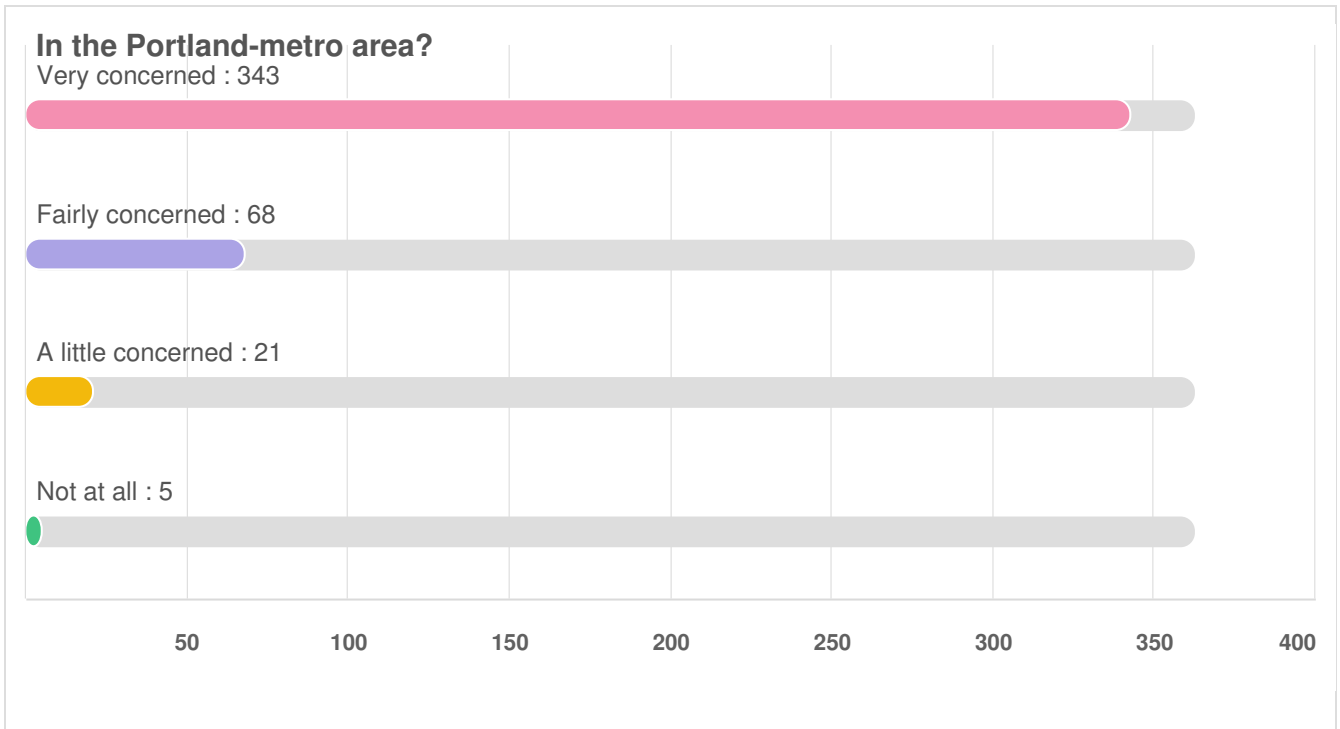


### Q3 How concerned are you about people camping on public property?

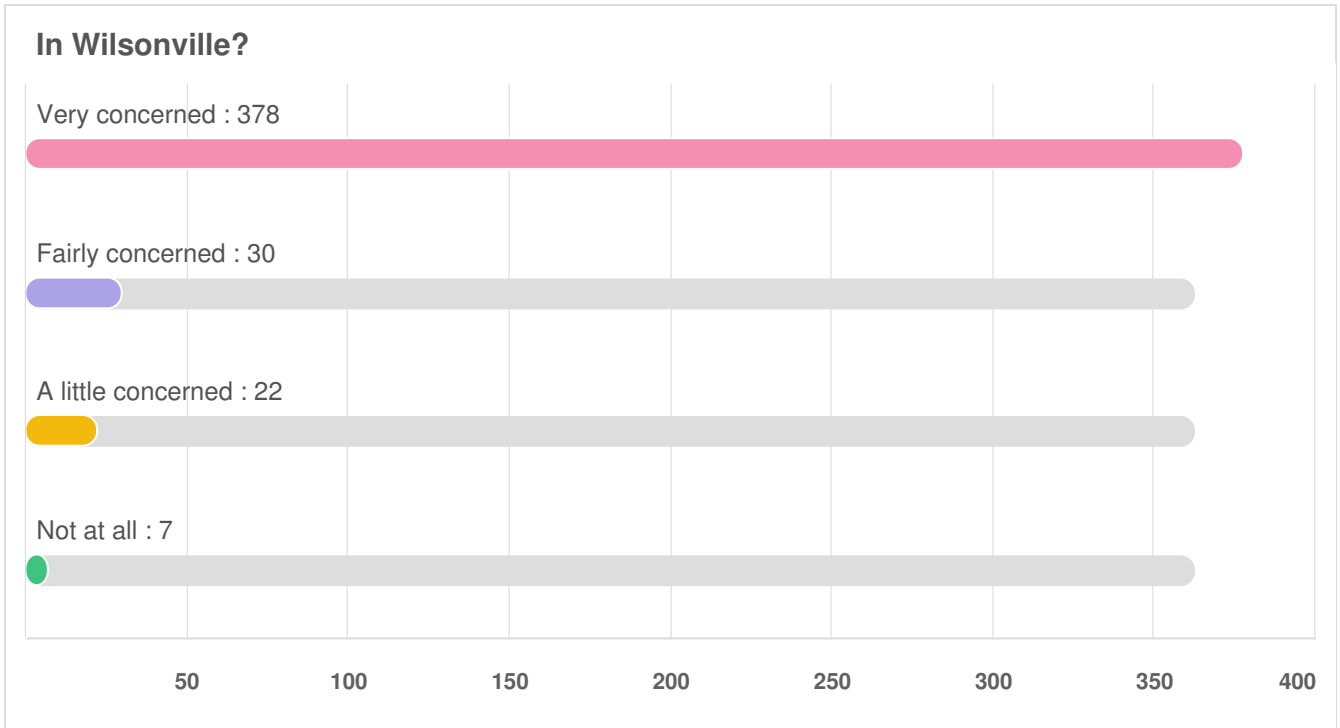


Mandatory Question (437 response(s))  
 Question type: Likert Question

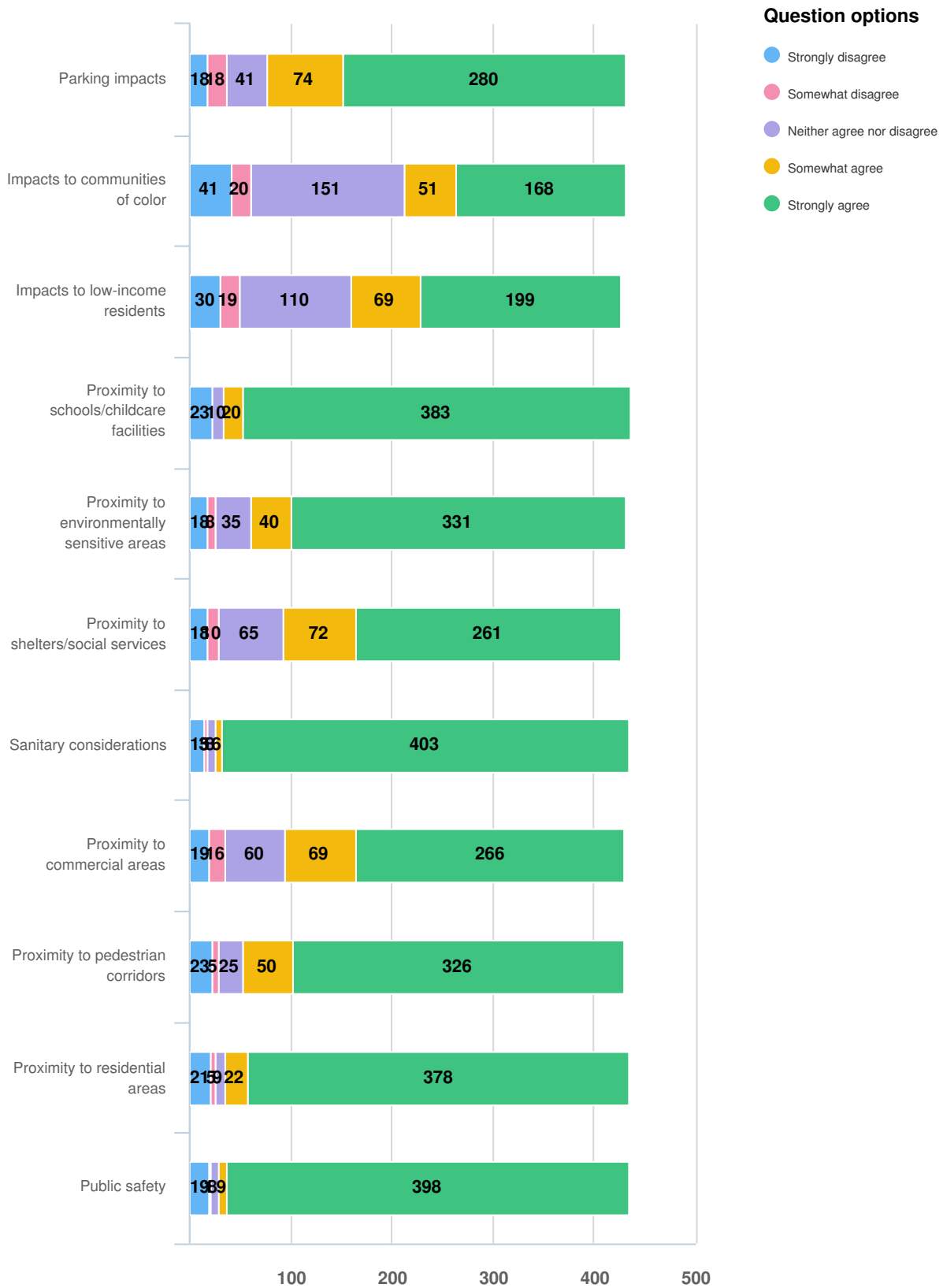
**Q3 | How concerned are you about people camping on public property?**







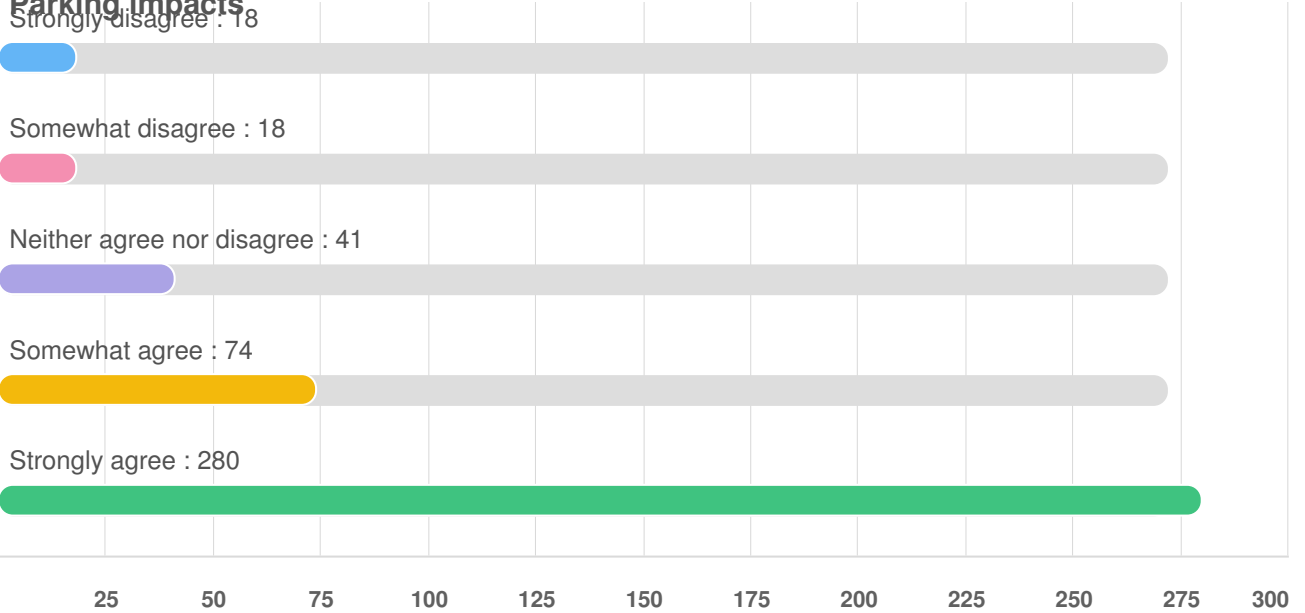
**Q4 The City should consider the following factors when reviewing potential locations at which to allow overnight camping?**

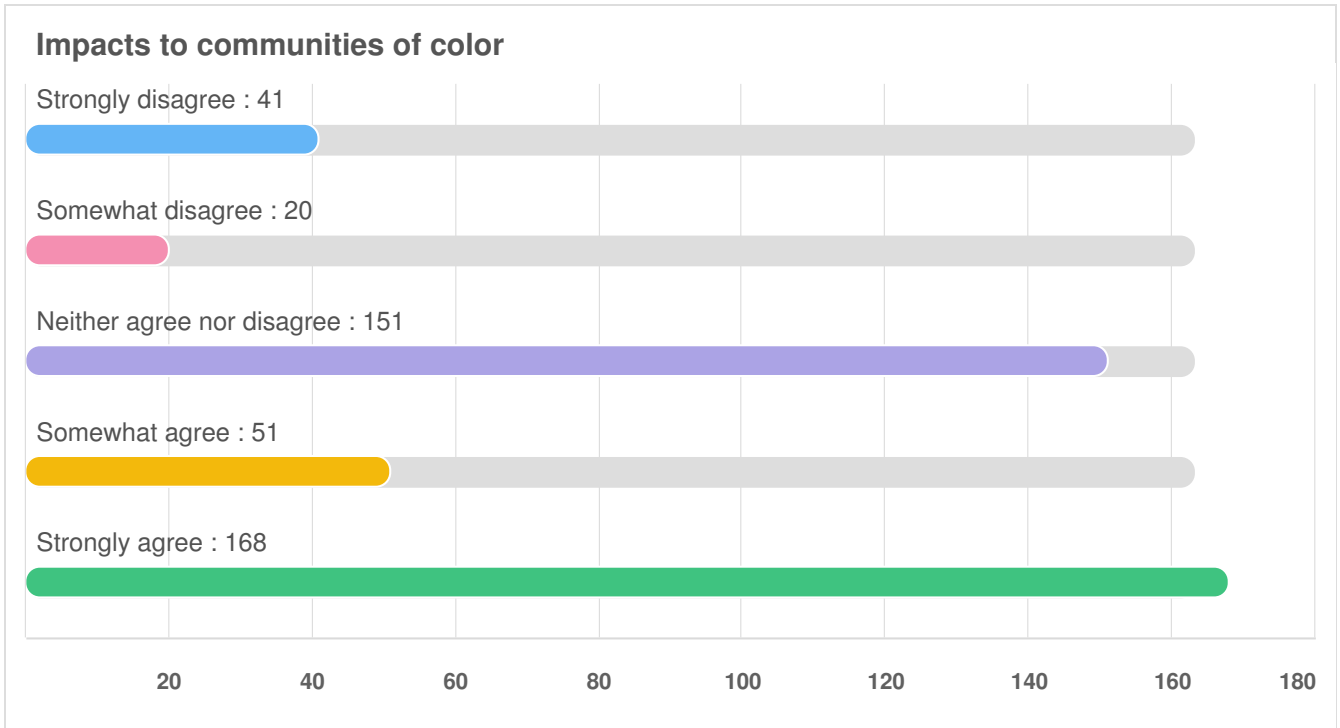


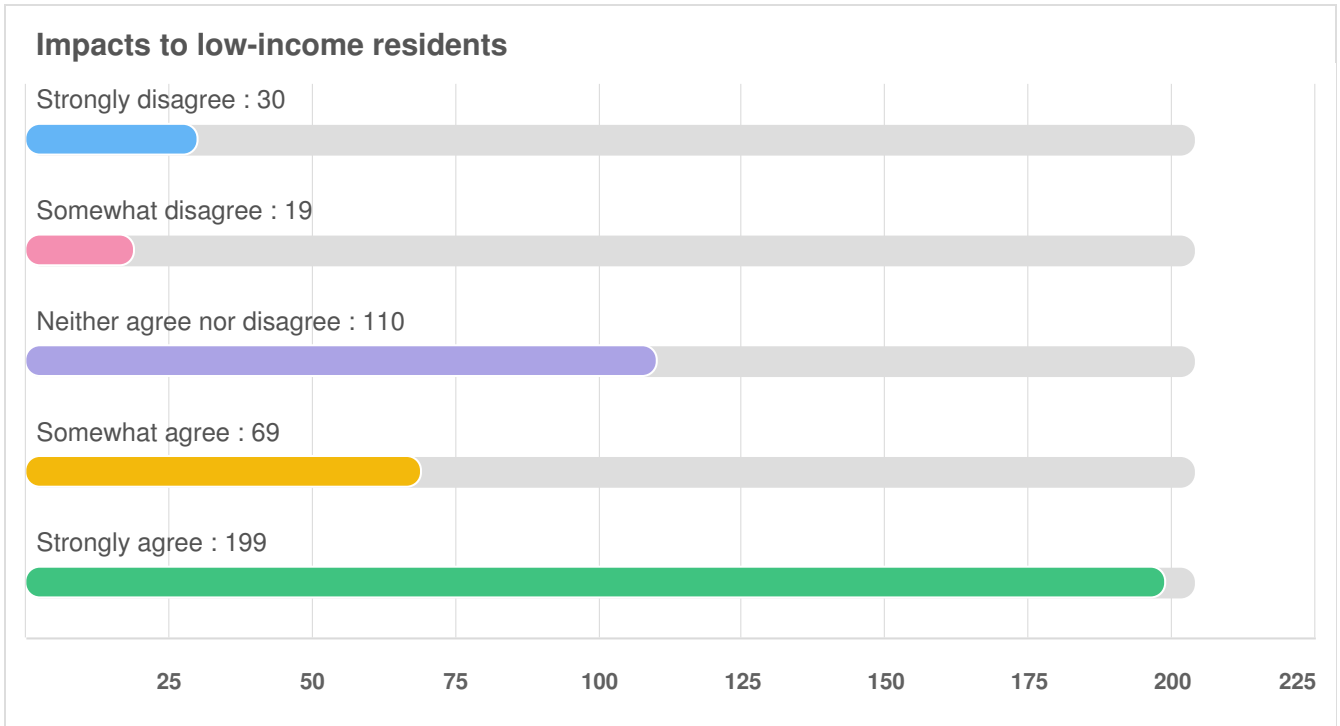
Optional question (437 response(s), 0 skipped)  
 Question type: Likert Question

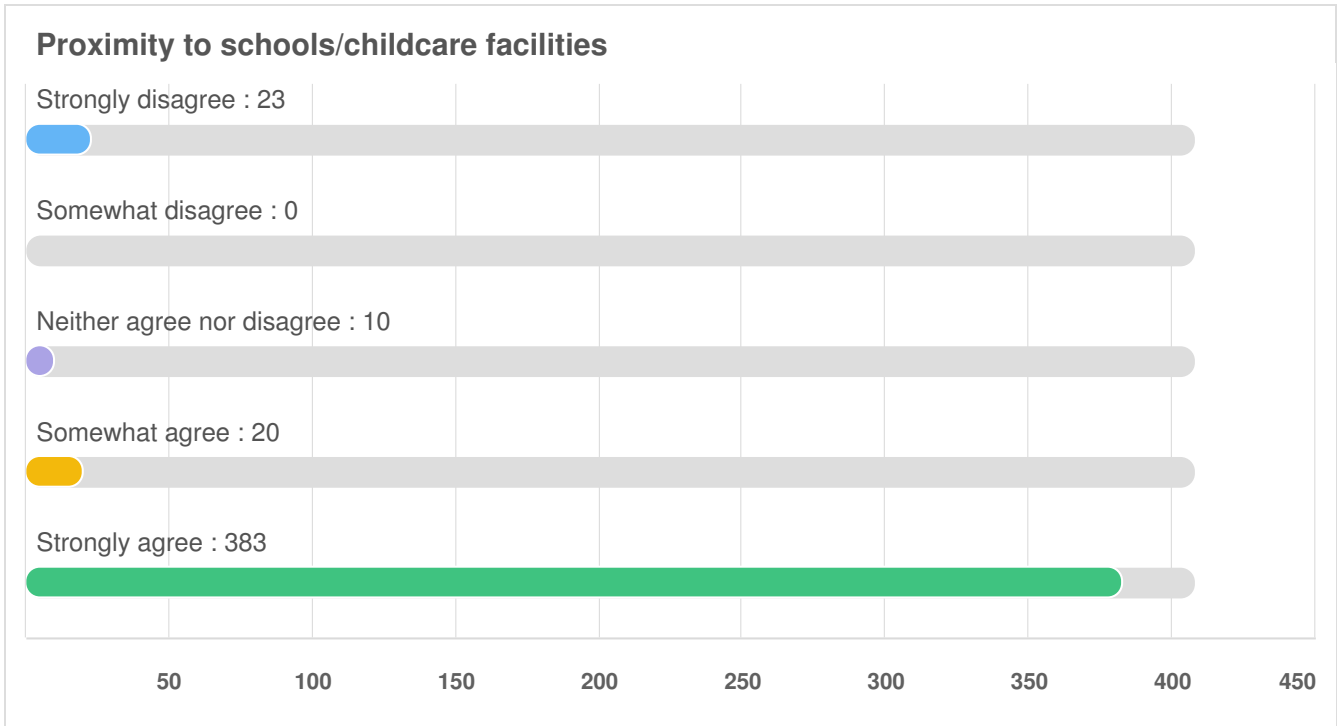
**Q4 | The City should consider the following factors when reviewing potential locations at which to allow overnight camping?**

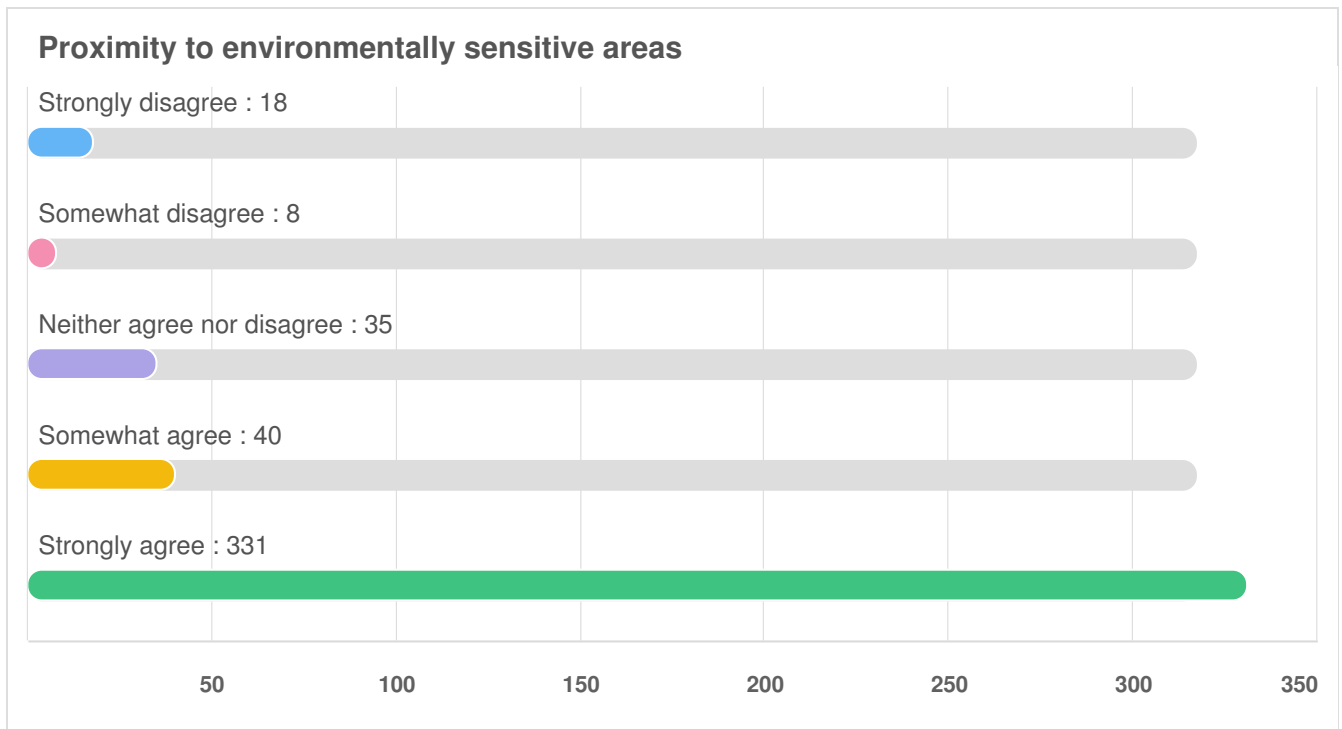
**Parking impacts**

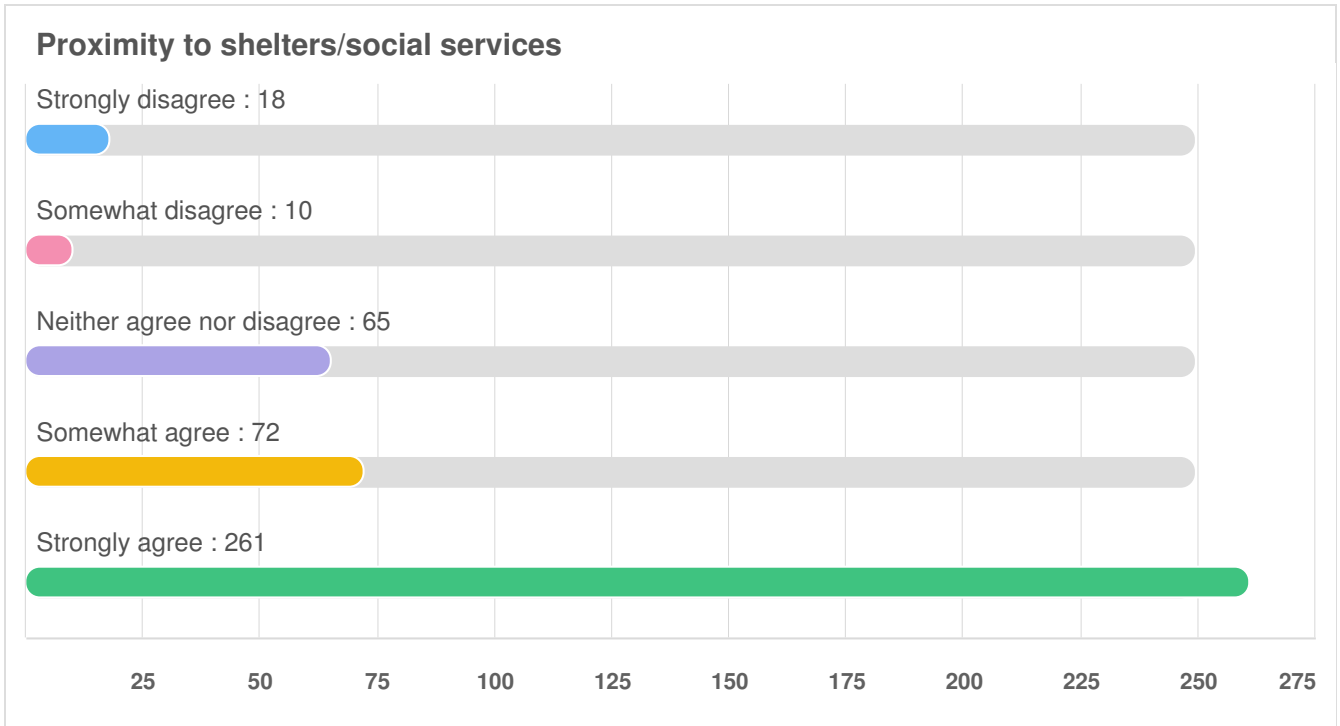




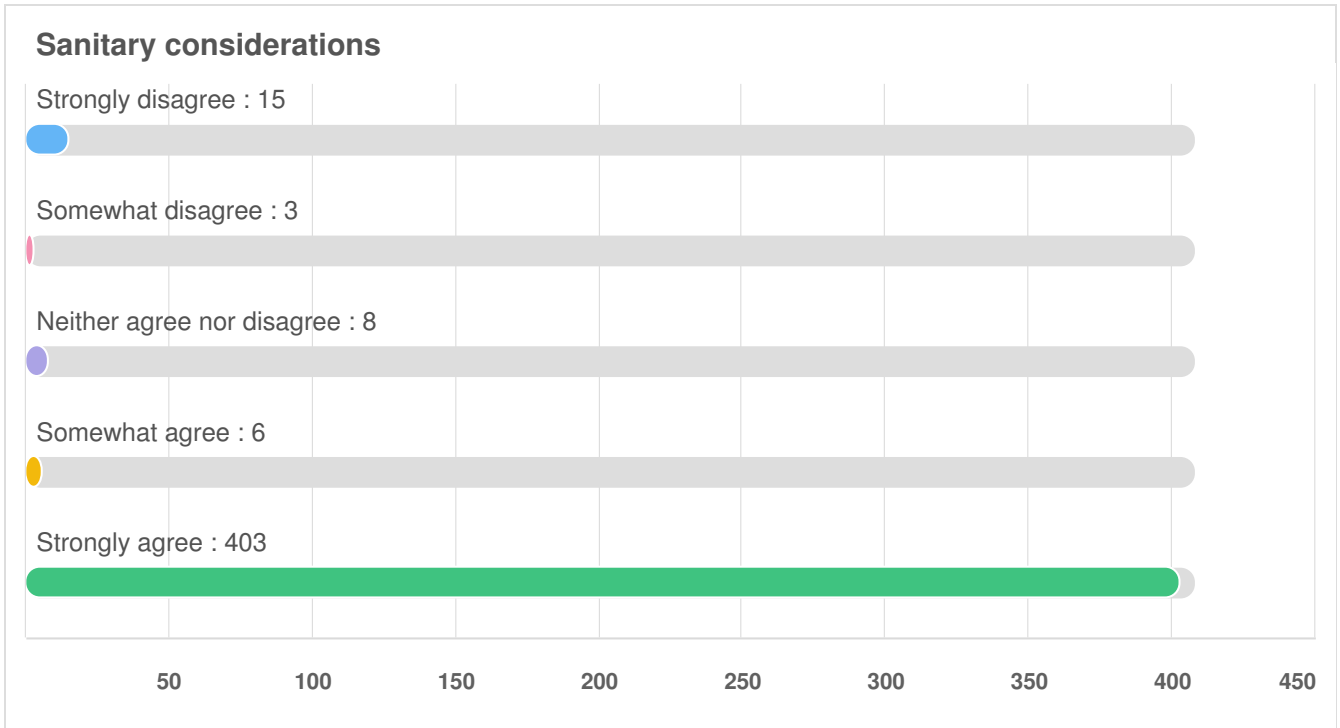


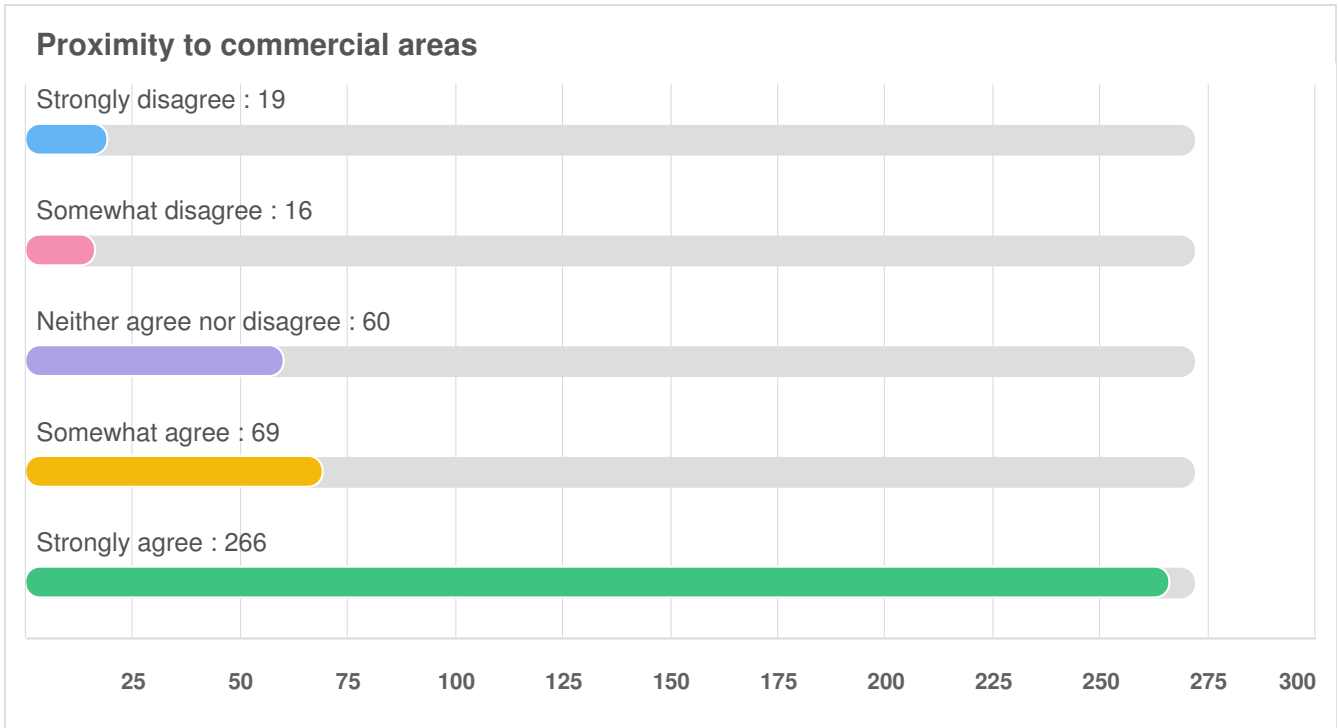


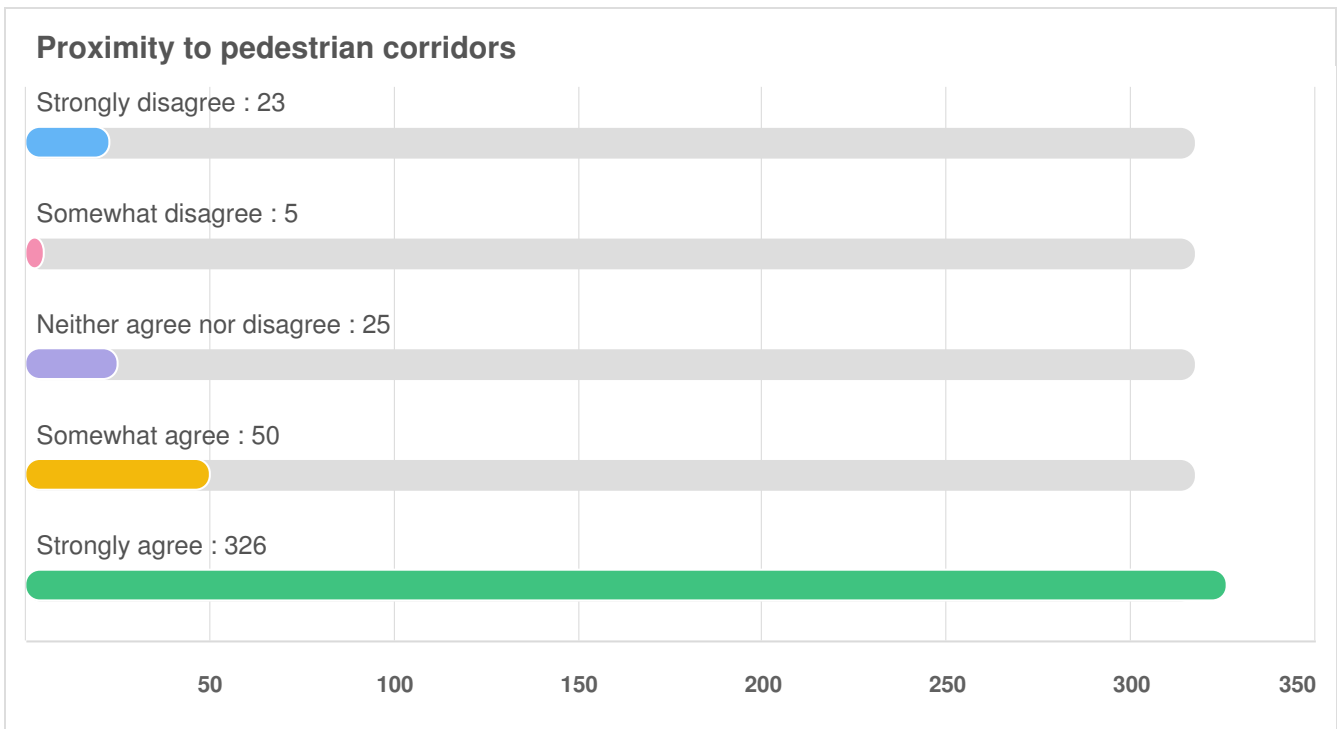


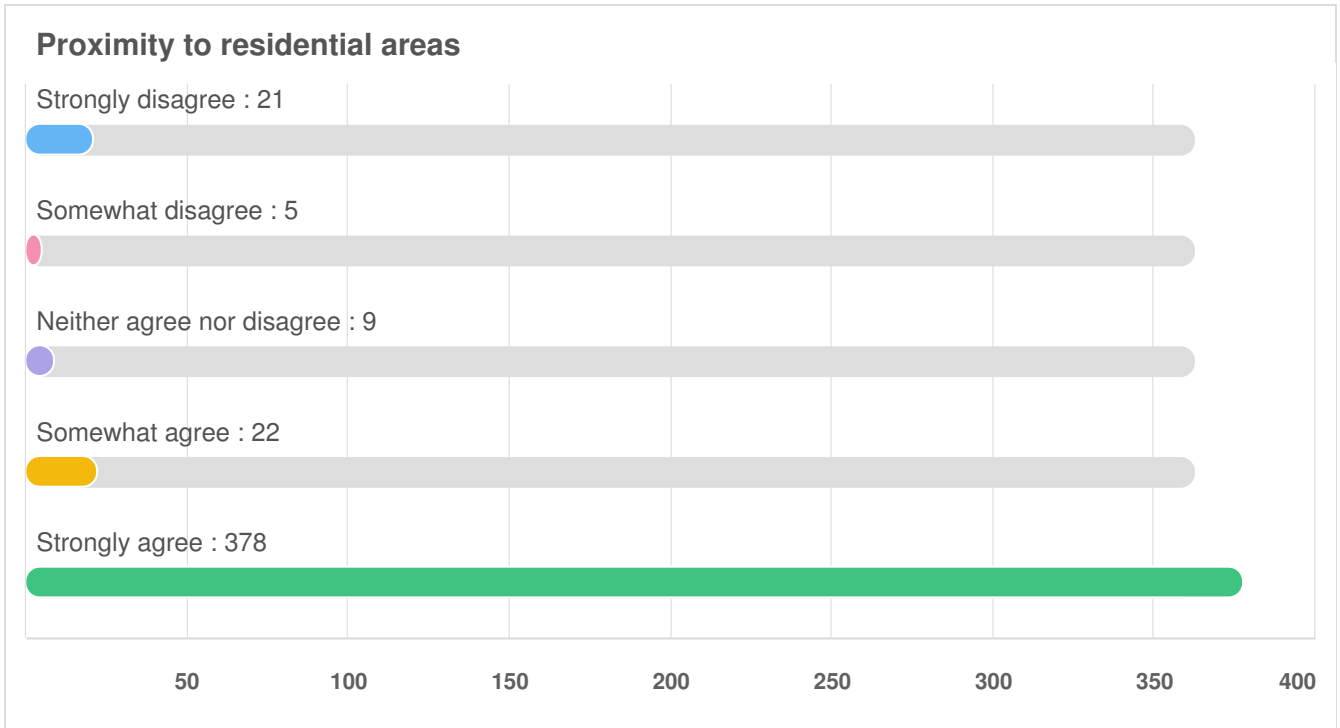


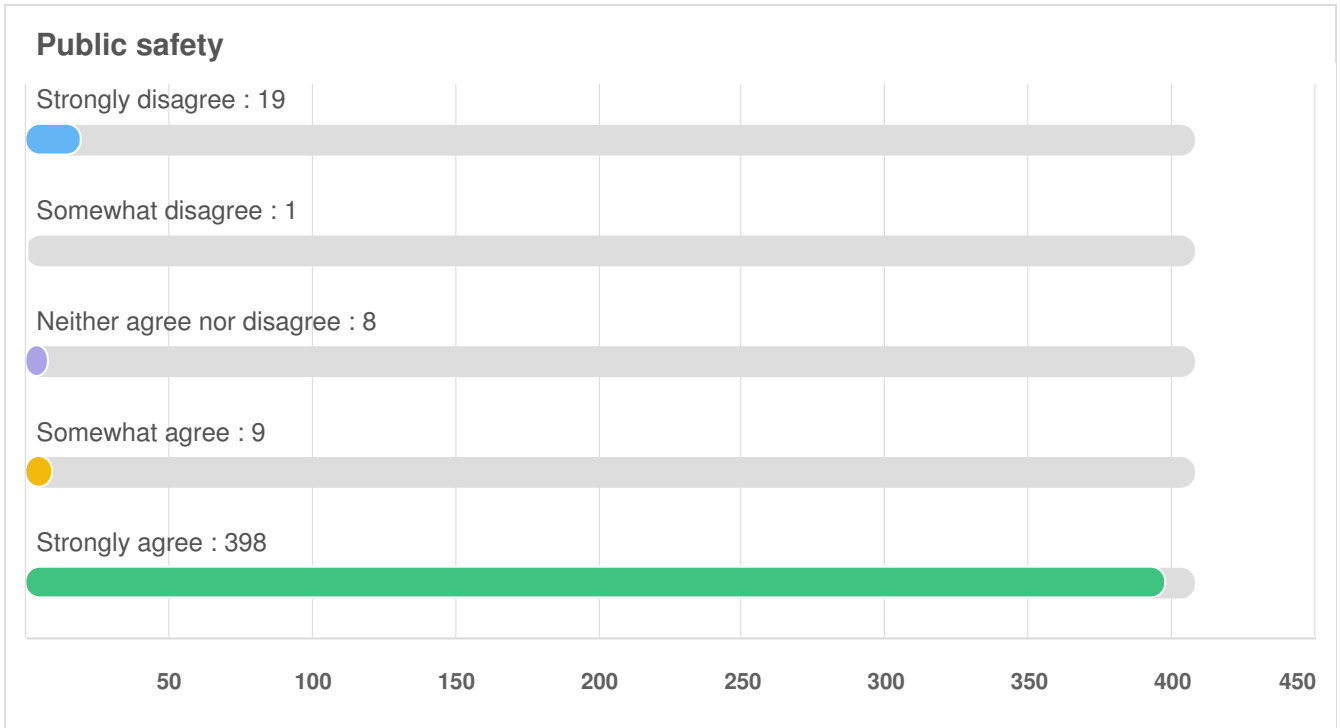












**Q5** With #1 being the best alternative, rank each location's suitability as a space to allow overnight camping (as required by ...

| <b>OPTIONS</b>                           | <b>AVG. RANK</b> |
|--|------------------|
| City/Government-owned Property           | 2.57             |
| Industrial Areas                         | 3.40             |
| Transit Areas                            | 4.02             |
| Parking Lots                             | 4.41             |
| Office/Commercial Areas                  | 5.76             |
| Town Center                              | 6.82             |
| Rights-of-Way/Streets                    | 7.07             |
| Retail Areas                             | 7.27             |
| Forested/Environmentally Sensitive Areas | 7.47             |
| Parks & Trails                           | 8.00             |
| School Grounds                           | 10.54            |
| Residential Neighborhoods                | 10.68            |

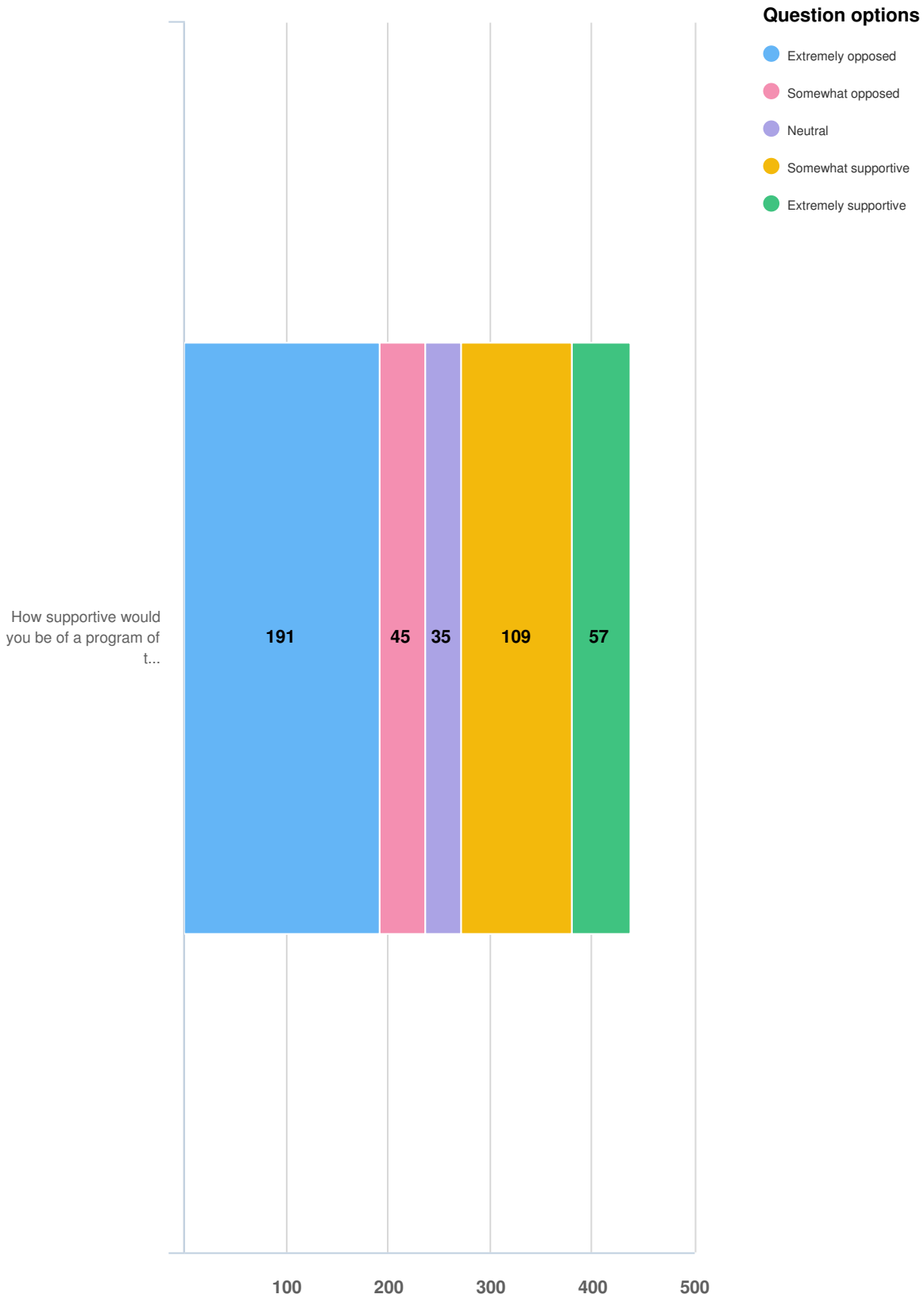
*Mandatory Question (437 response(s))  
Question type: Ranking Question*

**Q6** | With #1 being most important, which factors should receive the most consideration in the development of new overnight camping policy?

| <b>OPTIONS</b>                        | <b>AVG. RANK</b> |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| Duration of stay                      | 2.64             |
| Hours during which camping is allowed | 3.16             |
| Compatibility with nearby uses        | 3.32             |
| Environmental impacts                 | 4.13             |
| Proximity to services                 | 4.25             |
| Access to buildings, sidewalks        | 5.08             |
| Access to public parking lots         | 5.17             |

*Optional question (432 response(s), 5 skipped)*  
*Question type: Ranking Question*

**Q7** One consideration is a program to allow camping on private property, with approval of the property owner. Typically, these programs allow temporary camping (a maximum of 90 days, 6 months, etc.), with the maximum number of camp sites dependent on t...



Optional question (437 response(s), 0 skipped)  
Question type: Likert Question



**Q7** | One consideration is a program to allow camping on private property, with approval of the property owner. Typically, these programs allow temporary camping (a maximum of 90 days, 6 months, etc.), with the maximum number of camp sites dependent on t...

How supportive would you be of a program of this nature?

