



Eureka City Council
531 K Street
Eureka, CA 95501

Mayor Seaman and City Councilmembers,

We are writing to thank the council for its recent verbal commitment to researching and implementing a safe parking program in Eureka and to show our support for such a program.

The recent decision by the City to further limit areas in which people who are living in their cars are allowed to park was largely justified by the sanitation and safety issues that are reported in the area. Having a monitored, sanctioned, safe parking area with trash service and access to bathrooms will not only provide a solution to these environmental health problems, but can also help those who are experiencing houselessness to remain safe and connect with social services.

As environmental advocates, we recognize that the environmental impacts of being unhoused largely stem from lack of access to sanitation services. We organize litter clean-ups and often encounter trash from encampments. While those of us who are housed are able to dispose of our trash easily and regularly, that is not true for those who are unhoused who have few or no options for trash disposal. The same is true for access to bathroom facilities, something that most of us take for granted. While many in the community complain about encountering human waste on the streets, little has been done to provide access to bathroom facilities, which is the only solution for that particular problem. Establishing a safe parking program within the City could help to solve both of these problems, while also bridging the gap in our community between the housed and the unhoused by reducing these sources of conflict.

We support parking management as a strategy to discourage unnecessary car use and thus reduce the environmental impacts of transportation, but not as a strategy for removing

unhoused people from our communities. We must build additional centrally located housing that is accessible to those who currently need it. In the meantime, we must provide for safe parking for those whose vehicles are their homes.

We urge you to take action quickly to find the appropriate location for a safe parking facility and to partner with the nonprofits and social service providers who already have relationships within the unhoused community to help administer this program. There are models around the country that we can follow and many groups within our community with the knowledge and expertise to help make it a success. Thank you for your leadership on this issue. We look forward to seeing it on the council's agenda soon.

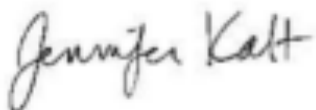
Sincerely,



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