


REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST

DATE: October 29, 2018

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst Council File No: 18-0002-S111
Assignment No: 18-08-0822

SUBJECT: Safe Parking Programs

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt attached Resolution to include in the City's 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for legislative and/or administrative action that would require the Department of Motor Vehicles to provide supplemental services to Safe Parking programs, including expedited processing of driver licenses and registration for individuals experiencing homelessness.

SUMMARY

On August 17, 2018, the Resolution (Blumenfield-Krekorian) was introduced in support of legislative and/or administrative action that would require the Department of Motor Vehicles to provide supplemental services to Safe Parking programs. The Resolution states that the City of Los Angeles is experiencing a homeless crisis in which thousands of people are living in their cars, vans, and campers/RVs. As part of the City's Comprehensive Homeless Strategy, the City Council approved the creation of a Safe Parking program. The Department of Motor Vehicles is a key partner in ensuring that a Safe Parking program is operable as soon as possible.

The attached Resolution recommends support for legislative and/or any administrative action that would ensure the appropriate policies and resources are in place to provide supplemental services to Safe Parking programs to expedite the process of providing assistance to those living in their vehicles.

BACKGROUND


According to the 2018 Homeless Count Results, there are approximately 5,161 vehicles occupied by 8,900 homeless individuals throughout the City of Los Angeles. Although vehicle dwelling by homeless individuals is scattered across the City, vehicle density is more prevalent in some Council Districts. As part of the City's Comprehensive Homeless Strategy, City Council approved the creation of a Safe Parking program. Safe Parking programs provide a safe parking environment and supportive services for transitional homeless individuals living in their vehicles.

There have been several cities that have previously implemented Safe Parking programs including Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Seattle. Participants in these programs are often required to undergo background checks and enroll in programs leading to stable housing. In the City of Los Angeles, the first Safe Parking Pilot Program (SPPP) was launched in June 2017 by Special Service for Groups' Homeless Outreach Program Integrated Care System (SSG HOPICS) at the United

Methodist Church in South Los Angeles. The SPPP assists vehicle dwelling individuals or families with supportive services including Housing Navigation, benefits connection, and temporary financial assistance. Eligible participants must have a valid driver license, insurance, and car registration. To assist participants in meeting these requirements, the SPPP provides financial assistance for individuals towards obtaining a driver license, vehicle registration, vehicle repairs required to pass mandatory vehicle smog inspections, and state required minimum liability insurance coverage.

Safe Parking LA is also a provider of safe parking. Safe Parking LA, a non-profit organization, assists homeless individuals living in their vehicles by establishing safe parking programs or by identifying parking lots for Safe Parking programs. Safe Parking LA provides individuals with a safe parking opportunity each night, including restroom access, a security guard, and social services. In March 2018, the first parking lot operated by Safe Parking LA opened at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Koreatown. Ten parking permits are issued per month and can be renewed as long as the individuals living in their cars abide to the rules. In partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs, a second lot operated by Safe Parking LA opened for veterans only at the Department of Veterans Affairs Campus which provides ten nightly spaces. The most recent lot operated by Safe Parking LA opened June 2018, in Hollywood.

Ensuring that the clients of Safe Parking programs have an up to date driver license, vehicle registration, and insurance has been a major barrier, especially in the San Fernando Valley. Appropriate policies and resources are needed in order to provide supplemental services to Safe Parking programs to expedite the process of assisting those living in their vehicles. These supplemental services could be in the form of expedited processing of driver licenses and vehicle registrations, additional staff assigned to assisting clients experiencing homelessness, and/or the creation of a special fund to cover these expenses.


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Analyst

SMT:xr

Attachment: 1. Revised Resolution

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles, with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles is experiencing a homeless crisis in which thousands of people are living in their cars, vans, and campers/RVs, and we must strive to keep using creative solutions until every person in Los Angeles is off the street and on a productive path forward; and

WHEREAS, the City Council approved the creation of Safe Parking programs as part of the Comprehensive Homeless Strategy because the implementation of more Safe Parking locations can improve the quality of life for residents and business owners in neighborhoods with these programs as well as clients served; and

WHEREAS, ensuring that the clients of Safe Parking programs have an up to date driver license, vehicle registration, and insurance has been a major barrier, especially in the San Fernando Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Motor Vehicles is a key partner in ensuring that Safe Parking programs are up and running as soon as possible and state legislators should work to ensure the appropriate policies and resources are in place to provide supplemental services to Safe Parking programs to expedite the process of assisting those living in their vehicles to have a safe place to park overnight; and

WHEREAS, these supplemental services could be in the form of expedited processing of driver licenses and vehicle registrations, additional staff assigned to assisting clients experiencing homelessness, and/or the creation of a special fund to cover these expenses;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for legislation and/or any administrative action that would require the Department of Motor Vehicles to provide supplemental services to Safe Parking programs including expedited processing of driver licenses and vehicle registrations for individuals experiencing homelessness.