



# MAYOR & COUNCIL MEMORANDUM

February 22, 2017

Subject: Consideration of Permitted Overnight Sleeping Pilot Program  
(City Wide)

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**Issue** – At the request of Council Member Uhlich, time has been set aside to discuss the potential implementation of a permitted overnight sleeping pilot program with the goal of expanding overnight sleeping options for residents experiencing homelessness.

**City Manager's Office Recommendation** – Mayor and Council is respectfully requested to provide input and direction to staff with regard to the proposed overnight sleeping pilot program.

**Background** – Various cities in other states have established programs or initiatives that allow for city-permitted overnight sleeping sites for persons experiencing homelessness. The city of Eugene, Oregon has implemented several different strategies in this regard, including:

- “Opportunity Village Eugene” – a 30 unit microhousing community that is classified and permitted under Eugene codes as a “Homeless Shelter.” The Village is operated by a non-profit agency, and can house up to 45 people.
- Overnight Parking Program – established by Eugene’s Mayor & Council in 1997 and made permanent in code in 2013, this program allows overnight sleeping in a tent, vehicle or Conestoga Hut at a residential property or on properties owned by faith-based groups or businesses, or on certain public property. The program is coordinated by St. Vincent de Paul, with funding provided by the City of Eugene. Under this program, the property owner may not grant permission for more than six vehicles at any one time.
- Rest Stops/Safe Spots – created in 2013 by Eugene’s Mayor & Council as one-year pilot program, and later extended by Mayor and Council into 2017, this program allows up to 20 people to sleep in tents, trailers or Conestoga huts under supervision of a responsible third party. The site locations are subject to prior approval by the city’s Mayor and Council. Currently six sites are in operation in Eugene.

Further information about the programs in Eugene is available at the following website:

<https://www.eugene-or.gov/2269/Rest-Stop-Program>

**Present Considerations** – Council member Uhlich asks that the Mayor and Council discuss and consider the development of a pilot program that draws on elements of the programs described above, and that has been the subject of discussions by the Alternatives to Shelter work group formed in connection with Council member Fimbres’ ongoing Homeless/Houseless work group. As contemplated, the pilot program would allow for religious, non-profit, or business entities to host up to four vehicles or microhousing structures on their property for persons needing overnight shelter. The proposed program does not call for any City funding, and could include the following parameters:

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- Council member Uhlich has initially proposed that the pilot program could include up to ten projects, with no more than four structures/vehicles at each site. Ten is proposed as the cap on the number of potential sites, and the actual number could be fewer;
- Eligible sleeping structures would include vehicles (car or camper) or microhousing structures (tiny house or hut);
- On-site access to toilet and garbage disposal must be provided;
- Sites must be located no less than 1200 feet in any direction from another program site or any existing Rehabilitation Service or Shelter; and sites could only be established after prior notice has been provided to surrounding and nearby properties to inform those owners of the proposed location and the terms and conditions that will apply to the use of the site for overnight sleeping;
- Participants must have a connection with case management to support goals and transition to permanent housing;
- Hosting sites must have community agreements outlining terms and conditions of stay. Those terms must include the prohibition of drugs, alcohol, and weapons on-site and in neighboring area;
- Hosting entities may not charge a fee or rent for stay, although requirements in the form of site stewardship or community participation may be included in community agreements;
- The hosting entity must agree to indemnify and hold the City harmless;
- Participants also will enter into hold-harmless agreements with both host site and the City.

Further details of the proposed pilot program are included in the attached concept paper provided by Council member Uhlich.

**Plan Tucson Considerations** – This item relates to the Plan Tucson elements of the Natural and Social Environments and is supported by the following policies:

- H8 – Address the housing needs of the most vulnerable populations in the community, including those at risk for homelessness;
- H10 – Provide housing, human services, public facilities, and economic development programs to end homelessness;
- PH2 – Improve access to healthy, affordable food particularly in underserved areas of the city.

**Financial Considerations** – As noted above, the proposed pilot program does not include any commitment of City funding.

**Legal Considerations** – The City Attorney has reviewed the proposal as described in this Memorandum, and is prepared to assist in the implementation of the pilot program by drafting any necessary agreements/documents.

Respectfully submitted,



Albert Elias

Assistant City Manager

AE/MR/dg

Attachments: 1) Memorandum from Council Member Uhlich dated January 27, 2017  
2) Concept paper