

CITY OF SEATTLE

RESOLUTION _____

..title

A RESOLUTION relating to addressing the needs of people living in vehicles and the impacts caused by vehicular living in all City neighborhoods; endorsing the Vehicular Living Workgroup recommendations; and promoting the well-being of people living in their vehicles to provide a safer and healthier environment for all.

..body

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle declared a civil State of Emergency on November 2, 2015, to address the homelessness crisis; and

WHEREAS, the City remains in a State of Emergency for the homelessness crisis; and

WHEREAS, Seattle is included in the region’s Point in Time Count, which is a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night in January that is required by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in order to receive federal funds under the McKinney-Vento Act; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 Point in Time Count documents 3,857 individuals experiencing homelessness without shelter in the City, and of those counted an estimated 1,550 individuals live in 962 vehicular residences; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the need to improve the health and safety of people experiencing homelessness that reside in vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the City prioritizes meeting the public health concerns and public safety needs of all citizens; and

WHEREAS, the City has engaged, and continues to engage, in efforts to address the needs of vehicular residents, including funding the Road to Housing program since 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Road to Housing program has been striving to meet the needs of people residing in vehicles, in spite of the City’s affordable housing crisis; and

1 WHEREAS, the Scofflaw Mitigation Team managed by the Interfaith Task Force on
2 Homelessness and the Ballard Community Taskforce on Homelessness and Hunger, and
3 provides assistance to people living in their vehicles without the support from City
4 funding; and

5 WHEREAS, the City implemented a Safe Lot parking program for people living in their vehicles
6 in January 2016, but ended the program due to unexpectedly high costs; and

7 WHEREAS, the Mayor’s Bridging the Gap to Pathways Home plan addresses the immediate
8 needs of people who are living unsheltered in our community through deepened outreach
9 efforts, enhanced shelter, and a new outreach model; and

10 WHEREAS, the Navigation Team, comprised of officers of the Seattle Police Department (SPD)
11 and outreach workers contracted through the Human Services Department (HSD), since
12 February 2017, provides direct outreach and referral to unsheltered homeless; and

13 WHEREAS, the City acknowledges that a response is critically important in addressing the
14 needs of all people experiencing homelessness including those residing inside vehicles;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Councilmember Mike O’Brien convened the Vehicular Living Workgroup in
17 February 2017 to recommend policy strategies to address the needs of people living in
18 their vehicles; and

19 WHEREAS, on April 27, 2017, the Vehicular Living Workgroup presented nine
20 recommendations to improve the health and safety of people residing in vehicles and all
21 residents of Seattle; NOW, THEREFORE,

22 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEATTLE, THE**
23 **MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:**

1 Section 1. The City recognizes that all recommendations of the Vehicular Living
2 Workgroup, attached to this resolution as Attachment A, provide a valuable policy framework
3 that includes:

- 4 1. A community needs assessment;
- 5 2. A data tool to track vehicular residency;
- 6 3. A process to determine vehicular residency;
- 7 4. Support for the Scofflaw Mitigation Team, organized by the Interfaith Task Force on
8 Homelessness and the Ballard Task Force on Homelessness and Hunger, and similar fee
9 mitigation services for people living in their vehicles;
- 10 5. Expansion of outreach and supportive services specific to people living in their
11 vehicles;
- 12 6. Increase in healthcare services tailored to the needs of people living in their vehicles;
- 13 7. A robust safe parking program;
- 14 8. Development of recreational vehicle campground sites; and
- 15 9. Establishment of an auto-maintenance skills training program to benefit people living
16 in their vehicles.

17 Section 2. The City will work towards the advancement of the prioritized
18 recommendations by taking the following actions:

- 19 • Design and implement a community needs assessment focused on vehicular
20 residences to develop a profile and description of people living in their vehicles as
21 well as define their current service needs.
- 22 • Formalize diversion mechanisms for vehicular residents from regulatory parking
23 enforcement actions to preserve the public peace, health, safety, and welfare by:

- 1 ○ Supporting mitigation efforts exemplified by programs such as the Scofflaw
2 Mitigation Team;
- 3 ○ Creating a “vehicular residence” designation with appropriate alternative
4 paths to specific parking enforcement actions and that facilitates efficient
5 referral to the City’s homelessness services; and
- 6 ○ Tracking such vehicular residences to ensure mitigation of legal financial
7 obligations and identifying the scope of needs for people living in their
8 vehicles.
- 9 • Expand outreach and case management services to increase social support,
10 connections to services, and pathways to permanent housing for people living in their
11 vehicles by providing HSD appropriations to contract four outreach workers and eight
12 case managers; and provide strategic coordination for these new staff to provide for
13 the comprehensive needs of people living in their vehicles.
- 14 • Create a robust safe parking program with capacity ranging from 200 to 500 vehicles
15 and their users by securing 30 to 50 parking locations throughout the City. The City
16 will use in-house real estate expertise to partner with non-profit organizations,
17 businesses, and faith-based organizations to obtain and maintain parking spaces.
18 Programming will include a social service manager to coordinate outreach, case
19 management, and all other services for all parking sites including daily and nightly
20 security checks to ensure safety and security for sites and broader communities. Site
21 amenities will include restroom facilities, electricity, and garbage service plus
22 periodic access to shower and laundry facilities.

- Establish a second Navigation Team, consisting of at least nine patrol officers, devoted to people living in their vehicles and community public safety concerns, by prioritizing existing staffing capacity resulting from the Executive’s plan to hire 200 new police officers.

Section 3. The City will support the remaining recommendations by conducting further analysis including but not limited to:

- Identifying Land Use Code barriers to, and opportunities for, potential development of recreational vehicle (RV) parks that can provide temporary and permanent parking.
- Examining efficient use of City resources and best practices for increasing healthcare access to people living in vehicles including analyzing the City’s funding support and outcomes for the King County Mobile Medical program.
- Exploring the probable outcomes of an auto-maintenance skills training program expressly for people living in their vehicles and organizational capacity for program development.

Section 4. The City Council requests that a workplan encompassing the recommendations listed in Section 2 of this resolution be provided by March 1, 2018, which can be completed by relevant City departments including but not limited to the HSD, SPD, City Attorney’s Office Precinct Liaisons, and the Finance and Administrative Services Department (FAS). The City Council requests that the Executive provide regular updates of the workplan’s progress.

Section 5. The City Council requests that FAS submit a report by November 1, 2017, detailing 30 to 50 appropriate sites for the safe parking program that meet capacity for 200 to 500 vehicles, including vacant City property and City-owned and City-leased parking lots.

1 Section 6. The City Council requests that the Office of Planning and Community
2 Development develop a report by January 1, 2018, which outlines a detailed analysis of Land
3 Use Code barriers and opportunities for developing an RV park and an appropriate timeline and
4 strategies for such development.

5 Section 7. The City Council, in its budget deliberations for the 2018 budget, will work
6 towards providing appropriations for the recommendations outlined in this resolution. A scalable
7 cost estimate and annual budget is shown in Attachment B to this resolution.

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