

Amy Johnson

From: Lynelle Wilcox <lynelle@comcast.net>
Sent: Monday, January 13, 2020 1:40 PM
To: Chuck Bennett; Lynda Rose; Steve Powers; Tami Carpenter; Cara Kaser; Tom Andersen; Brad Nanke; Jackie Leung; Matthew Ausec; Chris Hoy; Vanessa Nordyke; Jim Lewis; Kristin Retherford; Jerry Moore; Kathy Sime; Dan Atchison; CityRecorder
Subject: Testimony for 1/13/2020 City Council meeting: Car camping topic

Thank you Councilor Hoy for your motion to consider car camping options.
Thank you, City staff for researching car camping programs and options.

I wish that car camping was not ever a thing that was banned. When people have lost everything except their car, I don't understand why we have any rules that make it a crime to park and sleep in your car. I understand that people might have trash and/or visitors who are disruptive, yet why wouldn't the rules be about THOSE things, as opposed to rules that ban parking and sleeping in your car? Yet considering that the rules are not what I wish they were, in addition to looking at existing programs, as a citizen, I wish again for decisions and processes that focus on cost savings and behaviors.

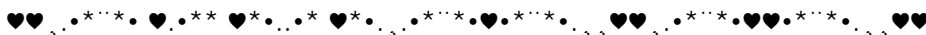
As our country struggles with homelessness, and our city has asked for more support from churches, businesses, AND private citizens, it seems to me that whatever program might be considered, there is also an excellent opportunity for private citizens to share parking spaces by their own homes that might not be in use. That option enables so many people to step up to be one small part of the solution about where people CAN be.

As a home-owner who used to have a spouse and 3 kids with cars, we used to have a need for 5 car spaces - two in the driveway, and 3 on the street, and there was still plenty of space for our neighbors and their guests to park. With kids moved out, we now have two cars in the driveway and none on the street.

If there was a registry system, where I could "give" one or two spaces to unsheltered individuals, it could do so much more than just saving money and offering permissible parking - this could be a bridge for many people to get to know each other; it could be a huge step towards destigmatizing poverty and homelessness by having interested individuals welcome our unsheltered neighbors; and it can help with litter if some people might also offer use of their trash cans too.

I hope whatever the city considers and implements for car camping, the options include ways for private citizens to also step up and share space. That option can do more than just enabling a place for some unsheltered people to be - that option also enables citizen participation in addressing the problem at a low cost, melting some differences, busting some myths about homelessness, and building community and connections. Please create options that include paths for citizen participation in welcoming unsheltered neighbors as equitable human beings. There but for the grace of the universe go any of us.

Thank you for your consideration of car camping options.
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the highest art is the art of living an ordinary life in an extraordinary manner.

and...

with our thoughts, we make the world.

