

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: Please REJECT this motion and see it for what it is. At first look this motion may seem to be “supportive” and “helpful” of folks living in RVs and other vehicles. However, the language used and the motion itself represents voices of those who are NOT the ones experiencing houselessness and/or poverty and instead those who just want houseless folks to leave their neighborhoods and not be visible. This motion does not do anything to solve the root of houselessness or of poverty. It merely sets up plans to begin to move them to city areas where majority white, higher-income earning folks don’t have to see or “deal with” poverty. The main intention of this motion is to move the vehicle-housed to industrial zones and/or areas that may be far from the communities they are connected too, which disconnects people from the services they already receive and the connections they already have. Time and again the people living in vehicles state they are from the community they park in. The motion wants to send wrap around services to the new “zones” where the vehicle-housed will be sent or moved too...why not send wrap around services to where they already are? I’m asking the city council to REJECT this motion and to instead create a motion that a) invests in services going TO those in poverty, not moving those in poverty around like chattel, b) involves and amplifies the voices of those who are living in RVs to hear their expertise (because it is THEIR lives and THEY are the ones experiencing poverty, not Traci Park or people with houses along Venice Canals) in what services would be useful to them in their efforts to survive, c) creates a Care First approach that prioritizes keeping people housed who are in these communities, and d) prioritize expansion of 24 hour safe zone parking before criminalizing people or banning them from their vehicle homes. Expanding the 24 hour safe zone’s capacities is already listed as one of the “priorities” listed in the February 09. 2023 CAO report. Why isn’t that being prioritized and focused on before starting to penalize people?