

October 5, 2021

Dear City Council,

We have communicated with the City Manager, Mayor Glass and Police Chief Kilgore both via email and zoom calls on multiple occasions most recently including June 7, June 18, June 22, June 28, July 8, July 15, July 29 asking to have this enormous public safety issue put on the City Council agenda. Once again, we are denied.

These decisions to let an illegal RV park be established on public streets negatively impacting community access to public parking, public parks, blocked visibility of ingress and egress from our property, and allowing dumping, blocking bicycle lanes, storage of items on sidewalks, littering our properties, etc. is a terrible policy and feels dishonest and unfair to those of us being held to the law, and paying our taxes. Zoning laws were created for many reasons and they should be respected.

These are not staff level decisions. These decisions need to be debated, public comment heard, then voted on by elected officials. I think you, and the Mayor, making the decision not to put these huge issues on the City Council agenda is negligent. We have tried many times to communicate with you directly about our issues relating to the encampment, but we are told that what we say is not true, is a non-issue or is better our issue than an issue for others to deal with. In a small City like Sebastopol, we would expect that our voices would be heard and that our concerns as a stakeholder in Sebastopol, would take a front seat.

The first responsibility of government is to provide safe streets to the citizens and the City of Sebastopol is failing to meet this basic responsibility. All of these illegally parked RV campers and the folks residing inside have no permit, they are setting up “camp” illegally, and they have been offered other shelters and refused.

At this point, you’re waiting on West County Community Service to make head-way. However, we are aware of plans to create an Ad Hoc Committee for the Unhoused which would last until January 2022. Does this mean we can assume you won’t take any action to put our request for timed parking on the agenda until January? This is unreasonable and unacceptable. We’ve been dealing with these same issues for 18+ months, and they’ve only gotten worse. In fact, since you hired WCCS, more than 6 additional RV’s have made Morris Street and Laguna Park Way their home. This is not progress and is only moving us further from the goal.

We demand your attention and again request that you allow the citizens of Sebastopol to participate in these discussions and decisions. We eagerly await a response from you and the date that our agenda item will be put on the calendar.

The Barlow Management