

From: [Kate Haug](#)
To: [Mary Gourley](#)
Subject: Fwd: Community Questions for SAVS RV Village and Council Plan
Date: Tuesday, December 07, 2021 8:44:39 AM
Attachments: [Screen Shot 2021-12-01 at 2.18.02 PM.psd](#)

Hi Mary,
I'm not seeing this comment for today's meeting. Can you double check to make sure it's there. I just sent in a second one, too.
Thanks,
Kate

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kate Haug** <[REDACTED]>
Date: Sun, Dec 5, 2021 at 9:36 AM
Subject: Community Questions for SAVS RV Village and Council Plan
To: Kevin Kilgore <kkilgore@sebpd.com>, Mary Gourley <Mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org>, Lawrence McLaughlin <lmclaughlin@cityofsebastopol.org>, Dante Del Prete <ddelprete@cityofsebastopol.org>, Chris Topham <[REDACTED]>, <michael.gause@sonoma-county.org>, <[REDACTED]>

Dear Council Members,

As you move forward with the RV Village and start to integrate community concerns, I have questions which I would like included into the meeting that SAVS will be having with community members.

As I cannot personally attend meetings, I request that this document be integrated into the SAVS materials.

As Council moves forward with this project and has heard from many community members and constituents about the impact of transients on schools, small businesses and quality of life, it is important to note that Sebastopol, a town of 7500 with an annual budget of less than \$10,000,000 has more transient beds (soon to be serving over 140) and services than both Rohnert Park (pop. 42,000) and Windsor (pop. 26,000). Windsor will soon close its Project Roomkey hotel, removing its only transient support services and not replacing it with any Safe Parking or other housing.

My biggest concerns are not with the people residing in the RV Village but with those who refuse service or do not qualify for the RV Village. I trust the SAVS will do an excellent job screening and will support residents who want to receive service and help. The greater concern are the people who refuse service and help; it would be a huge disservice to Sebastopol at large if we end up with encampments of people who just want to live on the streets and not abide by any rules or social contract.

Below are my questions.

Best,

Kate Haug

Questions:

1) 24/7 Security is now at 30 Days, with coverage moving to 10pm-6am. Given the concerns of parents about children commuting, a security guard from 7AM to 7PM would more fittingly address community concerns. In addition, SAVS will be employing an on-site manager. The site is also fenced in with gates. If you had motion lights attached to the gates from 10pm to 6am, the onsite manager would be alerted if anyone left during the curfew time. Why not use technology and the on-site manager at night instead of a security guard when it is clear that parents would like to have a security presence during the day and school hours?;

2) There are no restrictions on visitors so visitors could be registered sex offenders and/or drug dealers. How does the current plan address this?;

3) There does not seem to be a policy on overnight guests. Are overnight guests allowed?;

4) There does not seem to be any policies on smoking on the sidewalk or adjacent areas. Is there a smoking policy for adjacent properties?;

5) There are no sobriety requirements. How does the case management encourage addiction treatment?;

6) What happens if someone gets evicted? Do they return to being homeless on the streets of Sebastopol?;

7) What happens to RV dwellers who don't qualify for the Village because they are registered sex offenders or for other reasons? For instance, attached is a 12/121 photo of a man with a large knife standing outside of his RV on Morris Street. Would he be included in the Village or would the knife be considered a weapon? It seems it might be a tool but it is unclear. How would you determine this in accessing the applicant? What happens if he is not accepted?;

8) This Village holds less than half of Sebastopol's current RV dwelling population. What is the plan for the rest of the RV dwellers, including those who refuse service and shelter?;

9) This document only shows SAVS receiving the \$368K - where is the rest of the County money that was included in the previous budget?;

10) This document commits Sebastopol to the \$60K and to using the \$72K per year homeless outreach coordinator, Jennifer Lake, who is paid for by Sebastopol taxpayers (Sebastopol is basically paying for a homeless advocate), to this project. This means that unhoused individuals receive more tax allocation and benefit than tax paying residents and tax generating small business owners. The total budget for the City of Sebastopol is around \$10,000,000. Sebastopol has a resident base of approximately 7500 people. This means that each resident is apportioned approximately \$1333 of the annual budget. If the City

pays \$60,000 to lease a space to house 20 RVs, that is approximately \$3000 per transient or more than double what a tax paying resident receives in benefit.

In addition, the City pays Jennifer Lake, the homeless outreach coordinator who will be employed to help coordinate the SAVS Safe Parking effort. If Ms. Lake works with 50 people that is \$1440 per homeless person. In effect homeless, non-tax paying transients receive more in tax benefit than tax paying residents. A homeless person will potentially receive between \$1440-4400 (Rent and Homeless Outreach Coordinator) in benefit. This does not include the costs of port-o-potties, garbage pick up, and sanitation services on Morris Street for the last 18 months which are over \$50,000, public works time and police calls. How does the Council intend to get more economic and service parity between residents and transients?;

11) When SAVS, Jennifer Lake (paid for by the citizens of Sebastopol), City Staff and Council attend the meeting, they are paid. When citizens attend, they are volunteering their time, taking them away from parenting, jobs and other responsibilities. Will parents be reimbursed at their hourly working wage when they attend meetings? Will childcare provided as many of the impacted are parents and would need childcare provided or reimbursed to attend meetings. Part of our systemic devaluing of families is that childcare is not provided during government meetings, which would allow parents to participate more fully in community discussions.;

12) When the School Staff attends, it takes resources away from an already strained public school. Will Charter School Staff be reimbursed for their time when they attend meetings?

13) Who is responsible and who will pay for the clean up of Morris Street? Will the Citizens of Sebastopol be paying for the clean up? If so, how much? Shouldn't the people who have been living on Morris Street clean it up?;

14) Other Sonoma County cities do not have entrenched homeless encampments and do not have to pay for RV Villages with City Staff time. Why does Sebastopol have these problems?;

15) How did Sebastopol move from December 2020 when the County converted our only downtown hotel to homeless housing to declaring a homeless emergency 12 months later? Will Council reflect on how their actions, programs and policies have been ineffectual, put the public in danger, created a public nuisance and have impacted the community as a whole?;

16) With this decision, can anyone open up a homeless RV encampment on private land with port-o-potties. Does this set a precedent for this type of zoning?;

17) Will Sebastopol Police Department provide extra patrols on the Joe Rodota and

surrounding areas during school commute times to ensure that the trail is clear and safe for children to commute independently? From the 11/30/21 meeting, three school communities use the Joe Rodota Trail for commuting - West County High School, The Sebastopol Independent Charter and Brookhaven Middle School. It has a huge impact on the lives of families if children cannot commute to school independently. When parents have to stop their work day to drop off or pick up their child from school, it has economic impacts for the family as a whole. As Council has rushed this decision and placement without substantial vetting and due diligence, Council should ensure that children will be able to commute safely to and from school by providing extra police service during school commute hours.;

18) Does the use of generators, even on a temporary basis, comply with the area noise ordinance? How will noise be addressed so it complies with the area rules?;

19) Will current RV dwellers and transients be entered into a County and Statewide database which keeps track of unhoused people? Marin County has an excellent database so that when social workers or police officers encounter transients, they have a sense of the person's history and needs which can expedite the appropriate services and support. It seems it would be extremely helpful to help provide service and to know what service has already been provided. It also seems that in order to target financial and supportive resources, the County and State would need to track what programs are effective, what the needs are (mental illness, drug addiction, low wage work, former incarceration) in order to apply funds and services. As the County has spent over \$90,000,000 in the last two years, it would be an excellent use of funding to create an application that could be accessed by law enforcement and social work teams which showed real time shelter bed availability and a database which tracked transients and recorded which services they received and accepted and what services they rejected and their services needs.



