

**From:** [Jen Vertz](#)  
**Subject:** Jen Vertz regarding the SAVS RV Village  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 07, 2021 10:35:10 PM

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My name is Jen Vertz and I'm a homeowner less than a half a mile from the proposed SAVS RV Village.

I support finding the right resources for individuals and families experiencing homelessness with proven solutions that can help stabilize people through shelter, permanent housing and implementing assistance programs. It's offensive when suggested otherwise.

I was not contacted in advance about this by SAVS or the City, and only found out about this during a Planning Department Report at a Public Arts Committee meeting where I am a public servant for the City of Sebastopol as the Chairwoman of the Board. I typically keep very up to date on all city information, but this happening so rapidly during the Thanksgiving week when I was away with family, was unfortunate to say the least. Councilwoman Rich, you smile say that there will be constant contact from here on, but it would have been nice to have had any before this. Before Thursday the 9th after all the votes are over. Come on.. you can do better.

After listening to the entire November 30th City Council meeting, I was taken back by the amount of questioning and negative public comment, then to only be answered by a motion being moved to approve the MOU to allow City Council to select 845 Gravenstein as a location for the temporary RV Village. This should not have been rushed to a motion, when the public was not aware of the subject and when there was another option for SAVS.

Councilwoman Hinton previously suggested that there wasn't much of a difference of location from Morris to 845 Gravenstein. Please look at my google map here, and if you can't see my screen, google it yourself and tell me it's the same. Please let's just be honest and clear on this.

In the same meeting, Councilwoman Hinton stated "If we don't approve this tonight, we don't get the funding". Adrienne from SAVS said that if the timeline was "too tight for SAVS" she had an offer from another town and that if we didn't agree at this time, she could go elsewhere. There wasn't even an option for hurting any homeless population here, she had another place to go in order to get the funding. City Council didn't have to push this through so fast, during a holiday week, without the public's knowledge.

In the 11/30 meeting Councilwoman Rich felt the need to clarify that there was no sneaking behind the scenes. She stated what sounded like an ill informed threat "It's either this or we leave the situation on Morris St." That is ridiculous as so many cities are dealing with the same situation with RV's in another way. This isn't an all or none, and that statement feels like a threat. It's also offensive.

I took the day off to spend today with the residents of the RV's on Morris St. to see their side of view, before making a true opinion to voice to you tonight. I did meet one person who said he was born and raised Sebastopol, but no others were from Sonoma County. Many residents won't stay at the Sebastopol Inn because they say it wasn't set up and handled correctly. They're safer on the street. They were also unaware that the SAVS RV Village would have rules- and I quoted Adrienne the best I could from the 11/30 meeting where she said she wanted to "balance the rights of these human beings and allow them to make some of their own rules, and wouldn't go into detail of what she called a "robust disciplinary process".

Tonight Adrienne has given us this list of rules which is appreciated, but after today, I'm even more hesitant to believe that this "really nice village" is going to work.

Today, I met a lot of good people. I invited them all to public comment on this issue tonight with the zoom link. Many were on drugs, they told me so, and some wanted programs to help with that. They talked about the drug dealing on Morris. I witnessed multiple people walk to the black Lincoln Towncar to purchase drugs and even saw a police officer drive by and not do anything. I'm telling you after only one day of being there that this will end up in Mary's Pizza Parking lot. This will not end once they're moved to Gravenstein.

I offered to take photos of them with their sentiments- and a few obliged. The majority of people I spoke to didn't want rules, they wanted their freedom to do what they wanted, while receiving free power and water. None of the people I spoke to today realized that SAVS RV Village would have a fence, rules, guidelines, etc. They knew as little as I did.

No one I met today said they'd spoken to anyone from the City. They do need help- but in my opinion, this is not it. Their roofs are leaking, their engines are leaking, they don't all even want to move or stay in the trailers- what is happening here?

After listening to the 11/30 meeting, I found most of City Council's and SAVS tone to be completely deaf to what the public needed answers for. After spending all day on Morris St. with the residents of the RV's, I'd also say those I spoke to are also as in the dark about what is happening as the public is.

This lacks accountability and safety for the public you're supposed to be representing, I'm asking each of the Councilmembers to take a step back and look at if financial or social factors have compromised your judgment, decisions or actions both in the 11/30 meeting where you passed the MOU and tonight if you support the Operational Agreement.

Please prove to everyone in the city of Sebastopol that you'll take the time to do this right and do more learning, listening and communicating before voting on this. I'm asking that you do not approve the Operational Agreement tonight for the SAVS RV Village. Using a quote from Mayor Slater- this is your off-ramp.

Thank you for your time.  
Jen

Jen Vertz

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