

Discussion about proposal for Safe Overnight Parking Program at St. John Vianney

We would like to invite everyone to a **Town Hall in Mullen Commons Vista Room this Friday, April 26th at 7pm** to discuss the proposal presented to us as a parish to host a Safe Parking Program on our campus. We want to hear everyone's questions and concerns.

The request was brought to us by the Walnut Creek Homeless Task Force. Fr. William reached out to our Faith in Action group to learn more about the program and explore the possibility. Trinity Center would be running the program and they identified a funding opportunity from the City of Walnut Creek's Homeless Fund as seed money for this program which is why the proposal became public before we had the opportunity to talk as a parish.

Key Info on The Safe Overnight Parking Program:

- The program will be run by Trinity Center.
- Participants will be clients of Trinity or register with Trinity Center as clients and agree to work with one of Trinity's Case Managers to work toward ending their homelessness.
- SJV would provide parking for 8 - 10 cars and access to bathrooms for our guests. SJV will only host adults in this program. The proposed location of the cars is in front of the lower level of Mullen Commons with access to the lower level of Mullen Commons provided as needed by the Security Guard for use of Restrooms.
- Overnight parking would be from 9 pm to 6 am, daily. A Security Guard will be on site the entire time and would sign guests in at night and ensure they leave the parking lot each morning. They would also make rounds during the night to make sure there aren't people parking elsewhere that are not part of the program.
- Trinity Center rules and code of conduct will be enforced, including no drug or alcohol on our campus.
- Trinity Center will provide showers, and meals for these clients at their location in downtown Walnut Creek; and will provide the insurance for the program, including the SJV site.

Why was this proposal brought to us?

We all know a growing number of people who lose their housing end up living in their vehicles. Many of these people have jobs, but not enough income for rent. It is difficult for them to find a safe place to park overnight where they will not be disturbed. When complaints are made, the police must investigate.

The Walnut Creek Police Department is very supportive of having a Safe Overnight Parking Program and see our campus as an ideal place to begin, because of our location (bordered by a golf course, park and commercial buildings, and the hospital). The Police Department has benchmarked similar programs in other cities and found them to be beneficial for the homeless, the community, and the police.

Union City, one of the benchmarked cities, has been running a Safe Parking Program for about 2 years without incident. It has grown to multiple sites for parking, including several church parking lots.