

Frequently Asked Questions About Safe Overnight Parking Program

What kind of impact will it have on worship and ministry activities at St. John Vianney Church?

A: The cars will be invited to come here after 9pm. The Security Guard will be on duty already by that time. Most of our ministry meetings are completed by 9pm in the evening. We have already identified that there will be some dates such as Christmas Eve and Easter Vigil, when we will need all the parking spaces until later in the evening. They are to be out by 6am which is before our sacristans come in to set up for the Rosary and morning Mass. Again, the Security Guard does not leave until our guests have left.

How will we make sure people are safe? How will we keep from attracting other homeless here to our Parking Lot?

A: We will have each client check in with the Security Guard. If they are not coming to stay the night, they are to call ahead and let Trinity Center know. Trinity Center has a relationship and will have vetted all of these clients and they will be expected to adhere to the guidelines of the program to continue in the program. If there are other people or cars that are not supposed to be part of the program that are seen by the guard when he makes his rounds, the guard will contact either CORE to provide transportation to an individual without a car, or, if someone is in a car and won't leave, they will call WCPD to have them escort out the person who is not authorized to stay.

How will we handle trash, sanitation and potential property damage?

A: We will have a large trash can available on the lower level of Mullen Commons that can be used by the clients to get rid of their trash. The Security Guard will have the keys to Mullen Commons to let the clients come in to use the bathroom. The Security Guard will be stationed in the lower level of Mullen Commons except when he is making periodic rounds around campus. The Security Guard will insure that the restrooms are treated properly and that our clients all clean up after themselves. The lower level of the Commons are supposed to be cleaned 6 days a week currently, and we will increase that to 7 days to make sure it is cleaned, including the restrooms by our Janitorial staff on a daily basis.

How will we insure drug and alcohol restrictions are enforced onsite?

A: The Security Guard will have visual site of the cars from the door of the lower level of Mullen Commons. Again, clients that do not comply with the rules will not be able to continue in the program.

How many people will be allowed in each car?

A: We have asked that we have no children in the program, so we believe each car would have 1 or 2 people at the most. If there is a special circumstance that Trinity would like to request more adults per car, they will check with St. John Vianney before approving the client for this program.

How long will this program last?

A: We will be evaluating this program every 6 months to see whether it is working as we want it to work, whether we want to adjust the program, or whether we want to discontinue it. This program is considered a short term solution and not a long term solution by the Walnut Creek Community Task Force on Homelessness.

How will liability be handled?

A: Trinity Center is providing St. John Vianney and the Diocese of Oakland a Certificate of Insurance for liability.

Safe Parking Programs have been run in other locations in the Bay Area. How have those programs worked for the host sites?

We have talked with people involved in programs in Pittsburg and in Union City and they have been very happy with those programs. We are not aware of any significant incidents.