



# Homelessness Study Session

April 1, 2025

# Overview



Legal  
Framework



State of  
California



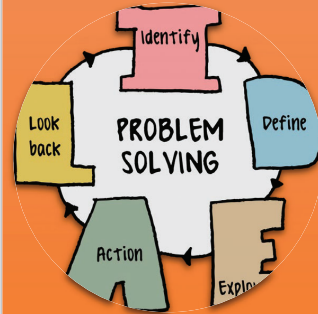
San Mateo  
County



South San  
Francisco



Other  
Cities



Discuss  
Potential  
Solutions



# Legal Framework

## Legal Framework | Federal Case Law

### Martin v. Boise

- Cannot criminalize sleeping in public if no shelter is available (Eighth Amendment)

### Johnson v. Grants Pass

- Initially expanded protections; overturned by Supreme Court in 2024
- Enforcement of camping bans allowed if not based on housing status



# Legal Considerations

## 8<sup>th</sup> Amendment

- Cruel and unusual punishment

## 4<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Amendments

- Search/seizure and due process protections

Enforcement must consider all constitutional limitations



State of California

# Governor Newsom

Prioritizing encampment resolution

New Funding Accountability Platform [accountability.ca.gov](https://accountability.ca.gov)

Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP)

Performance-based with claw back provisions



# San Mateo County

# San Mateo County | Hopeful to Horizons Ordinance



Misdemeanor for encampment after two written warnings/offers of shelter

- Diversion programs



Cannot dismantle encampment unless there is appropriate shelter for each person there

- Pets
- Gender
- Sexual orientation
- Families
- Age

# San Mateo County | Encampment Resolution Fund (ERF)



## Dignity on Wheels

- Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday at Parking Lot 7 (371 Miller)
- Showers
- Laundry
- Other hygiene services



## Priority areas in SSF

- South Maple Avenue
- Lowrie Avenue
- Area near southbound Hwy 101 offramp at Produce Avenue

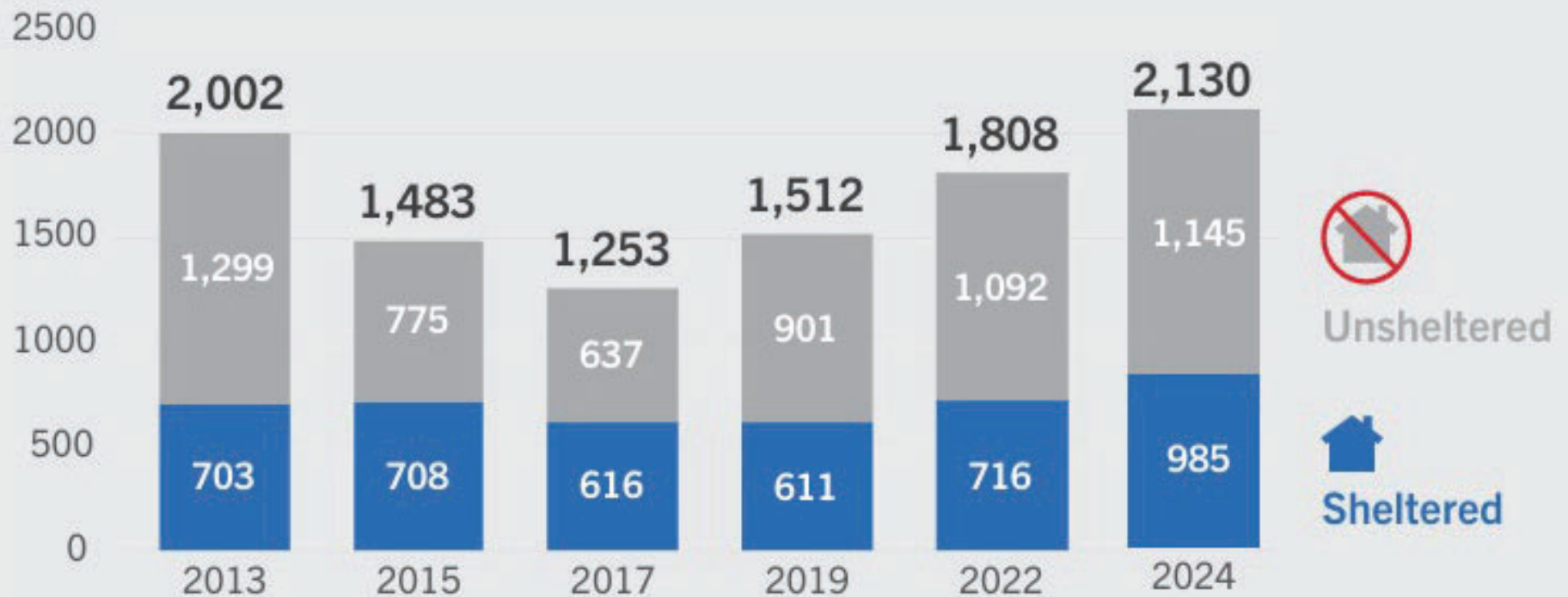


## ERF focus

- Mental health
- Physical health
- Substance abuse
- Counseling
- Shelter/housing opportunities that offer long-term solutions

## San Mateo County | Point in Time Count Trends

**CHART 3. ONE DAY HOMELESS COUNT – TOTAL OVER TIME**



# San Mateo County | Point in Time Count Trends

CHART 5. UNSHELTERED HOMELESS COUNT OVER TIME





# San Mateo County | Point in Time Data Trends

Geographic Location	2013	2015	2017	2019	2022	2024
Atherton	0	1	0	1	3	2
Belmont	43	11	3	7	13	22
Brisbane	34	21	19	4	6	11
Burlingame	13	7	21	25	10	40
Colma	7	3	1	8	1	11
Daly City	27	32	17	66	49	72
East Palo Alto	119	95	98	107	169	81
Foster City	7	0	6	4	4	4
Half Moon Bay	114	84	43	54	68	20
Hillsborough	0	0	0	0	0	0
Menlo Park	16	27	47	27	56	74
Millbrae	21	8	7	9	9	22
Pacifica	150	63	112	116	161	180
Portola Valley	2	0	1	0	0	0
Redwood City	306	223	94	221	245	189
San Bruno	98	8	26	12	63	75
San Carlos	10	20	28	30	14	29
San Francisco Int. Airport	5	1	3	21	14	23
San Mateo	103	82	48	74	60	95
<b>South San Francisco</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>79</b>
Unincorporated	46	32	30	73	105	114
Woodside	6	2	0	0	0	2
Total	1,299	775	637	901	1,092	1,145

## San Mateo County | Shelter | Parking



Unused Beds



Ban on  
overnight  
parking for  
oversized  
vehicles



Safe Parking  
Program



# South San Francisco

## South San Francisco | Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)



City of  
South San  
Francisco



LifeMoves



San  
Mateo  
County



Samaritan  
House



YMCA

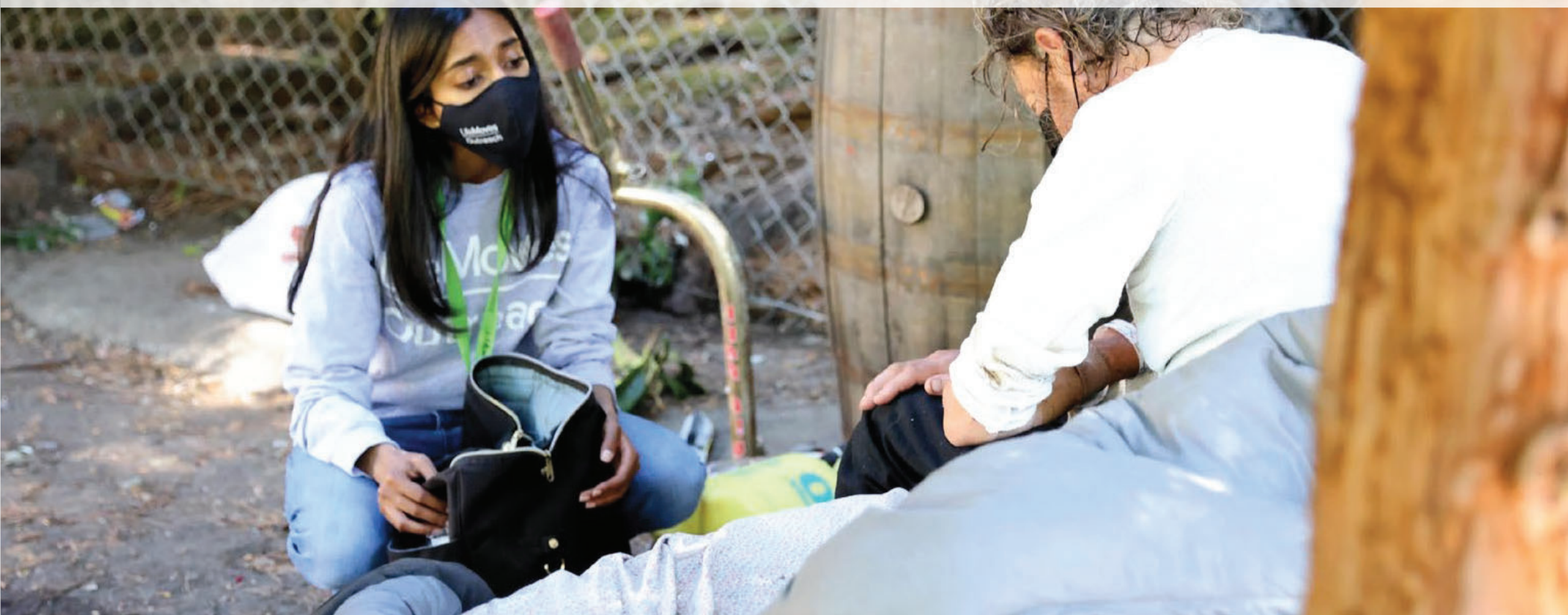


St.  
Vincent  
de Paul





## Outreach Services Teams



# Homeless Outreach Team (HOT)

## What Do We Do?



- The Outreach team connects with the hardest-to-reach and most vulnerable members of our community. We enter encampments, work under bridges, and engage clients near freeways—wherever we're needed.
- Our team is out in the community rain or shine, hot or cold, serving as the boots on the ground and working in the trenches!
- We take a holistic approach to serving our clients, tailoring case plans to support shelter requests, housing placement, substance use treatment, physical and mental health care, and income stability. We think outside the box to help clients overcome barriers to housing and reintegrate into society.



# New Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) 2.0 Program

## New Homeless Outreach Team (HOT) 2.0 program:

HOT 2.0 is divided into 4 regions and recently has expanded regional coverage throughout San Mateo County (SMC):

- Region 1 coverage: Daly City, San Bruno, Colma, Millbrae, Burlingame, Brisbane, South San Francisco
- Staffing consists of 2 Outreach Specialists (day/evening), 3 Outreach Case Managers, 1 Program Director

## Encampment Resolution Funds (ERF) Program

ERF LifeMoves program serves 19 of 26 ERF identified encampments throughout San Mateo County (SMC).

- Region coverage: Region 1(North County), 3 (Bayside), 4 (South County) & individuals housed
- Staffing consists of 4 Outreach Case Managers (1 Bilingual Spanish speaking Case Manager) and 1 Program Director.
- South San Francisco ERF encampments include #6, #7 and #8

# Success with HOT teams

- Homeless Outreach Team (South San Francisco)
  - **Calendar Yr 2024**
  - Engaged with **268** individuals
  - **134** Linked to coordinated entry system
  - Placed **115** in Interim Housing( Shelter)
  - Housed **15** individuals.
- Success Story
  - 56 year old Latino Male
  - First enrollment into HIMS, February 2016, LifeMoves HOT, Housed in October 2024







# Point of contacts

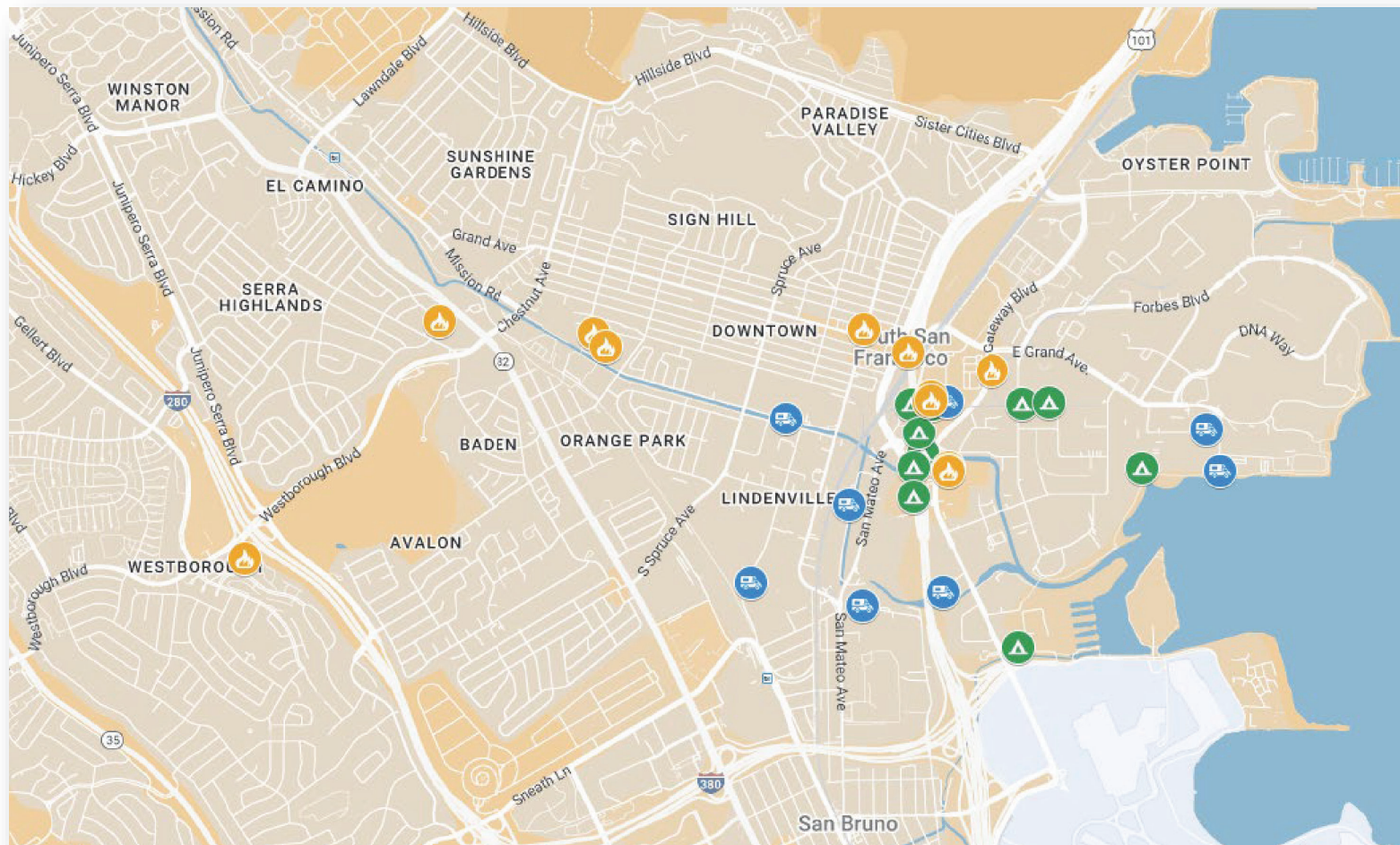
Sarah Fields - Director, Community Engagement & Public Affairs  
[sfields@lifemoves.org](mailto:sfields@lifemoves.org)  
858-254-1281

Valerie Lomeli- Encampment resolution Funds Program Director  
[vlomeli@lifemoves.org](mailto:vlomeli@lifemoves.org)  
(650)533-5527

Marlon Mendieta- Region 1 (North County) HOT Program Director  
[mmendieta@lifemoves.org](mailto:mmendieta@lifemoves.org)  
(650) 451-8299

Barbara Flores- Associate Director of the Homeless Outreach Team  
[Bflores@lifemoves.org](mailto:Bflores@lifemoves.org)  
650.315.6507

# South San Francisco | Encampment/RV/Fire Heat Map



# Private Property

Owner/Rep  
requests No  
Trespassing  
Order

Issued by  
SSFPD

Citation or  
arrest for  
non-  
compliance

## South San Francisco | Encampment Process

City Property | UPRR | Caltrans

SSFPD initiates contact

Identify individuals

Lifemoves maintains communication



Public safety, public health, or environmental concerns

SSFPD issues written form, providing 48 hours to remove property

Coordination with Public Works for encampment clean up

## South San Francisco | SSFPD Unhoused Declining Services

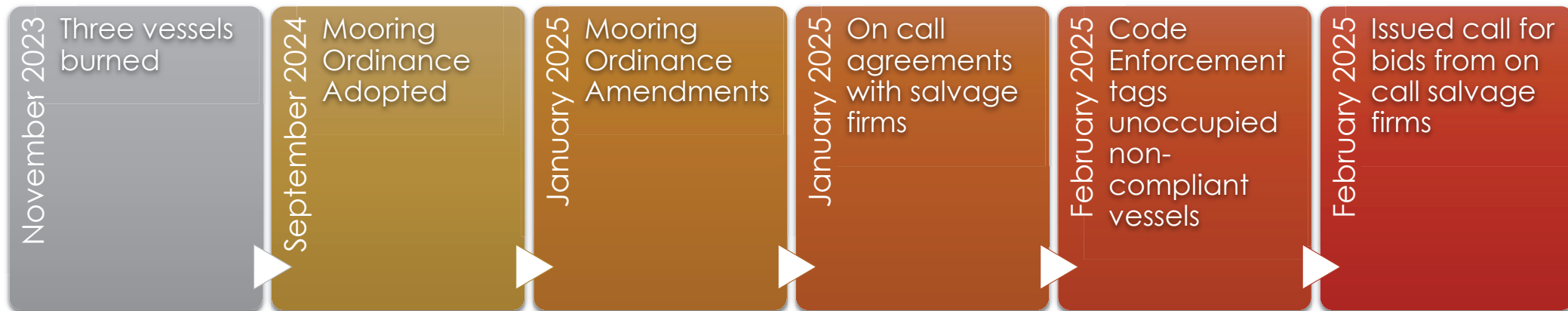
Type	Number	Reason
RVs	5	SSFMC prohibiting 72-hour parking
	2	Expired registration more than six months
Vehicles	17	
Boats	1	

## South San Francisco | Towing Challenges

Lack of tow  
trucks large  
enough to tow  
large RVs

Space to store  
towed RVs

# South San Francisco | Anchor Out Vessels | Milestones





## South San Francisco | Anchor Out Vessels







# Comparison to Other San Mateo County Cities

# RV Safe Parking

120  
participants

Wait list |  
Permit to  
park on city  
streets

Each  
participant  
assigned a  
social  
worker

Primary  
goal to  
move  
toward  
permanent  
housing

Operated  
by  
LifeMoves

Prior to  
program:  
110 RVs

Program  
ended  
February  
2023

60% of 91  
moved into  
permanent  
housing

## East Palo Alto



City of  
East Palo  
Alto



LifeMoves



Project  
WeHOPE

TUP for overnight  
parking (beyond  
Safe Parking  
Program)

Enforces Oversized  
Vehicles Ordinance

- Cites/tows vehicles  
parked between 2:00 –  
5:00 AM



# Comparison to Cities in Neighboring Counties

## San Francisco | Safe Parking



155 vehicle capacity

- Only 33 spaces

Lack of electricity

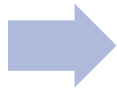
Accessibility issues

Diesel generator pollution

# San Francisco

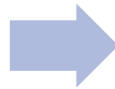
October 2024

- SFMTA: No parking large vehicles 12-6 AM



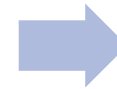
December 2024

- BOS: Rescinded SFMTA legislation



SFPD

- Can only issue citations



New signage banning RV parking

- SFMTA Board approval required

# Berkeley | Encampment Policy Resolution to Promote Healthy and Safe Neighborhoods

## Exceptions to offering interim housing when closing encampments

Fire hazard or emergency condition

Imminent health hazard

Public nuisance

Located on City street median, in roadway, or other dangerous proximity to traffic

Where City has authorized work

Interferes/impedes City or utility company construction/maintenance in public right of way

# Mountain View | Safe Parking Program

## Eligibility

Individuals or families with children enrolled in local school

Work or previously lived in city

Seniors (55 or older)

People with disabilities

## Services

Restroom and hygiene facilities

Case management and housing navigation

Wraparound support

## PPP

Private property owners

Faith-based organizations

## Community Integration

Neighborhood outreach and engagement to ensure parking locations are well managed with minimal impact





# Potential Solutions

## Beyond HOT

### Emergency Rental Assistance

- Administered by YMCA
- \$1M since 2020
- Assisted 275+ households
- Pays past due rent
- Avoids evictions due to nonpayment

### New Ordinance

- Relocation benefits for displaced tenants
- Change in SRO hotels and mobile home parks

### Financial support to nonprofits to prevent homelessness

- Legal Aid of San Mateo County's Home Savers
- Rebuilding Together Peninsula Minor Home Repair

## Lot near 1461 San Mateo Ave



City owned

250' x 60'

RV storage  
capacity: 36-40

Safe Camping  
space  
capacity: 18-24  
RVs

## Lot near 1461 San Mateo Ave | Concerns & Costs

May attract more  
RVs than current  
footprint and  
beyond available  
resources

Site upgrade costs:  
\$150k - \$250k

Site Staffing &  
management  
recurring costs  
would be in  
addition

Potential lease to  
contracted tow  
company

## Other Agencies' Experience



### SF Bayview Vehicle Triage Center Challenges (Closed)

- Infrastructure
- Environmental
- Legal
- Underutilization



### San Jose Safe Parking (Active)

- Strict requirements (operational, insured, current registration)
- Underutilization



### Redwood City Temporary RV Safe Parking

- Managed by LifeMoves
- Capacity for up to 40 RV households
- 60% of 91 participating households had moved into permanent housing by program conclusion



### Pacifica Safe Parking

- Managed by Pacific Resource Center (PRC)
- 29-day permits; renewable upon expiration
- 13 dedicated parking spots
- City pays for parking space striping, police patrol, co-hosting mobile dumping station

# THANK YOU



Homelessness Study Session  
City of South San Francisco