

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative Code - Programs and Fund for Vehicularly Housed Persons]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to establish the Relocation Assistance Fund for the Vehicularly Housed and to allow eligible vehicularly housed persons to receive financial assistance from the Fund for up to six months; require the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (“HSH”) to establish a Safe Overnight Parking Program to provide eligible vehicularly housed persons a place to park and sleep in their vehicles overnight, case management, and other services; require HSH to collaborate with Municipal Transportation Agency to develop an On-Street Parking Citation and Tow-and-Storage-Fee Abatement Program to provide eligible vehicularly housed persons with waivers or reduced parking fines and fees; and affirming the Planning Department’s determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Existing Law

Currently, the City and County of San Francisco does not provide members of the public who live in their vehicles with financial assistance to transition to non-vehicular housing, nor does it provide these persons with off-street parking where they can park and sleep in their vehicles overnight without violating parking laws. With respect to parking citations, the Municipal Transportation Agency currently offers programs whereby members of the public who have outstanding parking citations may perform community service in-lieu of payment, or enter into a payment plan. In addition, the Municipal Transportation Agency offers waivers of certain towing and storage fees to eligible low-income individuals.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance would establish a Relocation Assistance Fund to assist eligible members of the public who live in their vehicles with transitioning to traditional, non-vehicular housing. An Overnight Safe Parking Program would be established to provide an off-street location where program participants may park and sleep in their vehicles overnight. At this location, additional City services and referrals would also be provided to assist these individuals with transitioning to traditional, non-vehicular housing.

In addition, the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing would be required to collaborate with the Municipal Transportation Agency to develop an On-Street Parking Citation and Tow- and Storage-Fee Abatement Program to provide identified individuals with waivers of, or reductions in, parking citation fines and vehicle towing and storage fees. Implementation of this program is subject to the Municipal Transportation Agency’s exclusive authority under the Charter and other applicable laws.

Background Information

San Francisco is facing a crisis of homelessness. In addition to staying in shelters and living on the streets, some people experiencing homelessness live in a variety of vehicles, including recreational vehicles (“RVs”), vans, and passenger cars throughout the city. According to data collected by the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (“HSH”) in October 2018, there were 432 inhabited vehicles on the streets of San Francisco, including 313 RVs and 119 passenger cars. Data from the Municipal Transportation Agency suggest there may be as many as 1,200 vehicularly housed persons in San Francisco.

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