



COUNTY OF SAN MATEO
Inter-Departmental Correspondence

DATE: June 21, 2004

BOARD MEETING DATE: July 6, 2004

TO: Honorable Board of Supervisors

FROM: Supervisor Rich Gordon *RJ*

SUBJECT: Proposed County Ordinance to Regulate Use of Motor Vehicles for Human Habitation in the Unincorporated Area of San Mateo County

Recommendation

Approve introduction of a County Ordinance to regulate the use of motor vehicles for human habitation in the unincorporated area of San Mateo County, and waive reading of the ordinance in its entirety.

Background

Members of this Board have received information from residents of the unincorporated area of San Mateo County which suggests that substantial public health, safety, and quality-of-life concerns are posed by persons who sleep overnight in vehicles parked on public streets, on public easements, in public parks and in off-street parking lots located within the unincorporated area of the County. Specifically, residents have informed Board members that litter and unsanitary conditions caused by or related to individuals who sleep in vehicles, and that such conduct is incompatible with the character of communities located within the unincorporated area. Similarly, the presence of individuals sleeping in vehicles has created anxiety for some County residents, who have contacted law enforcement personnel to report suspicious vehicles. Further, persons who sleep in vehicles are at a heightened risk of suffering assault, robbery, and other criminal activity.

Discussion

County staff has worked in collaboration with members of the community, including

Mr. Julian McCarrach and the Princeton Citizens' Advisory Committee. After discussions with this and other citizens groups, staff believes that this Board should regulate the use of motor vehicles for sleeping in order to prevent the effects described above. Proposed Chapter 7.96 of the San Mateo County Ordinance Code would make it an infraction to sleep in any vehicle, camper or trailer between the hours of 10:00 p.m. of any day and 6:00 a.m. of the next ensuing day when the vehicle is located on any public street, on any public easement, in any public park, or in any off-street lot designated for parking, within the unincorporated area of San Mateo County.

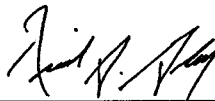
After reviewing the proposed ordinance, the County Counsel has informed me that it appears consistent with controlling state and federal law.

Vision Alignment

Adoption of the proposed ordinance will further the County's goal of maintaining and enhancing the public safety of all residents and visitors.

Fiscal Impact

Aside from additional enforcement costs, which would likely be minor, adoption of this proposed ordinance is not expected to result in a significant fiscal impact.



SUPERVISOR RICHARD GORDON

TFC:jdn

cc: John Maltbie, County Manager
Thomas F. Casey III, County Counsel
Neil Cullen, Director of Public Works
Don Horsley, Sheriff
Julian McCarrach, Chairperson, Princeton Citizens' Advisory Committee
Captain Fritz Eberly, California Highway Patrol, 335 Convention Way, Redwood
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