

Kim Agfalvi

From: Matt <matthew.tasin@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 3:26 PM
To: Clerk
Subject: City Council Meeting 3/27/24

Good evening,

I regret being unable to attend in person. It came to my attention that the Orting Recovery Café is proposing to build an emergency parking lot to create a safe space for homeless individuals. I do not believe that this is in the best interest of the community, and I believe it puts the safety of transients over the safety of our citizens in the community.

1. There is a clear connection between homelessness and substance abuse.^[i] This is especially concerning given the national fentanyl crisis and the rise in substance abuse disorder amongst young people.^[ii] I understand the Recovery Café has a policy against illegal substance use, but will the Recovery Café consider it “compassionate” to remove violators and will there be inspections of vehicles to ensure there is no drug paraphernalia associated with the lot? We don’t need our kids stumbling upon used needles or fentanyl pipes.
2. There is a strong correlation between homeless encampments, transient living areas, etc. and violent crime.^[iii] The Orting Police Dept. is already understaffed to the degree that they cannot provide a full-time school resource officer to each of the OSD campuses. It is therefore unreasonable to presume that they can be the security service for the emergency parking lot.
3. The proposed location of the emergency parking lot is inside of an existing subdivision and adjacent to the downtown park. It is located approximately a half a mile from Orting Elementary School. The community would literally be inviting transients to camp within a mile of our youngest and most vulnerable community members. Many of our community’s children might have to walk by this parking lot on their way to/from school, and there is no guarantee that these transients are not performing lewd acts in/around their vehicles or engaging in the use of illicit substances. Just because there are rules against such acts does not mean that there is persistent surveillance on the campers and that such policies will be enforced. Would the Recovery Café consider it “compassionate” to evict a transient who does not abide by the rules/policies?
4. The state already has lax laws on pollution as evidenced by the obscene amount of trash in our city’s parks and along our state’s highways, and “the environmental impacts of homeless encampments...are not sustainable.”^[iv] Does the Recovery Café have a maximum stay length and will the Recovery Café consider it “compassionate” to evict a transient who overstays the maximum limit? The longer homeless transients remain in an area, the more entrenched and entitled they become and with that entrenchment comes the risk of rodents and other vermin.
5. Transient areas or homeless encampments are bad for business, and this proposal puts the emergency parking lot right next to the heart of downtown. “Neighborhoods that are frequented by people experiencing homelessness are perceived as dangerous, dirty areas to avoid, which can hurt

businesses in the area. The unavailability of public restrooms creates a mess, and some unsheltered people cause thousands of dollars in property damage. Ultimately this affects common area charges, property owners and tenants. When unsheltered people buy a light rail ticket and just ride to get out of the heat, they may deter others from riding, and when they congregate at businesses, this may deter patrons.”^[v]

Overall, the proposal does not seem like the right decision for the citizens of Orting or the beautification and betterment of our community. It is a band-aid that fails to address the root cause of the homeless crisis, which includes untreated mental illness, lack of mental institutions, drug and alcohol addiction, lack of affordable housing, and overcrowded prison systems that are unable to hold drug offenders.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

^[i] Mosel, Stanley. “Substance Abuse and Homelessness: Statistics and Rehab Treatment,” *American Addiction Centers*, 2024. <https://americanaddictioncenters.org/rehab-guide/homeless>.

^[ii] Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “High Risk Substance Use Among Youth,” *CDC*, 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyouth/substance-use/index.htm>.

^[iii] Mutasa, Tammy. “Growing Crime Rate at Seattle’s Homeless Camps Prompts Anxiety, Demands for Solutions,” *KOMO*, 2022. <https://komonews.com/news/operation-crime-justice/crime-at-seattles-homeless-camps-prompts-anxiety-demands-for-city-crackdown>.

^[iv] White, Courtenay. “Environmental Impacts of Homeless Encampments in the Guadalupe River Riparian Zone,” *Royal Roads University Master’s Thesis*, 2013.

^[v] Maricopa Association of Governments. “Business Forum on Regional Homelessness,” *Maricopa County*, 2021. <https://azmag.gov/Portals/0/Documents/Homelessness/Business-Forum-on-Regional-Homelessness-Report.pdf>.

From: [Clerk](#)
To: [Danielle Charchenko](#)
Subject: Fwd: Please distribute to all counselors
Date: Friday, April 5, 2024 4:43:57 PM

Hi Danielle,

Can you add this item to public comments for the upcoming council meeting and email to all council members.

Scott, can you work with the mayor and Danielle on how we want to disseminate the the two comments we have so far? One is lengthy and then the one below?

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kimberly Anderson <kaydeeanderson@gmail.com>
Date: April 5, 2024 at 4:39:23 PM PDT
To: Clerk <Clerk@cityofforting.org>
Subject: Please distribute to all counselors

I am writing to you in support of recovery café's proposal to create safe parking. Good friends of ours are fallen on hard times and are in need of a safe place to park and have been receiving services through recovery cafe. Their camper has had the windows shot out. They have had been yelled at, had rocks thrown, had people threaten to slash their tires. None of this hate changes the difficulties that are causing their home less situation. In fact it makes it more impossible for them to solve their situation. These are gentle people who don't deserve the stigma and hatred heaped on them. The system seems designed to keep pushing them down. They need help not hate.

Please have the courage and compassion to vote in favor of safe parking. It costs the city NOTHING and solves problems that some are griping about. Those who would use the safe housing are already here. By giving them a safe place to park off the street they won't need to use library restrooms because they will have access to one in the cafe. There will be less trash on streets since they will have access to sanitation. There will be less need for camping by the river, and maybe they can be safe from the hate and violence that our friends have endured. Once again PLEASE vote in favor of safe parking.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Clerk](#)
To: [Danielle Charchenko](#)
Cc: [Scott Larson](#)
Subject: Fwd: Safe parking
Date: Friday, April 5, 2024 5:08:20 PM

Public comment for the next meeting.

Kim Agfalvi, City Clerk

104 Bridge St S. Orting, WA 98360
Kagfalvi@cityoforting.org
360-893-9008

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ione Roth <rothkinder@gmail.com>
Date: April 5, 2024 at 5:06:14 PM PDT
To: Clerk <Clerk@cityoforting.org>
Subject: Safe parking

I recently heard the rumor that the council was going to vote against the safe parking proposal from Recovery Cafe. I am saddened to hear you have given up on this, it is so needed in this area. There are good people waiting for housing but until it comes through they have no safe place to park their car which currently is their home. Recovery Cafe has the conditions set up for sanitation and trash disposal, etc to help make the wait time and transition safer. Please reconsider your vote. This is needed now.

From: [Clerk](#)
To: [Danielle Charchenko](#)
Cc: [Scott Larson](#)
Subject: Fwd: Distribute to all city council members
Date: Monday, April 8, 2024 8:47:59 AM

Kim Agfalvi, City Clerk

104 Bridge St S. Orting, WA 98360
Kagfalvi@cityoforting.org
360-893-9008

Begin forwarded message:

From: Shane with the Anderson <skimboardoregon@gmail.com>
Date: April 8, 2024 at 10:03:00 AM CDT
To: Clerk <Clerk@cityoforting.org>
Subject: Distribute to all city council members

I'm writing today because I heard that recovery cafe's safe parking plan might not pass. I didn't write sooner because it seemed like such a no brainer that I couldn't imagine it not passing. It would be dumb not to vote in favor of this proposal. Let recovery cafe use their money, space, facilities, and resources to solve a city problem for you! Let recovery cafe get homeless families and their cars off the street and out of sight in a safer place where they can use a bathroom and throw their trash away and jerks will stop harassing them. The people who would benefit are already vetted clients of the cafe. But really the whole city benefits when one citizen has a chance to improve their circumstances and become a more productive member of society. Vote yes for safe parking.

Signed Shane Anderson

From: [Clerk](#)
To: [Danielle Charchenko](#)
Cc: [Scott Larson](#)
Subject: Fwd: Study Session- Amber Brooks OSTOP
Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 6:24:54 PM

Please see below.

Kim Agfalvi, City Clerk

104 Bridge St S. Orting, WA 98360
Kagfalvi@cityoforting.org
360-893-9008

Begin forwarded message:

From: Amber Brooks <Amber@recoverycafeorting.org>
Date: April 10, 2024 at 3:24:43 PM CDT
To: Clerk <Clerk@cityoforting.org>
Subject: Study Session- Amber Brooks OSTOP

Amber Brooks, representing Orting Standing Together On Prevention (OSTOP)

My apologies for being unable to attend in person this evening; though, I am thankful to have an option to write in.

OSTOP is a youth substance use prevention coalition operated through Orting Volunteers, dedicated to creating a safer and healthier environment for our youth. Through collaboration with the Washington State Health Care Authority and various community partners, we have actively supported our youth and their families in multiple capacities.

On behalf of Orting Standing Together On Prevention, I am excited to invite you to attend our upcoming Key Leader Event on May 29th from 9 am to 11 am hosted at the Orting Teen Haven.

You should have recently received a letter in your box regarding the event, which includes details for easy registration. We sincerely hope that you will be able to join us and contribute your valuable insights and support to our cause.

Additionally, I am pleased to share that we have an upcoming National Drug Take Back Event scheduled for April 27th, hosted by the Orting Pierce County Library. As a result of recent toddler overdoses in Pierce County, we will be offering FREE safe RX disposal envelopes and locking RX pill bottles during the event. This initiative is part of our ongoing efforts to promote safe disposal practices and combat drug misuse and accidental overdoses in our community.

Your partnership and support are instrumental in boosting our efforts and fostering a safer, drug-free community for all residents of Orting. Your presence

at our events and continued advocacy would be a valuable contribution to our shared goal.

Thank you!!

--

Amber Brooks

253.256.9359



"A healing community for those impacted by life challenges"

PO Box 1867

113 Varner Ave SE, Orting, WA, 98360

www.recoverycafeorting.org

From: [Clerk](#)
To: [Scott Larson](#)
Cc: [Danielle Charchenko](#)
Subject: Fwd: Concerns for City Council
Date: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 6:25:26 PM

Not sure if you saw this. Please see below.

Kim Agfalvi, City Clerk

104 Bridge St S. Orting, WA 98360
Kagfalvi@cityoforting.org
360-893-9008

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lougene Sullivan <sullivanlougene@gmail.com>
Date: April 10, 2024 at 12:49:29 PM CDT
To: Clerk <Clerk@cityoforting.org>
Subject: Concerns for City Council

There has been a lot of talk in the community for safe parking. It has been sickening to hear the unfair, inaccurate depictions of people who are unhoused. The assumptions of drug use, criminal activity, and filth. Statistically we are more at risk to be a victim of a crime from housed white men than we are people who are unhoused, and yet I have heard nothing about what the city is going to do about the risk we face each day from "those people" but yet we hear about it consistently about people who are unhoused.

The rumor mill has been running and the current rumor around town is that instead of letting a local business do safe parking, a business that states that they have the staff, space, training, and money to successfully provide a safe place to sleep, that the city of Orting is pushing to have churches do this. THIS IS INSANE!!!! If you guys are truly listening to the concerns of the community (even though most of these concerns are unwarranted) you would see that having churches do this is absolutely stupid. Churches don't have the staff, the training, the money, the security or the access to resources to help these families transition into a more permanent housing situation. They do not have staff there most of the time. They do not have a secure location for these families. Who are more at risk of crimes being committed on them by housed individuals, than they are likely to commit crimes.

The housed residents of Orting have stigmatized and demonized people who are struggling, you all have the opportunity to give people who are struggling the opportunity to access the support they need to stabilize, and you are putting every roadblock in the way to help them. It is sickening. I thought you were supposed to represent all of Ortings citizens, not just the citizens that aren't faced with

challenges, probably most of you can't even comprehend.
I hope that you guys will prioritize the wellbeing of all of Ortings citizens, not just the fortunate ones.

Orting Washington; Small town, Ignorant views

Also, If a council member is going to make a video to share with the town, he may want to consider not committing a crime in the video. It's no wonder so many children are hit by cars in this town if the leaders of our town are that reckless. What an example....