

### Our Purpose

Jewish Family Service partners with people of all backgrounds to build stable and dignified lives. Together, we create a stronger and healthier community where everyone can thrive.



# Jewish Family Service

Moving Forward Together

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September 27, 2021

Board of Trustees

San Dieguito Union High School District

710 Encinitas Boulevard

Encinitas, CA 92024

### Re: Special Meeting Item #3, 09-27-2021

Dear Members of the Board of Trustees:

On behalf of Jewish Family Service of San Diego (JFS), I would like to provide more information about our Safe Parking Program in Encinitas, which we have operated in partnership with the City of Encinitas and the Leichtag Foundation since January 2020.

The Safe Parking Program in Encinitas is a program funded by California Homeless Housing Assistance and Prevention Grant Program and operated by JFS to provide people experiencing homelessness a safe space to sleep in their car for the night. This program goes along with case managers and housing specialists to help individuals and families find more stable housing. Many of the participants in the Safe Parking Program already live and work in or close to Encinitas and now have a safe place to stay to help maintain their employment or schooling in the area.

For most people in the Program, it's their first experiencing homelessness. Most have a source of income and just need a little assistance to get themselves and their family back on track. These are families and individuals of all faiths, backgrounds and ages – some are seniors living on fixed incomes, parents who lost one of their multiple jobs and students who don't have a place to live anymore. The following statistics provide a snapshot of the unique population the Safe Parking Program serves:

- 92% first time experiencing homelessness
- 50% working San Diegans (adults)
- 46% older adults (60+)

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A maximum of 25 vehicles are served at any one time in the Safe Parking Program in Encinitas. Individuals and families living in their vehicles call our Safe Parking Program phone line (858-637-3373) or inquire via the JFS website (jfssd.org) to learn about the program. JFS case managers screen for eligibility in advance of any entry to the lot, informing those interested that they must have a working vehicle, follow the program guidelines, and meet regularly with a case manager and housing specialist to create a plan to achieve permanent housing.

There are onsite security guards during all program hours from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Security manages entry of pre-enrolled participants, closely monitors the lot overnight, and ensures everyone exits in the morning. All adults in the program are run through the Megan's Law database and the National Sex Offender Registry. Once deemed eligible, participants meet with a case manager in person to complete intake paperwork, provide picture IDs, and sign Program guidelines. Drug and alcohol use is not permitted in the Safe Parking Program. Illegal drug use results in immediate disqualification from the program.

During the day, many participants work or attend school. Others connect with additional local organizations to which they have been referred by our case managers and housing specialists. In JFS's current Safe Parking Program in Encinitas, 63% of clients have moved into housing. More move on to safe housing situations with family or friends.

JFS remains committed to providing families and individuals who are temporarily living in their cars with a safe place to park and sleep, vital resources and tools, and a welcoming environment to help them stabilize their lives and transition back into housing.

It is through partnership with the community that together we can protect public safety and achieve positive outcomes for our neighbors experiencing homelessness. JFS looks forward to continuing that partnership with the San Dieguito Union High School District and the City of Encinitas, and I urge your support of the Safe Parking Program.

Moving Forward Together,

MH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Hest". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.