

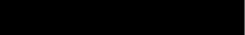
**From:**



ram at Trinity Lutheran Church

**Date:**

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 4:38:31 PM

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My name is Gloria Newton, and I'm a 36-year resident of Pasadena. I currently live and work a few blocks away from Trinity Lutheran Church. I am writing in support of their Safe Parking Program.

I understand that there are many concerns about this program from residents, but I think this is due to a misunderstanding about what the Safe Parking Program is and does. The comments I've heard seem to be regarding the activities of people who congregate in the area rather than the Safe Parking clients who are primarily on-site in only the evenings, where they are also engaged in program-sponsored activities or taking care of their personal needs. The clients in this program have gone through an application process and have the support and intervention of several social service agencies. Since it began operations last year, there have been no criminal incidents involving people in the Safe Parking program. Therefore, complaints regarding problems crime and public nuisance should be separated out from decisions about the Safe Parking Program.

I am not discounting the concerns and fears raised by neighbors. In the 4 years that I've worked and lived in the area I have seen and encountered people sleeping in front of our business or inside the parking structure. I've long witnessed Mentor Street behind Ralph's and the Lake Metro Station as being places where people camp out for lack of a better place to be. Is this pleasant? No. Do I always feel safe? No. However, have things been **worse** since the Safe Parking Program began operating? The answer is also no. The problems most residents are complaining about are NOT a result of the Safe Parking Program.

The Safe Parking program is small, but it has been life-changing for the people who have been a part of it, providing support, services, and a pathway to permanent housing. Their request to expand is modest (from 6 spaces to 10, I believe), but it means that more people would have support in getting off the streets. It would be a shame to discontinue the positive work being done here because of historic neighborhood issues that have nothing to do with this program.

Please allow the Safe Parking Program to continue and to expand and to be a part of the solution.

Sincerely,  
Gloria Newton



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"Start where you are.  
Use what you have.  
Do what you can."  
--Arthur Ashe