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Issue: Applicant is seeking permission to allow up to ten vehicles (no limit as to number of people) of unhoused individuals or families to park safely overnight.

Neighborhood: From a resident's perspective, this neighborhood is bounded by Corson to the north, Union to the south, Lake to the west and Wilson to the east. There is a mix of office buildings, residential dwellings of both single family and multi-unit buildings, Ralph's Supermarket, Union 76 gasoline station, medical offices, light commercial and restaurant, day care, and two major Salvation Army facilities, one of which disburse food and other services to the homeless population.

Homeless: Due to the proximity to the light rail station, grocery store, free food from Salvation Army and allowance of applicant of individuals sleeping on their property, this neighborhood has suffered for years from the impact of the homeless along with associated crime, drug use and trash.

The applicant reached an agreement with the City of Pasadena to operate a cold weather shelter which commenced operations January 20, 2024. During the days leading up to the shelter opening and continuing since, there has been an influx of homeless encampments day and night in the neighborhood. During a ten day period ending January 28, I witnessed two individuals from the homeless population arrested on Mentor between Walnut and Union.

Pasadena police have increased attention in the neighborhood, which is welcome, but it has done little to solve the problem. Merely instructing the homeless not to block the sidewalk is a short term (minutes in duration) band aid. The volume of trash, human excrement and open drug use (crack and methamphetamine) has increased.

Conclusion: This is not a solution to the homeless problem; it impedes the process of housing people, condones behavior detrimental to a functioning society, and enables a criminal element to thrive. If there is such a need for a Safe Parking area in Pasadena, a more appropriate location would either be on the street at Holly and Garfield or the parking lot of Central Library. Both locations are outside of residential areas and easily monitored by police.