

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [commentsHQ](#)  
**Subject:** Minor Conditional Use Permit #7174  
**Date:** Tuesday, February 6, 2024 5:25:55 PM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)

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Mr. Garcia and City Staff

I am the pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, which is hosting the Safe Parking program operated by Foothill Unity Center. Please enter my comments into the record. I am speaking in favor of Minor Conditional Use Permit #7174, for which the permit hearing is February 7, 2024.

Thank you for your consideration of a minor conditional use permit for Trinity's Safe Parking. By the grace of God, and with assistance from two community partners, we have been operating our Safe Parking program under a temporary conditional use permit since June 2023. In accordance with city regulations, our program is confined to the south portion of our parking lot, which is zoned CG (commercial general). It is bounded on the east, south, and west also by commercial zoning, and it is separated by another large parking lot from the area zoned residential (RM-32) on the north.

We typically have 5-7 Safe Parkers at a time, though we can accommodate up to 10. Our Safe Parkers are required to be under case management by Foothill Unity Center, which vets each client closely for history, circumstances, and evidence of responsibility before selecting them for the program. Foothill Unity Center will speak shortly about case management and housing of clients. So far, our program has housed 7 individuals, removing them from the Pasadena transient population. This is our goal—to keep them safe and off the city's residential streets while they are unhoused, and to assist them in being housed.

About half of our Safe Parkers are over 70 years old, living in their cars because they have lost their homes due to medical expenses, rent increases, and issues associated with aging. Those who are able to work are generally employed. All of them have income of some kind. All of them are individuals—we do not permit groups or families.

Trinity provides bathrooms, electrical charging, a microwave, and a table for

meals. They have an indoor place to go, so none of our Safe Parkers are camping, defecating on anybody's lawn, or gathering in loud groups, which we do not permit. We do not permit RVs, tarps, tents, cooking outside our building, guests, loud music, littering, outdoor storage, alcohol, or drugs. We have a twice nightly security patrol—the same company that patrols for All Saint's Safe Haven program. The patrol has license plate numbers, and reports to us and to Foothill Unity Center any vehicles that are not part of the program. It also asks them to move. It is tasked with assuring that the parkers are quiet, orderly, and unmolested by other members of the public. It is also tasked with calling police, fire, or emergency assistance if needed, and has done so for incidents outside the program.

Since our program was permitted, no police incidents have involved the Safe Parkers—of 7 police calls over 7 months, three were facilitated by our security patrol, and some were made by our Safe Parkers, helping to keep the neighborhood quiet and safe. All the calls were for disruptive individuals that were not part of the program. The evidence supports that our twice nightly patrol is doing its job, so we oppose the police recommendation for overnight security. It has not been needed, and the cost would be prohibitive, killing a program that benefits many individuals and the city of Pasadena.

We do understand and sympathize with our neighbors' concerns. But none of the opposing letters have anything to do with Safe Parking as it exists. Their concerns involve homeless individuals who are not part of Trinity's Safe Parking program. We would appreciate notification from the public concerning littering or disruptive behavior on our property so we can address it. But these things are not related to Safe Parking.

Trinity is trying very hard to be part of the solution, not part of the problem, for people living in their cars, for Pasadena, and for our neighbors. God bless you for the work you do!

Peace to you,  
The Rev. Sharon M. Ruff Richter (she/her)

Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church  
A Rejoicing Spirits Congregation  
997 E. Walnut St.  
Pasadena, California 91106  
626-792-1212

Worship:

Sundays 10 a.m  
Rejoicing Spirits: Thursdays 11 a.m.

*Trinity acknowledges and honors the Tongva people, who belong to this land.*

<http://trinitypasadena.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/Trinity-Lutheran-Church-106185109741744/>

