



# Motion to send letters to CD10 and CD5 demanding that they use their influence to help rid SORO of the illegally parked RVs in locations such as, but not limited to, Sawyer and Pickford Streets.

**Agenda Item:** GB090523-10

**Date:** September 5, 2023

**Proposed By:** Executive Committee

**Include motion in Consent Agenda?** Yes

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## Background

As the homeless crisis has grown it has also evolved. The SORO neighborhoods are now plagued by a significant number of old Recreational Vehicles that have parked for very extended times on our streets. In many cases the vehicles collect immense amounts of debris both inside and outside the vehicle, and in some cases the debris includes stolen property.

For well over a year members of this council have received exasperated calls from housed stakeholders who report feeling unsafe due when walking near these vehicles. In one case that we know of, national news picked up the story of a violent theft that one stakeholder endured and happened to record on a security camera.

It is also likely, as is the case with other forms of encampments, that the residents of these vehicles are poorly nourished, untreated for health issues, and lacking access to basic needs such as water. This situation is completely intolerable both for the people inside the vehicles and outside.

Further, the parked vehicles are violating a variety of laws, including street parking laws, garbage accumulation rules, sewage disposition rules, etc.

And it is fundamentally unfair when the vehicle residents are allowed to scoff at laws that other neighborhood residents are forced to comply with.

Finally, an individual who owns and is renting out the recreational vehicles for the purpose of having them parked on city streets in neighborhoods like ours is violating, with apparent disdain for our neighborhoods and the laws that City Council has enacted. That owner has been caught repeatedly dumping raw sewage into storm drains, dumping gasoline in the street, failing to secure propane tanks, and creating an unsafe and dangerous environment in our communities.

It is noteworthy that on August 29, 2023 City Council voted to pass Council File 23-0529, which instructs the City Attorney to draft an ordinance to regulate the so-called "van-lords" who rent out these vehicles. The approved motion does not regulate van-lords, it simply calls for the drafting of Code at some time in the future, without a specified timeframe.

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## Proposed Motion

SORO NC supports the installation of signs designating Holt Avenue, and 18<sup>th</sup> and Sawyer and Pickford Streets for no parking of Recreational Vehicles.

SORO NC demands that the RVs that are located on Sawyer be removed for the health and safety of the community.

SORO NC will send letters to CD5 and CD10 demanding action, in the form attached to this motion.

SORO NC will send copies of the letters to new media, including but not limited to local newspapers.

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## Considerations

**Committee review:**

Votes For:4

Against: 0

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**Arguments for:**

See background

**Arguments against:**

The rights of the residents of the RVs supersede the rights of others.

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