



Draft September 5, 2023

Dear Councilmember:

As the homeless crisis has grown it has also evolved. Our neighborhoods are now plagued by a significant number of old Recreational Vehicles, many in disrepair, 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 attack and 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.

It is our understanding, as we have shared with your deputy liaison in open meetings, that an individual who owns and is renting out many of the recreational vehicles is doing so specifically for the purpose of having them parked on city streets in neighborhoods like ours, demonstrating complete 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.

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, such as parking laws.

We demand that you immediately take action to support the interests of a vast number of stakeholders who keeping up with the high cost of living here, and are entitled to the safe and peaceful enjoyment of their neighborhood, and to arrange for the recreational vehicles to be removed from their illegal locations.

We further urge you to support designation of our streets for no parking of Recreational Vehicles, and for installation of signage stating that designation, especially Sawyer, 18<sup>th</sup>, Holt and Pickford Streets.

We are aware of the passage of Council File 23-0529. But that motion is merely a first step, without a specified or even a suggested timeframe, for the drafting of a future code that may or not be adopted into law. While we are not opposed to a future law, we call on you to use your authority to cause existing laws to be enforced, and to thereby help improve the lives of SORO stakeholders.

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Copies of this letter will be circulated to appropriate news media.

Yours,

South Robertson Neighborhoods Council  
Kenneth Blaker, Vice President