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## **DESIGNATED SAFE PARKING**

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## WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT DESIGNATED SAFE PARKING

### WHAT IS IT?

On April 18, 2024, the Anchorage Assembly passed [AO No. 2024-40\(S\)](#) which established designated safe parking sites to be established for those temporarily living in their vehicles within the municipality. Anchorage Municipal Code [AMC 16.120](#) outlines the requirements to become a designated safe parking site.

Designated Safe Parking is operated seasonally from April to October each year when temperatures allow individuals to safely remain in their vehicles.

No designated safe parking area may contain more than 25 vehicles. Recreational vehicles and travel trailers may be allowed if they can be adequately accommodated.

Designated Safe Parking is allowed on ROW, B3 and PLI zoned land.

### WHY IT MATTERS

**Public Safety:** It reduces traffic hazards, parking in unauthorized areas, and associated complaints.

**Health & Sanitation:** Participants can access restrooms, waste disposal, and hygiene facilities.

**Pathways to Housing:** Case management linkages help participants pursue housing, job training, and employment.

**Cost-Effective Interim Option:** It fills a critical gap in Anchorage's shelter continuum during warmer months.

## APPLYING TO BE A DESIGNATED SAFE PARKING SITE

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

This list includes all required documents for a Safe Parking designation. The Anchorage Health Department will need the following information:

- Plan and Protocol including:
  - A minimum of three days' notice to occupants prior to standard voluntary closure or deactivation of the emergency sheltering plan, except for eviction or removal of occupants that violate the area's rules. The plan shall include protocols and demonstrate the applicant's capability to remove or eject vehicles or persons.
  - Access to potable water, restroom and washing facilities, whether on or off site or provided by the operator or others.
  - Screening or separation from the property line of the site adjacent to other active uses.
  - Trash disposal by the occupants and removal by the operator.
  - Prohibiting non-operable motor vehicles from being towed or otherwise brought on to the premises, and a process and capability for removing abandoned vehicles.
  - A requirement that each person using the area for vehicular camping sign an agreement demonstrating the person understands the rules, limitations and their responsibilities, and

holds the operator harmless for any damages or injury incurred by the person while using the area as authorized.

- Cooperation with emergency shelter providers identified by the department and point of entry protocols.
- A requirement that each owner or operator operate the safe parking area in conformance with all applicable state department of environmental conservation or municipal air quality regulations.
- Disaster Preparedness and/or Emergency Evacuation Plan
- Good Neighbor Policy that outlines the operator's commitment and policies to reduce impacts on surrounding areas by its operations, loitering of its clients, trash and litter, and other activities.

## PROCESS

After compiling the information mentioned above, please complete the following:

- Complete the Designated Safe Parking application
  - Applications can be completed electronically or on paper
    - For the online application please visit our website [www.muni.org/Departments/health/HousingAndHomelessness/Pages/ShelterLicensing.aspx](http://www.muni.org/Departments/health/HousingAndHomelessness/Pages/ShelterLicensing.aspx)
    - Paper applications can be downloaded from our website using the link above, you may call to request one be mailed to you or you may pick one up in person from the Anchorage Health Department.
    - Applications will not be accepted until all required Plan and Protocols have been submitted. Information must be submitted within 30 days after receiving the application.
- Once an application has been received with the Plan and Protocols, your complete packet will be submitted to the following departments for approval:
  - Land Use Enforcement (Zoning Review)
  - Anchorage Police Department
  - Anchorage Fire Department
  - Housing and Homelessness Services Division Manager
  - Anchorage Health Department Director
- After approval from all municipal departments, the applicant shall enter a written agreement with the municipality relevant to its operations and meet other requirements deemed necessary by the Anchorage Health Department.
- Once an agreement has been signed the site may operate during the allowed time frames each year.