



Immediate Release
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Local Non-Profit Seeks Property Owners To Share Daytime Parking Lots for Displaced RV's

(SANTA BARBARA, Calif.) – Long-time local non-profit agency, New Beginnings Counseling Center, is actively looking for owners of commercial, non-profit, faith-based, and government-owned properties with off-street parking in the city of Santa Barbara to provide daytime parking spaces for people living in oversized and recreational vehicles. New Beginnings operates the Safe Parking Program™, a Santa Barbara-based, internationally recognized shelter for the vehicular homeless, through which these spaces would be managed.

The appeal comes as a result of the oversized vehicle ordinance that was passed by the Santa Barbara City Council several months ago, prohibiting all vehicles that exceed the defined size restrictions from parking on the street, once the ban goes into effect. The Safe Parking Program™ needs to secure a minimum of 40 daytime spaces in order to provide daytime shelter for existing oversized vehicle clients. The City created an ad hoc committee to address the displaced Safe Parking clients; and the committee reports back to the City Council with recommendations on March 14th. “We have a very tight timeline within which to find these 40 spaces,” shares New Beginnings Executive Director, Kristine Schwarz. “To date, we have contacted over 30 organizations to ask for a space or two in their lot. Board members have reached out to the community. City staff has reached out to quite a few departments and colleagues. To date, we have only been able to secure five spaces. We have not heard back from many of the local businesses we have contacted. We really need help to reach our goal of securing 40 spaces. We ask that lot owners please consider helping our fellow community members by providing a few spaces.”

The Safe Parking Program™ currently manages 129 spaces in 23 parking lots throughout the cities of Santa Barbara and Goleta, and the neighboring unincorporated areas of the county, for night time parking shelter. Each of these lots has entered in to a written agreement with New Beginnings who has indemnified them against any liability. The agency is proposing the same arrangement for day time lot owners. Spaces will be needed from 7am until 7pm daily. Since the program’s inception in 2004, there have been no major incidents or damage to any of the participating lots. Staff works with program clients to transition them back into traditional and permanent housing. Lot owners interested in providing spaces to the program are asked to please contact New Beginnings at croach@sbnbcc.org.

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New Beginnings Counseling Center provides quality, affordable counseling, shelter, case management and education that strengthens our community and provides our clients with the ability to lead healthy and productive lives. New Beginnings Counseling Center, located at 324 East Carrillo Street, Suite C, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, (805) 963-7777, is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. For more information or to make a donation, visit www.sbnbcc.org.