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FROM: Gerilyn Van & Community/ Ward 7

(Please email let me know if you are willing to accept this improved, community supported proposal! It's VERY DOABLE! Before the RAIN COMES!)

CITY TENT SAFE SITES (Pilot Project) – CITY OF EUGENE PROPOSAL

(The Missing Link the CITY NEEDS to Provide ASAP for Unhoused Eugenians on the streets and near railroads.)

PAST MISTAKES CITY NEEDS TO LEARN FROM 2020 Washington-Jefferson Park TENT SITES:

The Washington Jefferson Park's Tent Sites in 2020 did NOT WORK because the Tent Sites were thrown together, not thought out, or supervised by the city correctly. 1) They were Self-Managed at WJ park. Instead, they need to have a strong CITY SUPERVISORS IN CHARGE with participants volunteering for roles and tasks. 2) The tent sites were thrown together. Instead, the **tent sites need to be based on the Community-Supported Shelters Safe Spots (CSS) model which is a proven success (TAKE A TOUR)**. 3) The site was gateless with NO LOCK, they need to have LOCKED GATES. 4) The WJ Site was large and chaotic. Instead, they need to be SMALL TENT SITES, 12-16 platforms (AGAIN like CSS). 5) The site became out-of-control, the participants need to have WEEKLY TENT COMMUNITY MEETINGS and a professional facilitator to ADDRESS and resolve ISSUES. 6) The city was NOT holding those accountable who broke rules. Sites need a city supervisor who will APPLY "THREE STRIKES and you're out," again see CSS RULES and go on CSS tour.

We got rid of Washington/Jefferson Park Tent Sites but the city DID NOT create an ALTERNATIVE in its place. SO NOW THERE IS NO PLACE FOR THE UNHOUSED TO GO THAT IS SUPPORTIVE AND SAFE. In 2018, Fed. Court issued ruling from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals "People experiencing homelessness can't be punished for sleeping outside on public property if there are NO adequate alternatives available." And Eugene has NO ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE for those sleeping on public property. Community TENT SAFE SITES is the bridge and eventually will be a more IMMEDIATE solution to those who are on a 3-6 month waiting list for housing. THOSE WHO ARE BEING SWEEPED with a 2 Hr Notice HAVE NO PLACE TO GO! We need CITY TENT SAFE SITES! LET'S DO THIS RIGHT THIS TIME!

THE PROBLEM:

Unhoused individuals in TENTS along the Railroad, parks, and streets, do not have a SAFE place for their BASIC NEEDS, toilet, garbage, or to leave their things. There is NO SAFE PLACE for those on the streets to go!

- 1) Most importantly, over 2,500 unhoused human-beings are living on our streets in Eugene with NO WHERE TO GO. If the city values a healthy community and healthy human-beings, why are we not making them a priority? Why are we making beautifying Parks, building Stadiums and Riverfronts MORE IMPORTANT THAN HUMAN LIFE? The most vulnerable need a SAFE place to be so they don't get hurt, robbed and need a good night's sleep for their own mental and physical health. This will reduce violence, stealing and help us ALL feel safer in our community!
- 2) The police have NO TENT SAFE SITES to send the homeless to after 2hr-notice Forced Removal from Parks & Railroad.
- 3) There is a 3-6 month waiting list for CSS Conestoga Huts and the Safe Sleep Units and Affordable Housing.
- 4) The law (HB 350) allows private properties to sue \$1,000 for harassment of homeless people on their private property. Yet, we have NOT CREATED A TENT SAFE SITE for unhoused to go.
- 5) TONS of GARBAGE along Union Pacific Railroad because NO TENT SAFE SITES with GARBAGE BINS for unhoused to go.
- 6) RIVER AREAS have poop, toilet paper, garbage, etc. Homeless have NO TENT SAFE SITES or WATER. NO PLACE TO GO!
- 7) Not all unhoused want to be in a Conestoga Huts, Safe Sleep Units or Apts. We need TENT SAFE SITES for transients.
- 8) Community Supported Shelters Safe Spots have their hands full with limited funding. If you want them involved, tour and use their model. Hire your own City Supervisors and Assistants, contract out to others for the "STEP by STEP" below.

SOLUTION:

FIND CITY LAND FOR 1 (or 2) COMMUNITY TENT SAFE SITE in Ward 7 near bus & services for unhoused. This will be a PILOT PROJECT for 2023. If successful, reassess in 6 months, in the spring of 2024 to create more as needed in Eugene. **FIRST, SET UP A TOUR with COMMUNITY SUPPORTED SHELTERED SAFE SPOTS for those involved in the CITY TENT SAFE SITES Pilot Project:** City supervisor, assistants and community meetings facilitator, and other volunteers of this project. COMMUNITY SUPPORTED SHELTER SAFED SPOTS has been ranked one of the **most successful non-profits for the homeless** community in Eugene and can be a model for ideas for creating COMMUNITY TENT SAFE SITES.

It is a STEP-by-STEP PROCESS FOR CREATING "COMMUNITY TENT SAFE SITES" SET-UP in Ward 7

- 1) FIND A SMALL PIECE OF CITY LAND where the unhoused can be near resources and buses.

- 2) Hire a City Supervisor to oversee TENT SAFE SITES Projects. Contract out to people who can be a part-time NAVIGATOR for outside resources, such as for Mental Health and other community services, and a part-time COMMUNITY FACILITATORS for running weekly community meetings.
- 3) Flatten Land; FENCE it; put a GATE with a LOCK to enter around SITE. Create individual tent platforms, 12 per site.
- 4) Put PORTA-POTTYS in it 5) Put large GARBAGE and RECYCLING cans in it
- 6) If possible, WATER SPICKET at every tent site or large jug like CSS to wash hands and face.
- 7) FOOD BINS at each site that are sealed tight need to be placed at each platform, and a PICNIC TABLE
- 8) CREATE A COMMUNITY ROOM for Weekly Meetings with Couches (like CSS)
- 9) Place in Community Room: Rules similar to Community Supported Shelter Safe Spots: Some of their rules: a) Tent Participants must leave during the day btwn 10-4pm. b) No Violence c) No alcohol or drugs inside Safe Site d) Three strikes and you're out e) Once a month COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITY (such as cleaning up garbage around railroad) f) Keep area around tent clean and tidy. g) Once a week COMMUNITY MEETINGS to address concerns-problems
- 10) Choose volunteer tent participants for different tasks and roles within the community.

REQUEST:

-City to be in charge and contract out as needed for the creation of One or Two - Community TENT Safe Sites with 12 Tent Sites in Ward 7 on City Land: a fence, gate, porta potties, 12 food bins, community area. See "STEP by STEP..."
 -This will also include 1 City supervisor and 2 City assistants, contracting parts out for 1 Navigator - for Community Resources, and 1 Weekly Community Facilitator – for weekly meetings with participants and issues that arise.

TIMELINE FOR 1 (or 2): Create a 2nd one if a participant doesn't fit in with 1st community can be moved to 2nd site.

July: 1) Hire 1 City Project Supervisor who oversees City-Community TENT SAFE SITES. 2) Contract out to hire 1 Navigator to help participants with local resources and 1 Community Facilitator for weekly meetings inside of the Tent Community for issues arising. 3) Call and set up a Tour at Community-Supported Sheltered Safe Spots (CSS) for all involved in Community Tent Safe Sites -Project. 4) Choose City Land for 12 Platform Sites.

August: 1) Clear and flatten land. 2) Put up fence, gate and lock 3) Create 12 Tent platforms 4) Put Garbage and Recycling Bins, Porta Potties and Large Sealed Food Bins by each Tent Platform 5) Interview and choose 12 participants for Third Week of September to Move into TENT Safe Site.

September: *First Week* 1) Contract out or have volunteers to create Community Gathering Place for weekly participant meetings ***Third Week*** 2) 12 participants to Move into Eugene's 1st City-Community TENT SAFE SITES
COMPLETION DATE SEPTEMBER 22, 2023!

FOLLOW UP: This will be a Pilot project. Re-assess in 6 months before MARCH 31, 2024. If successful, NEXT YEAR create more TENT SAFE SITES (as needed) in Eugene. If not successful, assess what changes need to be made and move forward with new ideas and creating improved Community TENT SAFE SITES! Then 2 more, Ward 7 and 3.

\$\$\$FINANCES: Remember spending priorities, Humans BASIC NEEDS FIRST - Buildings and Riverfront SECOND.

City Land = 0 Fence with Locked Gate includes labor = \$7,000 \$500 x 12 platforms plus labor = \$6,000
 Simple Community House includes labor = \$3,000 \$20 x 12 Large Sealed Food Bins for each platform = \$240

START UP COSTS: \$16,240

2 Potties (BUCKS) yearly for 12 (per CSS) = \$2,400 Trash & Recycling (SANIPAC) yearly for 12 (per CSS) = \$960
 Water & Electric yearly for 12 (per CSS) = \$100 Supervisor overseeing project after it is built = \$40,000
 Part-Time Navigator for outside Resources & Community Facilitator a yr = \$20,000 Yearly maintenance = \$2000

START UP COSTS = \$16,240 YEARLY RUNNING COSTS = \$65,460 Plus SAVE \$ with Police & Public Works!

*Would SAVE Police \$ and time relocating unhoused again and again & fewer police calls for survival behaviors, stealing, violence, etc. *Public Works fewer messes to clean up saves \$ *City could also ask for \$ from those who are on disability, social security, depending on income. **The City can ask for funding from the County.** The Community will join in too.

The motto for this Proposal is "No EUGENIAN left behind!" **Everyone should have access to the basics needs. We have so much wealth here in our community. We can build stadiums, beautify our parks, and develop 5th St.; yet, we have not addressed this VERY IMPORTANT issue with our most traumatized community members. A Successful Community is measured on how we treat our most vulnerable. CITY TENT SAFE SITES!**