



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

TODD GLORIA

MAYOR

August 1, 2024

The Honorable Adrienne Todman
Acting Secretary, U.S Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20410

Re: Classifying Safe Sleeping and Safe Parking Programs as Shelter in Point in Time Counts

Dear Acting Secretary Todman:

I am writing to respectfully request that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) classify local government investments in Safe Parking and Safe Sleeping programs as shelter in future Point-in-Time (PIT) counts.

Safe Parking and Safe Sleeping programs are growing in usage in the State of California and across the country. These sites provide essential services and protection to individuals and families experiencing homelessness. By offering designated, secure locations for people to sleep in their vehicles or in tents, these programs address a critical gap in the current shelter system. Many people experiencing homelessness rely on these programs as their primary source of safety and stability, which is not currently reflected in the PIT counts.

In the latest PIT count, there were 749 San Diegans who were residing in our Safe Sleeping and Safe Parking programs. If the City was able to include

these individuals as part of our sheltered population, we would have seen unsheltered homelessness in the City of San Diego drop by 9.5% compared to the previous year.

The City is spending millions in federal, state, and local funding to develop and operate these sites. These funds are getting unsheltered San Diegans off the streets and into a safe environment with case management services with the goal of resettling into a permanent housing solution. Simply put, unsheltered individuals on our streets and those residing in our sanctioned Safe Parking and Safe Sleeping facilities are not one in the same and should not be classified as such.

I urge HUD to consider the vital role that safe parking and safe sleeping programs play in the lives of those experiencing homelessness and to reclassify these programs as shelters in future PIT counts. This change would be a significant step toward ensuring a more accurate count of our unsheltered population while at the same time showcasing the innovative approaches local governments are deploying to get our unsheltered residents off the streets.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Should you have any questions, please contact my Director of Government Affairs, Walt Bishop, at wbishop@sandiego.gov.

Sincerely,

TODD GLORIA
Mayor
City of San Diego