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AGENDA RELATED  
April 11, 2023  
#13 2023-0054

April 8, 2023

Board of Port Commissioners  
San Diego Unified Port District  
3165 Pacific Highway  
San Diego, CA 92112

Re: SDWW Support of Item 13 2023-0054 Oversized Vehicle Ordinance Amendments

Dear SD Port Commissioners:

On behalf of the businesses, workers, and visitors of the San Diego Working Waterfront, we strongly support amending the Port's Oversized Vehicle Ordinance (OVO) that will further restrict the use of all bayfront parking areas to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all visitors.

Popularity of bayside parking lots has grown amongst those who live in their vans, and it will only get worse when summer arrives. For example, and as stated in Port staff's report, [divineontheroad.com](http://divineontheroad.com) promotes San Diego and says the following:

*"One of our favorite van cities in the country (San Diego). With lots of "stealth" camping options, a ton of shower options ranging from every gym you can imagine to beach side cold showers, and the most beautiful lots to spend your day working in your van with the sounds of the ocean, San Diego is a must-visit in California. Below are some of our favorite spots in the city:*

- **Overnight Parking:** *Shelter Island, Mission Beach side streets, Rob Field*
- **Showers:** *Planet Fitness, Anytime Fitness, Center Beach Bathroom, Coronado Community Center*
- **Places to Spend The Day:** *Fiesta Island, Mission Beach, Wind and Sea, Pacific Beach, Balboa Park, Sunset Cliffs, La Jolla Cove*
- **Water Fill-Up/Dump Station:** *Sea World Dump Station, Mission Bay Potable Water at Public Boat Ramp"*

Amendments to the ordinance will improve access to bayfront parking areas that are impacted by oversized vehicles and those who live "the van life," improve health and safety conditions, and protect landscape of parks.

**Improve Access to Bayfront Parking:** Oversized vehicles line up next to the boat ramp on the bay right at 6am. Due to their size Camper vans and sprinter vans take up multiple parking spaces that would otherwise be used by visitors or employees.

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**Board of Port Commissioners**  
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**Improve Health and Safety Conditions:** Majority those who by choice or by necessity live in their vans requiring sanitation needs. It is a fact that human waste has been found at Shelter Island parks and parking lots. Currently human waste and contamination is running into our bays because parking lots and parks are not set up to be an RV park, lacking proper waste disposal and grey water disposal.

Further, workers and visitors have experienced unsafe interactions with those who own and or operate vans that park for extended periods of time daily causing them to feel they feel unsafe when arriving and leaving work due to some who are aggressive in protecting their territory.

**Protect Park Landscaping:** Today large vehicles are backing into parking spaces and hanging over the landscaping making it difficult to properly maintain.

Stakeholders and staff have been working together to develop an appropriate solution. However, an ordinance amendment alone will not change the situation. Port needs to dedicate the necessary resources by ensuring Community Service Officers staffing levels are increased to enforce this ordinance.

We know allocating resources for enforcement are not on the agenda, however, Port's Budget Workshop is coming up and urge the Board to allocate PE funds for the appropriate incremental CSO staffing levels.

Thank you for your consideration and support on this timely and sensitive issue.

Sincerely,  
SAN DIEGO WORKING WATERFRONT

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Cloward". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon Bernie-Cloward  
President