



**Office of the City Attorney
City of Yakima**

MEMORANDUM

March 9, 2022

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers
Robert Harrison, City Manager

FROM: Sara Watkins, City Attorney

SUBJECT: Follow up information regarding the RV Parking lot

At the City Council meeting on February 1, 2022, the Council indicated that, although it rescinded the motion associated with the City creating a safe RV parking lot, it was interested in continuing work with local providers to provide services to people experiencing homelessness. To that end, City staff has been working with Mike Kay of Grace City Outreach to evaluate whether it is feasible to have RV parking spaces at the Camp Hope location.

Mike Kay is amenable to adding RV parking spaces, as well as temporary tiny homes, to the Camp Hope structure, providing people experiencing homeless additional options for emergency shelter. The Council has in front of it for review a proposed Lease Amendment to the current lease for the property on which Camp Hope is located. It addresses some of the issues brought forward during the discussion of a safe RV parking facility, such as:

1. RV spaces for people temporarily living in their RVs;
2. The ability for Camp Hope to install an RV dump site for those vehicles;
3. Allowing Camp Hope to add temporary tiny homes to the property in phases; and
4. An additional sewer connection to facilitate additional sanitation facilities (including ADA facilities).

The Lease Amendment requires Grace City Outreach to provide an updated operations and maintenance plan and site plan. Updated site plans will be required each time temporary tiny homes are added through the phasing process to ensure proper emergency access and other safety matters.

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Although this does not create a formal RV safe parking lot, it does work to address the issue with one of the City's current partners, as well as address some of the matters the City Council discussed while evaluating an RV safe parking lot: security, management, water and sewer already to the site, and services on-site available for those experiencing homelessness. Grace City Outreach provides social and health services to those staying at Camp Hope, is a supervised and managed facility, and already has utilities on-site.