

**Date : 10/12/2022 4:05:56 PM**  
**From : "Gerstein, Beth" BGerstein@cityofberkeley.info**  
**To : "Sue Arendt" suearendt@comcast.net, "Kesarwani, Rashi" RKesarwani@cityofberkeley.info**  
**Subject : RE: Campers parked for weeks across the street**  
**Attachment : Harrison Street - After Action Report - 10.11.22.pdf;**

Hi Sue,

Thanks so much for your email and I'm so sorry you've had to deal with these van and this situation for such a long time! It is legal to park RVs on our streets overnight. But, we DO have the 72 hour rule, which is imperfect, though can assist. I recommend you reach out to parking enforcement to report these vehicles. You can do so by calling: **510-981-5890**. As you may know, first Parking Enforcement Officers need to issue a warning. Then they'll return after 72 hours to see if the vehicle has moved. If not, officers will issue a citation. If the vehicle has moved just across or down the street, they will have satisfied addressing the violation. But, this annoyance can be enough to send a message that people are watching and not appreciating what's going on. Please feel free to share the phone number and have people call as many times as it takes to get parking enforcement involved, and involved frequently. The guy on Virginia claiming to have a flea market does NOT have a business license, I've learned. So we are investigating whether this can be used as some kind of enforcement mechanism. That said, and in an effort to manage expectations, BPD is currently understaffed so they may not be able to address any enforcement measures like that in the immediate future. They will be prioritizing actions based on safety concerns (such as the mass shooting near campus, recently).

Finally, you are absolutely right that 8<sup>th</sup> and Harrison is a mess. It actually got significantly cleaned up last week and already it is deteriorating again. See the after action report on that area I've attached to this email. We need housing solutions for the 20 plus individuals that have been sleeping on the street down there which is not something we currently have. We need addiction treatment resources and supportive housing for seriously mentally ill people. We don't have those either. This should be more readily available within the county and state, but it is not, and Berkeley, like all cities, is the first line of defense and we just aren't able to keep up. But, we keep trying! Rashi has been meeting with Gilman District stakeholders monthly to help with streetscape improvements and to support the businesses. I'm happy to share more details about that if you are interested.

Keep us in the loop with parking enforcement – we'll help nudge things along if you aren't getting any response.

Let me know if you have follow up questions!

Best,  
Beth

*Beth Gerstein*  
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Legislative Aide

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**From:** Sue Arendt <suearendt@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 12, 2022 2:32 PM  
**To:** Kesarwani, Rashi <RKesarwani@cityofberkeley.info>; Gerstein, Beth <BGerstein@cityofberkeley.info>  
**Subject:** Campers parked for weeks across the street

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Hi Rashi and Beth,

I'm writing after having reported this situation to customer service and to the city manager's office and getting no response. I own the house on the corner of 6th and Virginia at 830 Virginia Street. (I've written to you before about a truck being parked in front of my house and you were very helpful, it went somewhere else.) There has been a dilapidated camper parked on Virginia below 6th for months. For the last 3 weeks, another camper has been parked at the corner, closer to my house right below (west of) 6th on the north side of Virginia. This guy is out there at all hours, sorting through his stuff, and sometimes has been very aggressively arguing with someone (one day yelling so loudly both my neighbor and I noted it). He has a lot of visitors.

Is there something that can be done to relocate these people? This is a residential area, and to see this guy out there very late (sometimes I get up to call my cat in at 1AM) with a headlamp on, sorting or doing who knows what is disconcerting. The person at customer service said it's a "legal situation". Isn't there a law in Berkeley about parking for more than 72 hours in the same spot? The guy parked further west is apparently selling items, according to my neighbor.

I know that this population is seemingly everywhere (except in the more affluent areas of Berkeley...why is this allowed down here and not say, in the hills or in the "better" parts of Berkeley?) and there is no answer for it at this point. But I feel like this part of the city is forgotten territory when it comes to this kind of thing. Close to here at 8th and Harrison is a nightmare, but that's more commercial and less residential. I used to walk down 8th Street to go to Sprouts. Not anymore.

I appreciate any attention you can give to this matter.

Thank you,  
Sue Arendt