



December 31, 2019

Dear neighbor,

You may have heard about the [Safe Parking Program](#) for up to 25 vehicles proposed by the City of Encinitas to be located at Leichtag Commons. Jewish Family Service's Safe Parking Program helps individuals and families who are living in their vehicles by providing a safe and secure place to sleep seven days a week from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Jewish Family Service (JFS) currently manages three lots in the City of San Diego. The program provides vital resources and tools, dignified support, and a welcoming environment to help individuals and families stabilize their lives and transition back into housing. The Safe Parking Program lot seeks to serve those currently living out of their cars, and who typically are experiencing homelessness for the first time, including veterans, older adults (over the age of 55), college students, and families with young children. For more information about the Safe Parking Program, please [see these FAQ](#).

On October 17, 2018, following the lead of the state and the City of San Diego as well as others, a Shelter Crisis was declared by the City of Encinitas. In June 2019, JFS received a \$256,000 grant through the California Homeless Emergency Aid Program (HEAP) to open a Safe Parking Program lot in North County. Following discussion with JFS and the City, the City approached Leichtag Foundation to consider accommodating the 25-space lot at the Commons. While Leichtag is located in the agricultural zone, if the City determines that it is in the public's interest, pursuant to its police powers and under the authority of the Shelter Crisis Law, the City may suspend regulations to the extent the regulations would in any way prevent, hinder or delay efforts to mitigate the effects of the Shelter Crisis.

At its November 20, 2019 meeting, the Encinitas City Council directed City staff to move forward with negotiations and drafting terms/agreements to operate a small lot at Leichtag Commons. The agreements proposed will be with JFS as the program operator and the fiscal agent, and with Leichtag Foundation as the landlord from which the City is renting space. Leichtag Foundation will receive no financial benefit whatsoever from this transaction, and all programmatic funds run through JFS. Those agreements and terms will then go back to the City Council in public session at their January 22, 2020 meeting for discussion and a vote.

After careful consideration for the program's future participants' needs and questions from our neighbors, we identified a space on our property for the 25 parking spots that is more to the interior of the property than the site proposed tentatively and preliminarily on November 20th.

If the agreements are approved by City Council, the lot will be at the very center of Leichtag Commons, between two large barn structures. There are permanent restrooms for participants to access next to this parking lot. The lot will not be visible from the street. Entry and exit for program participants will be by vehicle only through the east property entrance off of Quail Gardens Drive.

Because the participants will enter and exit via Quail Gardens Drive and in an effort to be fully transparent neighbors, we wanted to send a special memo to you to share background on the proposed program and the lot location particularly with regard to vehicle circulation. Security

guards will be onsite during all program hours from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., in addition to the security guards who are at Leichtag Commons during the day. Security will manage entry of vetted, pre-enrolled participants, closely monitor the lot overnight, and ensure everyone exits by 7:00 a.m. in the morning. We expect participants (25 cars total—no more) will enter the lot throughout the entry window of 6:00 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., not all at the same time. While participants may leave at any time, the gate will be closed, and no entry or re-entry will be permitted after 9:30 p.m. We don't anticipate substantial impact on traffic patterns on Quail Gardens Drive although we will be closely monitoring. Additionally, JFS, the City and Leichtag are working closely with law enforcement on all aspects of the program.

Transparency is a hallmark we prize particularly as we aspire to be good, trustworthy neighbors. There is a lot of misinformation circulating in the community about this program and Leichtag's role. **We welcome you to join us Sunday, January 12 at 2pm for an educational forum specifically for neighbors of Leichtag Commons about the location, program, security, and other issues important to you.** Representatives from Leichtag Foundation and Jewish Family Service will speak about the program and answer questions submitted in advance. **More information is in the forum invitation on page 4 and RSVPs are required for attendance at <https://www.leichtag.org/event/neighbor-forum>.** Please note that this is not an official City of Encinitas event, and there will not be representation from the City. Any questions for the City should be addressed to them directly.

A thorough list of [Frequently Asked Questions is here](#). We welcome your additional questions and the opportunity to address them directly. Please contact me with any inquiries at charlene@leichtag.org.

Thank you,
Charlene Seidle
Executive Vice President
Leichtag Foundation
charlene@leichtag.org
www.leichtag.org

Special Leichtag Commons Neighborhood Forum



Dear neighbor,

You may have heard about the [Safe Parking Program](#) for up to 25 vehicles proposed to be located at Leichtag Commons. At its November 20 meeting, the Encinitas City Council directed the City staff to move forward with negotiations and drafting terms/agreements to operate a small lot at Leichtag Commons. The agreements proposed will be with Jewish Family Service of San Diego as the program operator and the fiscal agent, and with Leichtag Foundation as the landlord from whom the City is renting space. Leichtag Foundation will receive no financial benefit whatsoever from this transaction, and all programmatic funds run through Jewish Family Service. Those agreements and terms will then go back to the City Council in public session at its January 22 meeting for discussion and a vote.

We have spoken with many neighbors over the past month and truly value these connections with you. We know there are concerns about safety, program outcomes and more. Transparency is a hallmark we prize particularly as we aspire to be good, trustworthy neighbors. As the Council meeting approaches and as details are being worked out, we welcome your questions about the program and the opportunity to address them directly.

Please join us Sunday, January 12 at 2pm for an educational forum about the location, program, security, and other issues important to you.

[Register Here by 1/9](#)

[Submit Questions](#)

We want you to know that while most of our neighbors are coming to us in good faith with fair questions, we are extremely concerned about the anti-Semitic rhetoric and tropes that have surfaced in our community including threats of violence. However, a small but alarming group have issued clear dog whistles that are historically anti-Semitic in nature. These include but are not limited to referencing money-grubbing, financial conspiracy, and the use of the term “Roachtag”. Comparing Jews to cockroaches is a tactic used in centuries of anti-Semitic propaganda including Nazi propaganda. Let us be clear. We do not believe that everyone or even most with questions and concerns about the program is anti-Semitic. **We welcome neighbors with all opinions about the program to attend the forum to gain information. However, we hope that the vast majority of our neighbors will denounce these disgusting anti-Semitic tactics even while expressing various points of view.** We are working closely with law enforcement to ensure that those who have issued threats and exhibited troubling behavior are dealt with seriously and urgently.

At the forum, representatives from Leichtag Foundation and Jewish Family Service will speak about the program and answer questions submitted in advance. [Click here to submit questions](#) - if you are not able to attend but still have questions for us, please submit them and we will respond to you. Law enforcement will be present at the forum.

There will not be representation from the City. Any questions for the City should be addressed to them directly.

We come to you in the spirit of neighborly goodwill and we ask that you bring the same sense of civility and respect to the conversation. This conversation is for neighbors of Leichtag Commons. [Click here to RSVP before January 9.](#) **Only those who have registered in advance will be allowed entry.**

[Jewish Family Service's official FAQ resource](#) has been updated recently, and may be helpful in providing a thorough overview of the program.

Wishing you a happy new year!



Charlene Seidle
Executive Vice-President