



Chief of Police Daniel Steidle contributed a column to the *Pacifica Tribune* to connect with local residents and keep Pacificans informed on issues that are of current interest in the City of Pacifica. Below is the submission for the November 7, 2018 edition of the *Pacifica Tribune*, which focuses on the joys and opportunities of community engagement.

Cannabis Business Licensing and RV Parking Issues

The Cannabis Business Licensing Program and a project to address RV parking issues are two major work items currently in progress under the direction of the Police Department. These projects have generated interest, emails and phone calls from community members. This column serves as an update to the community regarding these important items.

Cannabis Business Licensing Program

In July 2017, the Pacifica City Council adopted ordinances regulating cannabis businesses in Pacifica. Upon the passage of a local cannabis excise tax by Pacifica voters in November 2017, the ordinances became effective. These ordinances were a result of nearly a year of work by staff, the Pacifica Planning Commission and the Pacifica City Council.

The ordinances establish a dual licensing approach for cannabis businesses. Prospective cannabis business owners must be licensed by the Police Department (Cannabis Public Safety License) and the Planning Department (Cannabis Use Permit). Cannabis businesses may be licensed to sell medicinal or recreational cannabis, or a combination of both. The licensing process is designed to ensure that applicants meet state and local requirements for owning a cannabis business and cannabis businesses are located in an appropriate area in the city. While the process to become licensed may seem long, it is important that the process be thorough to assure the success of the program, and the safety of the community.

As of this date, two applicants for retail cannabis businesses have been granted Cannabis Use Permits by the Pacifica Planning Commission (one is on appeal before the City Council). Additionally, one Cannabis Use Permit application is being processed to be heard before the Pacifica Planning Commission, with the potential of a second to follow shortly.

Information regarding the City's Cannabis Business program can be found at: www.cityofpacifica.org

RV Parking

In recent years, many California communities have seen an uptick in the number of RVs parked on local streets, many occupied by homeless persons. The high cost of housing and living in California, as well as substance abuse and mental health issues have all contributed to this situation. Pacifica is not immune to this problem as the number of RVs occupied by homeless in the city has increased in recent years. The Police Department has received an increased number of complaints regarding persons living in RVs on city streets. Complaints are often centered around quality of life issues such as the discarding of trash and human waste on public property. There are those who consider large, often older RVs to be blight and do not want them parked in their neighborhoods or near businesses.

The issue was addressed in the City Council goal setting session for the 2018-2019 fiscal year. The City Council has directed staff to work towards a solution to the RV problem. On July 9, 2018, the City Council held a study session on this topic. The result of the study session was direction to staff to bring back potential solutions to the City Council. The solutions will take the form of a two-pronged approach to this issue: potential parking ordinance amendments restricting RV parking within city limits and research into the feasibility of a program where RVs could lawfully be parked by persons living within them.

The City understands that this is a complicated issue, and a solution is being sought to address the quality of life concerns from the community, while at the same time, being compassionate to those who are forced to take residence in their RVs.

It is expected that staff will return with a report to the City Council in early 2019.

Community members are encouraged to sign up for Connect with Pacifica email notifications to learn more about upcoming events where local issues such as these will be discussed. Community members can sign up at: www.cityofpacific.org/government/city_manager/cwp.asp.
