



*The Street Chaplaincy*  
1510 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, San Rafael, CA 94901  
415-685-5058  
[www.streetchaplaincy.org](http://www.streetchaplaincy.org)

July 6, 2021

Mayor Kate Colin  
City of San Rafael  
1400 Fifth Ave  
San Rafael, CA 94901

Dear Mayor Colin:

We are requesting the City of San Rafael reconsider the “Urgency Ordinance of the San Rafael City Council, Pursuit to California Government Code Section 36937(B), Prohibiting Camping or Lodging at Any Time in Boyd Park and in City Parking Garages” and instead, continue to focus on creative solutions that take into account the safety and well-being of all residents, including the unhoused who camp throughout San Rafael.

The Street Chaplaincy is concerned about the constitutionality of the ordinance that gives the city the ability to displace campers without providing alternative shelter per the *Martin vs. Boise* ruling. Although we understand the need to protect the community from wildfires, we also need to protect the rights of those who are unhoused to rest in public places when there are not enough shelter beds.

While we are encouraged by the implementation of a safe camping area under the highway that has forty-six (46) tent spots, more needs to be done in light of the number of people who are finding themselves displaced by the economic fallout from the Covid pandemic. This is evidenced by the *2021 Marin Homeless Vehicle Count* that states there is a ninety one percent increase in the number of people living out of their vehicles.

If the City of San Rafael wants to eliminate camping in Boyd Park, given the fire risk, The Street Chaplaincy requests that the Mayor and City Council focus more time and resources on the Housing-First model for our unhoused neighbors living on Boyd Hill and other places within city limits. The Street Chaplaincy asks that the Mayor and City Council continue to work with agencies who are working with these campers to place them into permanent, supportive housing, which is a long-term solution we can all agree on.

Respectfully,

Nick Morris, M.Div.  
Executive Director

The Reverend Marie B. Tracy, M.Div.  
Street Chaplain