

## Switzer, Donna

---

**From:** Dombo, Johanna  
**Sent:** Monday, August 05, 2019 11:17 AM  
**To:** Agenda Comment  
**Cc:** Fikes, Cathy; CITY COUNCIL  
**Subject:** FW: City "Oppose" Position on AB 302 "Parking / Homeless Students"

### AGENDA COMMENT

### SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATION

**From:** Galen Pickett <Galen.Pickett@csulb.edu>  
**Sent:** Monday, August 05, 2019 11:13 AM  
**To:** CITY COUNCIL <city.council@surfcity-hb.org>  
**Subject:** City "Oppose" Position on AB 302 "Parking / Homeless Students"

Meeting Date: 8/5/19  
Agenda Item No.: 17(19-833)

Honorable Council Members:

As a citizen and property owner in Huntington Beach, I note with interest item 17 "19-833" section A) indicating that opposing AB 302 is on the consent calendar for tonight's city council meeting. At best, I think this move is premature, and would encourage the item be brought to the full council for a debate and vote.

First, AB 302 has been dramatically amended since being offered on Jan. 29, 2019, and is likely to not be in its final form. The current proposal allows California Community Colleges, and Goldenwest College in particular, to customize the mix of emergency housing vouchers and overnight parking offered to best serve the educational mission of the College. All programs and services are to be reserved for students who maintain good standing and degree progress at Goldenwest. Also, the scale of the services to be offered is quite a bit more modest than the overall statewide numbers might have any one of you believe. Using the nominal research figure that 20% of students in the California Community Colleges face homelessness during an academic year, and the overall headcount enrollment of GWC of approximately 10,000 people, Goldenwest faces about 2000 incidents of homelessness in their student body every year. Many of these represent inherently instable fluctuations students face regarding housing. I would estimate that these 2000 incidents occur at random throughout the 32-week academic year, yielding about 60-70 active cases each week. A mix of short-term housing vouchers and supervised overnight parking seems a reasonable investment to support these students.

Secondly, having just such a modest, reasonable project in an educational institution with such close cultural and geographic ties to Huntington Beach will generate the kinds of granular data that will be invaluable to the city should it find itself either mandated to create such a program or locked in a court fight over such a program. The GWC experience will allow the city to fine tune cost estimates, to project the public safety impact, and to gauge the overall impact of such a safe-parking project in our local environment. It seems to me that prudence and good government requires seeing what such a model might reveal, particularly as there are literally no city resources at stake to get that data.

Third, and last, I will point out that I have been a professor in the California State University for the last 20 years, and the best – the **\*very\*** best – students I encounter here on campus are students who have navigated the California Community College system before they get to my door. These students are resilient and strong in ways that I never had to be as an undergraduate at MIT. A fair number of these have come through a period of intermittent instability and homelessness, and have managed to study differential calculus, physics, chemistry by parking lot lights. Many of them are now pursuing graduate degrees in the University of California – physics, engineering, mathematics. These students were already so focused on their goal of attaining science degrees that I believe nothing could ever really turn them away from those paths. There is a whole universe of students out there, however, who are just a little bit less tough

than that. These are students for whom a really good night's sleep before the morning of a final exam can make the difference between continuing on and succeeding as a physical scientist – or just giving up.

This modest investment by the state, located geographically close enough for the city to learn by experience (for defense or to engineer our own programs), and aimed directly at hard-working students who would love nothing more than to continue their training after GWC and come back to HB as our next generation of highly skilled and affluent citizens seems to be something worthy of the support of the City Council. Certainly, there are issues here that go beyond a bland "Oppose" on the consent calendar.

With best wishes,

Prof. Galen T. Pickett  
Dept. of Physics and Astronomy  
California State University Long Beach  
1250 Bellflower Blvd.  
Long Beach, CA 90840  
562 985 4934

<http://www.csulb.edu/~gpickett>