

News Release

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UNIVERSITY of
DENVER

STURM COLLEGE OF LAW

New Report Details Impact of Colorado's Housing Crisis and Criminalization of Homelessness

Homeless Advocacy Policy Project releases new report on vehicle residency

DENVER—May 14, 2021— Denver Law's [Homeless Advocacy Policy Project](#) (HAPP) just released a [new policy report](#) detailing the impact of Colorado's housing crisis, specifically on people who reside in vehicles and the related criminalizing codes across several Colorado cities.

The report revealed that among the current housing and evictions crises, Coloradans are living in their cars to survive. Yet, instead of helping these residents, Colorado cities criminalize this necessary activity through unconstitutional and inhumane laws that make sleeping in your car unlawful.

"This policy report is the first in Colorado to comprehensively survey and analyze the constitutionality of Colorado municipal laws that criminalize vehicle residency," says Nantiya Ruan, Professor of the Practice of Law at the Sturm College of Law. "Municipalities can and should reverse the trend of criminalizing life-sustaining behaviors, such as sleeping in parked cars, and instead, support safe parking programs and other emergency space solutions until affordable housing is a reality in Colorado."

HAPP is a student-driven project focused on researching the laws criminalizing homelessness and advocating for the rights of homeless individuals. University of Denver law students worked with community partner Colorado Safe Parking Initiative to understand the magnitude of the need in Colorado. To learn more about the key findings and possible solutions, read more [here](#) or attend the Zoom presentation Monday, May 17.

What	Homeless Advocacy Policy Project presentation of new policy report: Shifting Gears: Moving Colorado Away from Criminalizing Vehicle Residency and Towards Safe Parking
When	Monday, May 17 at 4:30 p.m. MT
Where	https://udenver.zoom.us/j/88489392933?pwd=VytETlg2WU0vdmZURGQrUnJyUmJ2UT09
Who	Nantiya Ruan, Professor of the Practice of Law; DU Law Students: Katie Koehler, Elisabeth Teater, Phoebe Blessing, and Amy Buck; Chelsey Baker-Hauck, Colorado Safe Parking Initiative Co-Founder
If you are interested in doing an interview after the event, please RSVP to Nicole Militello Nicole.Militello@du.edu or 847-747-6552	

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