

# Robbins, Thomas

## Public Comment Item Q2

Dear Paso Robles City Council,

My name is Thomas Robbins, and I own Green Rhino Carpet Cleaning here in Paso Robles, CA. I'm writing to ask for a common-sense modification to the current home occupation permit rules. Right now, the law says if you run a business from home, you can't have any vehicles with business logos parked at or around your house. This rule can be too strict for small businesses like mine, and I believe there's a better way to handle it.

Instead of banning all vehicles, I propose allowing up to two vehicles, as long as they are under a certain size. Many of us who run small businesses from home can't afford to rent a commercial space, especially when we're just starting out. This rule makes it even harder to succeed, and it seems unfair. For example, if I had an office in a commercial area, I'd be able to park my work vehicles at home without a problem. Why should home-based business owners be treated differently?

I run a carpet cleaning business with two vans, and all my work happens at my clients' properties, not at my house. Even though no work is done at my home, the Paso Robles Police Department told me I have to move my vans to another location. Finding a secure spot for them will cost me around \$1,000 a month, which is a huge financial burden. I can't risk leaving my vans out in the open because they carry expensive equipment, and there's a real danger of theft or vandalism.

I know many other small business owners are facing the same challenge. That's why I'm asking for a modification to the current rule—something that supports small businesses, not punishes them. We need to create an environment where businesses can grow, not struggle due to unnecessary financial hardships.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Thomas Robbins  
Green Rhino Carpet Cleaning

805-369-2468

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