

*A message from Riverside City Council member Andy Melendrez, Ward 2*

Dear University City Residents:

On behalf of the City of Riverside, I want to thank you for taking the time to review this letter and for your careful consideration of the question, "Do you want to become a part of the wonderful City of Riverside?" Hopefully, your personal questions and concerns have been addressed through the various outreach efforts of staff from our City. I think it is interesting to note that this process actually began back in November of 2005, when the Riverside City Council authorized city staff to begin the annexation process to bring University City into the City of Riverside. City staff members have been involved in various outreach activities, such as meetings with your community in April and August of 2006, as well as our letter of interest earlier this year.

I want to assure each of you that we welcome your input and respect your concerns regarding this important decision. I believe there are some very compelling reasons why your community should become a part of the City of Riverside, including:

**Enhanced Municipal Services:** The City of Riverside has new, state-of-the-art fire equipment and personnel near your neighborhood, as well as expanded and responsive Police services. We also provide other enhanced municipal services, including street maintenance, recreation programs at new and improved parks, and libraries that would be a true asset to your neighborhood. I am confident you will appreciate the high level of services provided to City of Riverside residents.

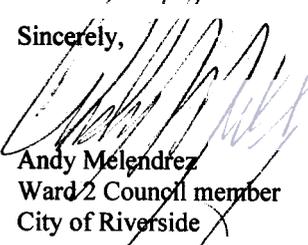
**Cost Savings:** As City of Riverside residents, you would enjoy favorable utility rates from both our electric and water services. Since you are already City of Riverside water customers, the 50% surcharge you now pay for water services would be eliminated. Additionally, our electricity customers enjoy rates that are 5 to 15% lower than the current rates of Southern California Edison.

**Riverside Renaissance Initiative:** The City Council recently provided preliminary approval for the investment of nearly \$800 million dollars in accelerated infrastructure improvements throughout the City, including items such as improved parks, new and improved libraries, an expanded museum, downtown beautification, sidewalks, center median improvements to our streets, and many other exciting projects.

**Expanded Representation by Elected Officials:** While you would continue to be represented by 5th District County Supervisor Marion Ashley and his fine staff, you would also become a part of my City Council Ward. I am an involved and active leader in my Ward, and I look forward to the opportunity to represent your community as well.

We are excited by the possibility of you joining our City as residents, and look forward to meeting with you in the future at upcoming City Council meetings. Again, thanks for taking the time to review this letter and seriously considering making Riverside your "City of Choice." I want to encourage you to review the rest of this web site and to provide your feedback in the comment and survey section.

Sincerely,

  
Andy Melendrez  
Ward 2 Council member  
City of Riverside