



**MNO Northside Neighborhood
September 26, 2007
Fremont Elementary School**

Community Development

Q – Why does City Government always seem to favor high density housing projects which seem to bring about higher crime rates, higher traffic congestion and lower quality of life?

A - Because Riverside is an older, more established city, more traditional development patterns have prevailed in our prior housing practices. With the changes in demographics and housing needs in our community, the City has attempted to promote more of a mix of housing options, including higher density housing opportunities near our urban core, that in addition to providing more housing opportunities for new, first-time home buyers, also helps us to achieve our goal of providing more affordable housing to our residents. Higher density also assists us with our goal of revitalizing our downtown area, because more residents in the downtown area will bring the need for more retail services, thereby supporting the new and existing businesses in this area. The real challenge for the City, as it develops higher density housing, is to provide for designs that do not lead to higher crime rates, coupled with good transportation planning (including alternate transportation modes such as RTA and Metrolink) and consistent Code Enforcement to guarantee the maintenance of this housing stock in our community.

Development

Q – Are there any plans to add to the Convention Center?

A – Yes, the City is looking at adding space to the Convention Center. The City is in the process of soliciting proposals for a master plan and design

Q – When will work begin on the Fox Plaza Project?

A - The Fox Plaza project will begin the second quarter of 2008. However, the construction progress of a hotel, Hyatt Place, will begin the first quarter of 2008.

Parks, Recreation & Community Service

Q – We need more skateboard parks in Riverside! Does the City have any plans to build more?

A – No master plans for any of the undeveloped parks in the park system currently include skate park facilities. However, at a recent Mayor's Night Out meeting, Council Member Schiavone indicated that there was a parcel of land that the City would be receiving as a part of a settlement that may lend itself to

that sort of use. Moreover, Councilman Betro has expressed interest in finding a location for skateboarders in Ward 1.

Police

Q – Is there anything that can be done about what seems to be a drug operation at the Circle K in our area? There seems to be a signal system between dealers and customers using loud car radios. What can be done?

A - The Police Department has previously received this information and the department is working on the solution. Details cannot be given at this time since it would compromise our investigation.

As far as loud radios in cars, there is a California Vehicle Code section that prohibits loud music that can be heard 50 feet from the vehicle while it is being operated on the highway. Most officers are inclined to write a citation for this violation.

Q – Why are there so many burglars who steal cars? (this question came from an elementary school child)

A - There are many people throughout the city that don't have nice things and don't have the ability to get nice things other than breaking into people's cars and taking them.

Some people steal cars to get a ride somewhere they need to go, some steal cars to take parts off of them for their car or to sell them to make money.

I don't know why people do bad things to other people but if you want to have the ability to get things without stealing them, you need a good job. To get a good job you must have a good education.

Public Works:

Q – Traffic on north Riverside Avenue at the San Bernardino County line has grown recently due to the construction of warehouses. Is there a plan to divert traffic away from south Main Street to the 60/91/215 Interchange?

A - The City of Riverside has been working with the cities of Colton and Rialto to address this issue. The new developments that are planned adjacent to Riverside Avenue have been conditioned to install permanent improvements (raised medians) that will prohibit trucks from turning back toward the City of Riverside. There are also plans to widen the Riverside / I-10 interchange to handle trucks being rerouted away from the City of Riverside.

Additionally, the City of Riverside is investigating the installation of a high technology pilot "Weigh-in-Motion" project on Main Street to address overloaded trucks that use Main Street and cause street damage. This will allow the City to

identify overloaded trucks while they travel down the street and issue citations to those in violation. It is anticipated that trucks that do not need to use Main Street will stay on the freeway (especially after interchange is completed) instead of risking a possible citation. Truck traffic on Main Street should decline with the completion of the interchange.

Q – Neighbors on Stoddard Avenue, which runs parallel with the 60 Freeway and is two blocks from Fremont Elementary School, are concerned that the speed of traffic has become extremely fast. What can the City do to help reduce traffic and traffic speeds?

A - The City of Riverside Traffic Engineering Division will conduct a survey of prevailing speeds and volume and determine what traffic measures may be appropriate for this street. Sometimes additional striping or signing will resolve concerns and redirect unwanted traffic. This study will be conducted in the next four weeks. In the interim the new neighborhood interactive speed feedback trailer will be deployed to instruct drivers to reduce their speeds.

Q – Though there is a crosswalk at the corner of Main Street and Alamo, there is no sign noting the protected walkway. Would the City be able to put up a sign at that location, as traffic is very fast on the location? Where are the trucks to park?

A - The crosswalk signs were installed in October and the streets were re-striped the first week of November. The trucks that park in the area are restricted to parking several hundred feet away from Alamo Street to allow for clear view. The Parking Services Section of the Public Works Department has been alerted to this situation and will enforce as needed.

Q – What can be done to prevent trucks from parking in the center turn lane on Main Street and Strong Street? It appears the drivers are using the lane as a temporary parking lot when running into a store or restaurant.

A - The truck drivers are not supposed to leave their vehicles unattended in the middle of the two way turn lane. The Riverside Police Department will enforce those violations.

Q – What can be done about the trucks traffic that backs up on Columbia Avenue starting at about 7:00 a.m.? This generates bad air for the children going to school.

A - The City is designing a grade separation at the Columbia Avenue railroad crossing. The project will construct a highway overpass structure at the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railroad tracks. Columbia Avenue will be raised to cross over the tracks. Construction is expected to begin in summer of 2008 and will last approximately 15 months. Upon completion of the project, vehicles will be able to go over and across the railroad tracks without stoppage. This will improve safety and traffic flow as well as the air quality by eliminating vehicle idling at the crossing.

Additionally, the City of Riverside is currently under construction with a project to interconnect all the traffic signals along Main Street. When completed early in 2008, the signals will be synchronized from the northerly City limits to Third Street and provide smoother traffic and 50% less stops at these signals for cars and trucks using Main Street. This will improve safety, relieve congestion, and improve air quality.