



**MNO Victoria Neighborhood
November 28, 2007
Victoria Elementary School**

City of the Arts

Q – Would the City be interested in promoting the Arts with cable TV featuring local singers & musicians?

A – Yes, so long as a funding source is identified. We are interested but do not have funding for it at this time.

Library

Q – What are the plans for the Marcy Branch Library? Is it going to go Cyber or will the City consider taking/moving into the neighborhood.

A – At present, there are no plans to move or change the Marcy Branch Library. The Library continually evaluates services and programs at all library locations. During the next 18 months both the Arlington Branch (remodel-expansion) and the Orange Terrace Branch (new construction) will open and be fully operational. Library staff must first study the system-wide impact of these re-opened facilities before recommending program adjustments at other locations throughout the City. In all such matters, Staff recommendations are forwarded to the City Manager's Office, Library Board of Trustees and City Council members.

Parks, Recreation & Community Service

Q – When will Andulka Park be completed?

A - Plans for the final phase of improvements at the Andulka Park Site are currently underway. City staff is in the construction bid process and expect to award contracts and commence construction most likely in April 2008. The construction period will be approximately 12 months. It is anticipated that the facilities will be available for public use in Spring of 2009.

Q – We would like for the City of Riverside to build more parks for both children and adults.

A - As part of the Riverside Renaissance Program, the City of Riverside, Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department is spending more than \$150 million to create new parks and recreational facilities throughout the city including Andulka Park in the Victoria Neighborhood. In addition, the Department is currently refurbishing a number of existing facilities to better serve the recreational needs of the residents of Riverside.

Q – The Special Olympics are in need of support with facilities, transportation, and outreach. Would the City be willing to support our efforts?

A – The City of Riverside supports Special Olympics! In December 2007, representatives from the City met with representatives from Special Olympics and Riverside Community College and committed to find ways to assist with the provision of sites for future competitions and practices.

Police

Q – We're very concerned about gang activity and graffiti in the City. What is being done to try to control the problem?

A – The graffiti removal teams through public works have doubled in size the last two years which will assist us keep graffiti off of the walls. Gang injunctions and increased officers will assist greatly in the battle against gangs. We have already seen a significant decrease in gang activity in our city over the last year.

Q – What is the 'accepted' as opposed to 'legal' speed limit on Washington Street between Bradley Street and Victoria Avenue?

A – The legal and accepted speed at that location is 40mph.

Public Works:

Q – Are there plans to construct sidewalk improvements from the newly constructed Andulka Park on the northerly side of Chicago to the Arlington & Alessandro intersection? We should have pedestrian use on both sides of Chicago for safety reasons and to connect Teen Challenge, the Churches, and the Tennis Center.

A – The recent Chicago Avenue Improvement project constructed sidewalk on the easterly/southerly side of Chicago Avenue. This sidewalk provided for a safe and continuous path of travel for pedestrians from Alessandro Boulevard to Central Avenue (just over one mile). Residents can cross safely from the easterly side to the westerly side of Chicago Avenue to the church, tennis center and the new Andulka Park at Ransom Road and at Central Avenue.

The westerly/northerly side of Chicago Avenue holds greater challenges for installing sidewalk and was therefore not chosen for sidewalk. There are steep upward slopes next to the curb and steep downward slopes ending in an open drainage channel immediately adjacent to the existing curb. To make room for sidewalk complex retaining walls would have to be constructed. A sidewalk immediately adjacent to a drainage channel also poses safety risks.

Q – I live on Horace St. across from the California School for the Deaf – a 25 mph zone. However, cars, trucks and city buses constantly speed down the street between Arlington and Lincoln. We need 1 or 2 speed humps along the street. How can we make this happen?

A - Horace Street is an entry street to the neighborhood and not eligible for speed humps. Speed humps would delay emergency vehicles when responding.

The City is, however, launching a Neighborhood Speed Feedback Sign Program throughout the city. Horace Street is included in the program. Speed feedback signs help slow down traffic by displaying the speed limit and the approaching vehicle's speed. The City has seen reductions in speeding where these signs have been installed, notably on Canyon Crest Drive and Alessandro Boulevard. The sign should be installed in the next 30 days.

Q – What can be done with the traffic speeds along Arlington at the entrance of the Quail Creek Apartments? It is dangerous getting into the apartments.

A – The current speed limit is set by law. However, the City will place its new interactive speed feedback trailer on Arlington Avenue to remind motorists to obey the limit and survey prevailing speeds. This has helped reduce speeds, especially when followed up with enforcement. Results of this survey will be forwarded to the Police Department for action.

Q – The residents on Cimarron Road signed a petition requesting speed bumps. We were told we did not meet the volume of traffic. However, people are still speeding down the street. What can be done?

A - Speed humps were installed on December 3, 2007.

Q – At the stop light on Horace and Arlington, many cars often run through the red light. Is there anything that can be done about this?

A – The City continually adjusts traffic signal timing to facilitate the traffic flow along arterial roadways such as Arlington Avenue. The City will incorporate adjustments where possible to help reduce delays. Additionally, the Riverside Police Department has been asked to monitor and enforce violations at the intersection.

Q – What are the plans for Central Avenue from Alessandro and Arlington to the 91 Freeway? We live above Poly High School and we're concerned about the safety existing and entering our neighborhood.

A - The City of Riverside will start the Central Avenue Improvement project in Spring 2008. This project will make numerous improvements including:

- Raised landscaped islands to control access along the Central Avenue;
- New traffic signals at Royal Hill Drive, Fairview Avenue, and the Olivewood Cemetery;
- New traffic signal timing to control the flow and speed of vehicles traveling on Central Avenue; and
- Three lanes each way from Riverside Polytechnic High School to the 91 Freeway to ease the congestion. The project will be completed in Winter 2008.

Q – Bike lanes have been removed on Victoria Avenue next to Poly High School and are mission on Martin Luther King Avenue next to the new subdivision. Also, the bike lanes on Victoria are horrible. Is there a plan for bike lane development?

A – The Victoria Avenue bike lanes next to Riverside Polytechnic High School will be added as part of the Central Avenue Improvement project outlined above. The estimated completion date is Fall 2008. Victoria Avenue as a whole is currently being studied to see how the bike lanes can be improved. Recently the decision was made to sweep the bike lanes on Victoria Avenue weekly rather than bi-weekly to improve the lanes prior to weekend use. In addition, signage will be added to encourage shared use of vehicles and bikes along Victoria Avenue.

Currently, there is not sufficient width to install bike lanes on Fourteenth Street (continuation of Martin Luther King Boulevard) between the 91 Freeway and Sedgwick Avenue. The City is considering a project on Fourteenth Street from 91 Freeway to Sedgwick, which would widen it to provide for three lanes and a bike lane in each direction. At that time, the City will review the installation of bike lanes on the Fourteenth Street and Martin Luther King Boulevard corridor from the 91 freeway to Chicago.

Q – Graffiti has becoming a growing problem in our area on the streets, signs, and sidewalks. What is being done to control the situation and can we get the area cleaned up?

A – The City Council has zero tolerance to graffiti crime. The City has a multi-faceted strategy to reduce graffiti vandalism within the City. This includes a new public education component, graffiti removal within 24 hours, aggressive enforcement by the Riverside Police Department, and the City Attorney's office seeking restitution from graffiti criminals. Also, the new Graffiti Rewards Program offers \$500 rewards for tips that lead to the arrest of graffiti criminals.

The Graffiti Education Coordinator is working with schools to educate our children and also working with businesses on graffiti protection strategies. Community Outreach and paint outs are also being done in coordination with KRCB. This year the Riverside Police Department has made 252 graffiti related arrests. The City Attorney's office has handled 132 of these cases and collected \$65,408.60 in city restitution costs. The Graffiti crews and contractors have cleaned over 25,000 locations. The new rewards program started in August 2007 has resulted in 20 calls about graffiti activity. Four of these calls resulted in arrests and the callers were given a \$500 reward for their efforts.

Please contact the Riverside Call Center at 311 to report graffiti. The City needs your assistance to facilitate removal of graffiti. The removal goal is 24 hours or less.

Please call 787-7911 to report graffiti vandalism in our City when you see it occurring. If your call leads to the arrest of graffiti criminals, you could be eligible for a \$500 reward. Callers may be anonymous.

Q – Are there plans to repave Bradley Street? When new homes were built on the east end of the street, considerable damage was done by the heavy

equipment rolling up and down. Also are there any plans to provide another exit to Washington Street?

A -The City has a street improvement project on Washington Street from Bradley to south city limits scheduled for 2008-2009. This project will also include the rehabilitation of pavement on Bradley St. At this time, there are no plans for any new arterial or collector streets planned in that area.

Other:

Q – What, specifically, does the City plan to do about the excessive noise from DHL jets in the early morning?

A – The City has ordered noise monitors to take measurements to evaluate the noise levels the end of January. We continue to work with the March Joint Powers Authority and have a pending meeting with DHL executives regarding this matter. DHL is revisiting their business plan to see if it is feasible to adjust their flight hours.

