



**MNO Arlington Neighborhood
April 30, 2008
Liberty Elementary School**

Code Enforcement:

Q – Can something be done about cars being parked in front yards in the Arlington neighborhood?

A – The Riverside Municipal Code prohibits the parking of cars in front yards. Code Enforcement can issue notices/citations to property owners to gain compliance. Please call the Riverside Call Center at 826-5311 to report cars parked in yards.

Q – Can something be done about trash being dumped in alleys in our neighborhood?

A – The Riverside Municipal Code prohibits illegal dumping of trash in alleys and it is the property owner's responsibility to maintain the alley between the centerline of the alley and their property line. If you observe someone in the act of illegal dumping, the Riverside Police Department should be contacted immediately at 787-7911. Otherwise, Code Enforcement can issue notices to property owners to abate trash "after the fact". Please call Riverside's Call Center 826-5311 to report ongoing trash issues.

Q – Can something be done about the boarded up windows, furniture in the front yard and weeds on some properties in our neighborhood?

A – The Riverside Municipal Code prohibits outdoor storage of furniture in the front yard, overgrown weeds and vegetation. Code Enforcement can issue notices/citations to property owners for these nuisance violations. If the property owner does not comply, the City's contractor will abate the nuisance violations. In addition, the City recently adopted an ordinance to address vacant/neglected properties and Code Enforcement actively addresses houses such as these on a daily basis. Please call the Riverside Call Center at 826-5311 to report violations.

Q – Can something be done about the number of dogs that people are allowed to have at their home?

A – At this time, the Riverside Municipal Code does not restrict the number of dogs allowed at a residence. The Riverside Municipal Code does address the negative effects that can arise from having a large amount of animals, such as improper disposal of animal waste and noise. Please call the Riverside Call Center at 826-5311 if you have complaints about the negative effects that arising.

Development:

Q – What is the timetable for completion of the redevelopment of California Square?

A – Construction should start by the end of calendar year 2008. The construction period is approximately one year and therefore it should be completed by December, 2009.

Fire:

Q – With the new buildings at Andrew Street and Van Buren Avenue, can the City install a sign at the intersection warning motorists of the Fire Station which is on Andrew Street?

A – A sign has been placed on Van Buren Avenue warning drivers of a Fire Station at Andrew Street.

Parks, Recreation & Community Service

Q – We need more afterschool programs for elementary school children in our area. What can be done about that?

A – Since there is currently no community center at Arlington Park, the Department has been working to increase programs and activities at Hunt Park. There are current plans to expand the Hunt Park facility to include a gymnasium and various multi-purpose rooms that can accommodate dance and specialty classes.

Q – Can Park pool hours and availability be extended beyond Memorial Day and Labor Day?

A – The City's Aquatics Program usually concludes around Labor Day because the costs for maintaining and operating pools year-round would be extremely high. In the past, when these programs have been offered beyond this period, attendance was very low and was not cost effective. Additionally, lifeguards that staff the pools are usually college students who return to school after the Memorial Day weekend, which makes it difficult to staff the facilities consistently.

Police

Q – What is the City doing about the drugs in our neighborhoods? We suspect drug selling activity on our street as people come and go at certain houses. What can be done?

A – The Riverside Police Department has a narcotics enforcement unit that has the specific responsibility to investigate drug activity in the City of Riverside. The unit is supervised by Sgt. Masson and his office number is 353-7228. Residents can contact Sgt. Masson with the information and then RPD can further investigate any possible illegal activity at the location. RPD also has patrol officers conduct extra patrols in areas where there may be suspected illegal

activity going on. It is suggested that residents call either Sgt. Masson in the narcotics division, or, RPD dispatch at 787-7911 if there is a need for an immediate response. The calls can be made anonymously but RPD prefers to have a person to contact if they need further information.

Q – Can we have more police patrol in the neighborhood in the Eastside Neighborhood?

A – Extra patrols in the neighborhood have been added and there is a high police presence.

Public Utilities:

Q – Can the City install artificial turf in the medians to reduce water consumption and contribute to the greening of our planet?

A – The City's Public Works department recognizes the need for conservation, and has taken new steps to reduce water use for roadway medians throughout Riverside.

Traffic medians vary in type and size throughout the City and can have a combination of masonry, plantings, or turf. When turf is installed, Public Works uses a drought tolerant fescue, which requires 30% less water than the blue grass used in the past.

The City also uses, and requires on all new installations, the "Calsense" water management system. The high-tech Calsense systems offer the ability to use computers or off-site radio controllers to manage watering times and make adjustments according to changing weather conditions. Additionally, rain sensors, moisture sensors, and waterline failure sensors all help to ensure that the medians are being watered properly.

In existing medians which pre-date Calsense installations, the Public Works department is utilizing rain sensors that are compatible with existing irrigation equipment.

A similar type of Weather Based Irrigation Controller (or WBIC) is available for use at home. Riverside Public Utilities customers can receive a rebate of up to \$80 for installing a WBIC. For more information please call 826-5485.

Waterless grass installations are being installed by RPU around the Utilities Plaza Building downtown.

Also, the Parks department just received grant monies for their new turf installations at Bobby Bonds Park, and the Utilities is awaiting approval of two new programs that would offer residents incentives for installing waterless grass, and/or removing grass for installing water wise landscaping.

Public Works:

Q – Can the traffic signals at Van Buren Boulevard and Garfield Street be re-timed so there is less wait time when turning left with no oncoming traffic?

A – The long wait is because the signal is coordinated with the others on Van Buren between the 91 Freeway and Jurupa. Now that the roadway has been

widened this signal will be retimed to be better synchronized based on more current volumes and lane configurations. The process has begun and will take about two months to fine tune. The “wait” should not exceed 90 seconds during any portion of the day.

Q – Can speed bumps be put in on Sequoia Street?

A – There is a process for speed humps that includes obtaining neighborhood support and meeting minimum criteria for speeding. The process is started with the Fire Department approving the street as an appropriate one for speed humps and is accessible for public safety vehicles. The residents are then asked to supply a petition with 70% or more of the neighbors agreeing to the concept. Once the petition is received, the street is studied for speeding. If the minimum criteria established by the City Council is met, a report will be sent through for approval to the Parking, Traffic and Streets Commission, and the City Council. A Public Works Department employee will be contacting you to discuss your issues more fully in the coming weeks.

Q – Where the stop sign is located on Castleman Street and Hayes Street cars are being parked at the stop sign. Can the curbs be painted red to signify a no parking area at the intersection?

A – A work order has been issued to paint red curbs in advance of the stop signs at both intersections.

Q – We are concerned about speeding cars on Acacia Street. Can a third speed bump be installed or the current speed bumps made higher?

A – A speed survey has been conducted “between the humps” and results show that the average speed is 21mph. An additional speed hump is not recommended. Existing humps are constructed to approved standards and cannot be changed.

Q – Can something be done about the traffic along Jackson Street and Lincoln Avenue during the mornings and afternoons? Arlington High School is located at the intersection.

A – Fortunately, the traffic congestion is primarily when students are going to school and others are headed to work in the morning peak hour. These two roadways are designed to carry local traffic from adjacent neighborhoods to larger streets, which they are doing. However, staff will review the intersection operation and monitor the crossing guard and congestion to see if any improvements can be made.

Q – We are extremely concerned about the speed along Dufferin Avenue, between Van Buren Boulevard and La Sierra Avenue. Isn't Dufferin Avenue supposed to be closed? And when?

A – The City and County of Riverside reached an understanding regarding the closure of McAllister and Dufferin. The understanding was that McAllister Avenue would be closed at the City/County border as part of the on-going

residential development south of the City after McAllister Parkway was completed between McAllister Avenue and La Sierra Ave. McAllister Parkway has been completed and McAllister Ave has been closed. A new roadway was also planned between Van Buren Blvd and McAllister Avenue as part of a new residential and golf course development east of McAllister Avenue. When this new roadway is complete Dufferin will be closed at McAllister Parkway. This new road has not been constructed.

Q – What can be done about the graffiti in our area?

A – The City of Riverside has zero tolerance toward graffiti crime. The Public Works Department, Riverside Police Department, and City Attorney's Office has a multifaceted strategy to address graffiti in our community. The Public Works Department's goal is to remove graffiti within 24 hours. Currently the department is averaging removal within 19 hours. Please report graffiti to the Riverside Call Center at 826-5311. Residents are also eligible for a \$500 reward if they provide information leading the arrest of a graffiti criminal. Calls should be made to 787-7911. The department also offers graffiti education and information on how to prevent graffiti on your premises. Arrangements can be made by contacting Craig Justice, Public Works Manager, at 826-5120.

The Riverside Police Department has stepped-up its Graffiti Unit efforts to arrest and prosecute graffiti criminals. Since 2005 through 2007 arrests have increased about 400 percent, from 55 to 270 respectively. In January 2008 alone, 31 arrests of graffiti criminals were made. 372 arrests are projected for 2008.

To supplement criminal prosecution of graffiti criminals, the City Attorney's Office seeks reimbursement from the families of the graffiti criminals for expenses associated with eradicating graffiti within the City. Cost recovery is sought for graffiti removal, investigation, and administrative costs. Over three years from 2005 to August 2007, the City Attorney's Office handled 94 cases and collected more than \$38,000 in restitution. Over the past six months since August 2007, the City Attorney's Office handled 42 cases and collected more than \$27,000. This averages to 7 cases per month which is more than two-and one-half times higher than the prior three year monthly case load average of 2.6 per month. Restitution has also been increased from \$404 per case to \$643 per case.

Q – Can something be done about graffiti along Tyler Street, near Indiana Avenue, between Shoshone Avenue and Comanche Avenue? I have a suggestion that the City install a native plant and succulent plant garden here to discourage graffiti.

A – The Public Works Department has discussed this issue with the resident. Various options will be considered, one being a green wall.

Q – I am concerned about safety and the need for cleaning along an alley next to Liberty School. Can the City do something about this?

A – City Councilmember MacArthur, a Mayor's Office representative and City Staff met with Riverside Unified School administration and staff to discuss the

alley next to Liberty School. The property was determined to be RUSD property. It was decided to gate the alley at both ends opening them just before and after school to allow students and families to pass through on the way to school. The school district and City Staff will review the results in a few months.

Q – Please clean Diana Street facing the 91 freeway, along the corner to Myers Street and going to Hughes Alley near the mall.

A – The Weekend Crew cleaned Diana Street on May 10 and May 11, 2008. The area will be placed on quarterly cleaning schedule. Please notify Riverside's Call Center of specific needs—graffiti, litter, illegal dumping. They will promptly be addressed.

Q – Are the stop signs on Garfield Street at Castleman Street and at Stotts Street really necessary?

A – The residents in the area requested that some sort of traffic calming be applied to this portion of Garfield due to the high speeds. Since the street is not eligible for speed humps, the solution developed was two stop signs to shorten the length of the segments and thus reduce the upper end speeds that vehicles can get up to. They also provide residents with crossing points to access the neighborhood on the other side of Garfield, and give motorists coming off Castleman and Stotts a controlled access point to safely enter Garfield.

Q – Can something be done to help senior adults with the rate fee charged for trash and other City services?

A – The City offers several assistance programs for residential utility users including: the *SHARE Program* of Riverside Public Utilities which assists qualified low-income residential electric and water customers with their utility bills and deposits; the *WE CARE* program which is a public benefit program that assists low-income, disabled and senior households by providing a free in-home weatherization service to help save money on utility bills; and the *Utilicare* program which provides a defined quantity of electricity at reduced rates to any household with a full-time resident who requires certain medically necessary electric equipment. Additionally, residential trash rates are not increasing in fiscal year 2008-09.

Q – Can there be more street cleaning in order to help the disabled who travel along the sidewalks and streets?

A – Currently Public Works conducts street sweeping every other week throughout the City. Recently, Public Works introduced an enhancement to its Street Sweeping Program. Also, parking enforcement will issue citations to those violating the "No Parking" restriction during the posted street sweeping times. It is anticipated this will increase the ability to properly clean streets in local neighborhoods. This program is being implemented quarterly, and will be throughout the City by the end of 2010. If streets in the Arlington neighborhood are in need of debris clearing, it is encouraged to place a call to the Call Center at 826-5311. This will enable Public Works to address specific problem areas.

Q – Is there a plan to help with the train horns at night? Can sound barriers be put up along the train tracks in the Jackson Street area?

A – The City is in the process of hiring a consultant for implementation of railroad Quiet Zones along portions of the Union Pacific (UP) and Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) rail corridors. Train horns would be silenced 24 hours a day within the proposed Quiet Zones in accordance with Federal Railroad Administration requirements. The Quiet Zones will extend from Panorama Road to Cridge Street along the UP corridor, and from the southerly City limits to Jane Street along the BNSF corridor. City Council approval of the consultant agreement is expected in August 2008. Preliminary and final design including preparation of bid documents, execution of railroad agreements, and filing of applications with California Public Utility Commission (for alterations to at-grade crossings) will take approximately two years. Construction of the Quiet Zone corridor improvements is expected to start in the second half of 2010 and will take approximately one year. Sound barriers are not being considered for the train horn noise problem due the extent of the rail lines.

Q – We want to thank Public Works for repairing the street on the corner of Van Buren Avenue and California Street. Will there be any street repairs on Van Buren Avenue between Garfield Street and California Avenue?

A – This segment of Van Buren Blvd is planned to be widened from four to six lanes. The design is scheduled to begin in Spring, 2009, with the construction to follow in mid-2010. No additional street rehabilitation is planned in the interim.

Q – Can the City ask the new Hawthorne Elementary School staff to be more clean and green by running sprinkler system watering the grass in the evening and not during the afternoon like they have been doing?

A – City Staff will contact the school to discuss changes to their watering habits.

