



**MNO Downtown Neighborhood
September 24, 2008
Bryant Elementary School**

Code Enforcement:

Q – The development project on Market, between Second and Third Streets is rather lax on keeping the ground watered in order to keep the dust down. Can something be done the require them to keep the dust down?

A – Yes, our inspection staff contacted the on-site superintendent and instructed him to increase his watering of the site to mitigate dust.

Q – With so many homes being foreclosed because of the current economic downturn, it seems that neighborhoods would need more code enforcement officers. When will the budget allow for more officers?

A – The City Council has established a special revenue fund to pay for three additional code enforcement officers targeted to address neglected and abandoned properties citywide.

Q – There is an empty house at 3069 12th Street, next to the Women’s Club, that attracts a lot of criminal activity. Can that owner be made to do something about the appearance of the house?

A – Yes, as was mentioned by Councilmember Gardner, the City has entered into a rehabilitation agreement with the property owner with the intent of restoring this residence.

Parks, Recreation & Community Service

Q – Are there any plans in the future for a skate park in the Downtown area?

A – The City does not have funding allocated to construct a skate park in the downtown neighborhood as part of the Riverside Renaissance. The City will construct an above ground skate park at Bobby Bonds Park scheduled to open in early January 2009.

Police

Q – There seems to be an increase in graffiti and thief, such as stolen catalytic converters, car registration papers, in the Downtown area. What can be done to help?

A – The most important thing that residents can do to reduce the likelihood of crimes such as graffiti and minor thefts from occurring in their neighborhoods is to become active in their neighborhoods and educate themselves on ways to

"harden" themselves as a target thus reducing the likelihood that they will be victimized.

Residents can become active in neighborhood watch programs that focus on their immediate street or they can be active in larger neighborhood associations with a broader focus such as D.A.N.A. (Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance). In either case, being active increases the visibility of the good citizens who care about the conditions in their neighborhood. Their activity then sets a higher standard or "tone" which deters problem neighbors from conducting activity that won't be tolerated. These groups work closely with police, code compliance officers and various city departments to identify and address conditions such as graffiti. Graffiti should be reported immediately to police and notification made via the City's 311 system so that it can be removed as soon as possible. Additional information regarding neighborhood watch can be obtained by contacting PSR Nancy Castillo at the police department, 826-8721.

Theft and vehicle tampering that occur in the neighborhoods can also be addressed by being active in neighborhood associations which in effect act as neighborhood lookouts. Thieves tend to be opportunist and take advantage of the easiest opportunity. Taking measures such as installing a vehicle alarm, parking in a garage or a well lit area will reduce the likelihood of having your vehicle tampered with. All crimes should be reported especially thefts involving stolen registration stickers or license plates.

Public Works:

Q – Can something be done about water erosion and the dust during the clean-up of the median on Pine Street?

A – Both problems have been addressed. Regular monitoring of the situation is on-going. The water erosion was addressed through irrigation system repairs. To control dust the maintenance company has been asked to rake whenever possible and to keep the blowers on low.

Q – There is a need to install sidewalks at the northeast corner of Orange and Poplar Streets and at the intersection of Poplar and Lime Streets?

A – The Public Works Department will include the missing sidewalk on the north side of Poplar Street just easterly of Orange Street in an upcoming project for construction of City-wide miscellaneous sidewalks – tentatively planned for spring, 2009. Construction of missing sidewalks near Lime Street, however, would require curb, gutter, road widening utility relocation, dedication of additional right of way, and consideration for drainage facilities, at an estimated cost of \$400,000 to \$500,000. Currently, there are no surplus funds available in the Public Works Department's budget for a project of such magnitude. We will however, consider this project as a viable candidate for future grant applications.

Q – Can the City install a trash can next to the bus stop at the corner of Orange and Poplar Streets?

A – A container was placed at this location on September 26, 2008.

Q – Can there be help with parking enforcement at Bryant Elementary School during the morning start of school drop off and after school pickup times? There are several cars that create a hazard to the students.

A – Parking enforcement started on September 25, 2008 and will continue. Enhancements were also made to increase the parent drop off and pick up zones along Pine Street and along Third Street. These efforts have improved circulation around the school.

Q – Can something be done about repeated graffiti up and down Pine Street on the sidewalk?

A – The graffiti at this location was removed by the Public Works Department. The area will be checked periodically to be sure that it stays clean. Resident's are encouraged to report graffiti to the City of Riverside Call Center at 826-5311. Graffiti is removed within 24 hours of it being reported to the Call Center.

Q – Is it possible to pave the alley between Cedar and Pine Streets running parallel with Second and Third Streets?

A – There are no funds earmarked for the paving of dirt alleys in the current year Public Works budget. However, we will consider this as a candidate for future AQMD Grants.

Q – What can be done with unleashed vicious dogs in our neighborhood?

A – The Department of Animal Services provides field and shelter services for the City of Riverside. There is a State mandated process for declaring a dog vicious in the State of California. The first step is to report all dogs that are loose or vicious to Animal Services by contacting the City of Riverside's Call Center at 825-5311.

Other:

Q – There are too many half way houses in Downtown Riverside. What can be done about it?

A – Citizens can call 311 (826-5311) to report suspicious housing concerns in their neighborhood. The City has formed a Transitional Housing Task Force that investigates all of these homes and insures that they are complying state guidelines regarding sober living homes.

