



**Question and Answers Responses from the  
MNO Canyon Crest Neighborhood  
March 25, 2009  
Castle View Elementary School**

**Development:**

Q – What is the City doing to create more jobs in Riverside for both youth and adults?

A – The City, along with Riverside County, proactively worked to secure funding for the Summer Work Experience Program (SWEP) from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The City will provide paid summer employment for 200 youth and young adults. Additionally, the City is actively pursuing all possible Federal Economic Recovery Dollars to create as many new jobs locally as possible to help our residents secure employment during these recessionary times.

Q – What are the plans for revitalizing the downtown? It is concerning that restaurants like Trilussa have closed. How can we work together to improve downtown?

A – In addition to working to attract and retain vibrant dining and shopping opportunities, the City and Redevelopment Agency have worked to bring significant unique elements to the Downtown, such as the revitalized Fox Performing Arts Center, the Farmer's Market, the Festival of Lights on Main Street and the AVP Riverside Open. In addition, City staff is working with an established restaurant to relocate the site of Trilussa.

We encourage all residents to Shop Riverside and support our local shopping, dining and entertainment venues in the Downtown area. Supporting the arts and culture activities will also help make Downtown a unique center within the Inland Empire for events and entertainment not found elsewhere.

**Parks, Recreation & Community Service**

Q – Are there plans for an improved Sycamore Canyon Trail Head at Via Vista Drive like the trail head on Central Avenue?

A – The City has considered the feasibility of providing a trail head at this location. However, property currently owned by the City is not suitable to provide the necessary on-site parking to provide access to the park at this location. Limited trail access is currently available through an opening in the fence, but parking is limited to on-street curb adjacent spaces. The intersection of Via Vista at Canyon Crest also represents a significant challenge for pedestrians attempting to cross at this location.

Q – A better park with more facilities for our children is badly needed in our neighborhood. The facilities at Castle View Park are too limited and do not meet the needs of the children. What plans are there for parks in our neighborhood?

A – The long-awaited facilities at the Andulka Community Park, located at the intersection of Chicago and Central, opened to the public on May 2. The site includes a 10-court tennis complex, two lighted sports fields, a children's playground complete with a water play feature, restroom facilities, two group picnic shelters, a pair of sand-lot volleyball courts and two lighted basketball full-courts. In addition, the improvements include a wildlife preserve area for native vegetation to help support indigenous plant and animal species. The preserve will be managed under the watchful eye of the State Fish & Game Department.

### **Public Works:**

Q – In 2006, we were told Alessandro Avenue would get signs indicating a “Quiet Zone” where trucks were not to use air brakes. When will those signs be put along Alessandro for the neighborhood?

A – While the City has attempted to prohibit trucks from using compression brakes on various street segments on a pilot/trial basis, the use of such brakes is legal under State law and the City cannot issue citations for truckers who choose to use them to stop their trucks. The City is working to install raised median islands to reduce the number of trucks from using Alessandro and re-routing them toward the I-215 freeway.

Q – Sound walls have been added at the corner of Arlington Avenue and Alessandro Boulevard. How far south on Alessandro Boulevard will the sound walls continue? Is there any plan to extend the sound wall farther south on Alessandro Boulevard?

A – The City has not constructed a sound wall at the corner of Arlington Avenues and Alessandro Boulevard. The City did construct a retaining wall at the bottom of the slopes along Arlington and Alessandro Boulevard in conjunction with the Alessandro improvement project about three years ago. There are no plans to extend these walls or build additional walls along Alessandro Boulevard south of Arlington Avenue.

As part of the Alessandro Boulevard improvement project, Alessandro Boulevard was resurfaced with rubberized asphalt. Rubberized asphalt not only lasts longer than traditional asphalt but significantly reduces tire noise which creates most of the noise associated with traffic. Typically, rubberized asphalt can reduce traffic noise by several decibels reducing overall noise.

Q – There are many potholes on the eastwardly side of Century Avenue. When can the City repave the road?

A – The Street Division of Public Works inspected and filled the pot holes. The Engineering Division of Public Works Department has prepared plans for the reconstruction of Century Avenue, including some shoulder improvements along Castlevue Park. Construction is due to start in early August 2009

Q – Does the City have a plan to limit the train horn noise at night? It is so very loud and happens so often throughout the night.

A – The City is proposing to establish 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 proposed Quiet Zones would extend from Panorama Road to Cridge Street along the UP corridor, and from the southerly City limits to Jane Street along the BNSF corridor. The City has hired a consultant to assist with implementation of the Quiet Zones. The planning and conceptual design phase is nearly complete. Based on the conceptual design, the Quiet Zones are estimated to cost around \$14 million. The City has not yet identified funding for the project. There are no significant sources of State or Federal funding available for Quiet Zone projects, and as a result, these types of projects are typically funded with local funds.

Q – I am concerned about the high maintenance landscaping put in the medians on Alessandro Boulevard, Canyon Crest Avenue and Central Avenue. All of the median have grass and shrubs that will have a lifetime of maintenance and watering in a time when water rates are rising and water conservation is essential. What can the City do about existing landscaping and what are the plans for the new medians on Central Avenue?

A – The medians along Alessandro Boulevard, Canyon Crest Avenue, and Central Avenue were installed with water saving fescue turf and plants that adapt well to our local climate conditions (i.e. Society Garlic, Star Jasmine, and Day Lilies). These medians also utilize a “smart irrigation” controller that monitors and supplies only the exact amount of water needed for turf and shrubs to thrive in the changing weather conditions. In addition, mulch is applied around all landscape plants to increase moisture retention in the soil helping to reduce water consumption.

The new medians along Central Avenue between Victoria Avenue and Arlington Avenue will have a similar planting scheme and utilize a smart irrigation controller as does the recently completed upgrade to Central Avenue between Victoria Avenue and the 91 Freeway. No turf will be utilized and plants consist of drought tolerant/low water usage species such as Cassia (*Senna artemisioides*), Oregon grape (*Mahonia reopens*), and Flower Carpet roses.

## **Police**

Q – What can be done to slow down the cars trying to beat the train on Washington Street and Jane Street?

A – The Police Department will post a motor officer in that area to deter motorists from speeding on Washington Avenue at the completion of the construction project that is currently in progress.

Q – There are traffic and speeding issues on Prince Albert Drive. What can be done about this?

A – The Police Department has increased the presence of the motor officers in this area.

Q – Can we stop the speeding on Sycamore Canyon Boulevard and Quail Run Road?

A – The Police Department currently is working a traffic enforcement program in that area with motor officers.

**Other:**

Mayor

Q – What is Riverside doing to reverse the air pollution and clean the air?

A – The City of Riverside has established a Green Action Plan which is the major effort to clean the air through a series of efforts to reduce the Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Additionally, the Riverside Model Clean Air Advisory Committee has identified specific programs to reduce air pollution in Riverside by using vehicle registration fee funds received from the State. The City received \$1 per vehicle registered in the City. The City has used these funds to help convert the City's fleet to alternative and clean fuel vehicles, fund bus transit programs allowing students to ride free to local colleges and universities, and to fund educational programs for Riverside school children on the health effects of air pollution and how they can reduce air pollution with clean fuels and by changing their lifestyles. The Committee is looking at funding a program to subsidize bus transit for all city residents.

Q – Why are there no recycling receptacles at Mayor's Night Out for the bottles?

A – Previously the Mayor's staff has made an effort to collect the bottles from attendees. However, a recycling container will be made available in the future.