



**Question and Answers Responses from the
Mayor's Night Out
La Sierra South Neighborhood
May 13, 2009
Orrenmaa Elementary School**

Code Enforcement:

Q – How can the City deal with overgrowth at a home near Orangevale Lane?

A – Code Enforcement staff responded to the property the following day after Mayor's Night Out. The Code Enforcement Officer observed the reported vacant property on Kay Jay Street, and issued a notice instructing the property owner to maintain landscaping and remove all weeds by the re-inspection date. The overgrowth was abated by the re-inspection date.

Q – When is the City going to demolish the abandoned project next to Lowe's?

A – The permits for the apartment complex in question expired this spring requiring the City's Code Enforcement and Building and Safety Departments to issue a "notice and order" to the developers to either re-hab these structures or demolish them. This notice was to expire on July 15, 2009. However, the property owner has filed an appeal, which will be heard after July 15. The City's action, to undertake abatement, is on hold pending the outcome of the Administrative Hearing from the appeal.

Development:

Q – When is the city going to raze and tear down the shops at the intersection of La Sierra and Hole Avenues?

A – The boarded-up buildings on the northeast and southeast corners are scheduled to be demolished in August 2009.

Q – Where can a person receive information on the specific projects and money for the La Sierra and Arlanza redevelopment project?

A – Any person interested in receiving information on specific projects and financing of those projects for the La Sierra/Arlanza project area may contact Gema Ramirez at 951-826-5663 for a regularly updated list.

Q – When are residents going to see results in the La Sierra South area for the neighborhood stabilization plan to stop foreclosures?

A – The federal Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP) has provided communities, including Riverside, with funds to strategically acquire vacant, abandoned, and foreclosed homes. Currently, portions of the La Sierra South Neighborhood are eligible for our NSP activities, mainly in the areas along La Sierra Avenue. The funds cannot be used to acquire occupied properties or to provide financial assistance to prevent foreclosures. Using Redevelopment

funds, however, the City supports foreclosure prevention counseling, which is provided through the Fair Housing Council of Riverside County, to assist homeowners with both understanding the foreclosure process and knowing how to pursue loan modifications or other arrangements.

Information Technology

Q – Is Wi-Fi available for free in the La Sierra South area?

A – The La Sierra South neighborhood is in the City's Wi-Fi coverage zone. Due to foliage in the area, some residents need a wireless access device, such as a Ruckus 2211, to gain access to the free service. However, there are four locations that are currently shutdown at La Sierra and 91 Freeway due to construction and removal of light poles. Those signals will be reinstated when construction is complete.

Legal:

Q – When will the work be completed at the development on Indiana Avenue and Vallejo Street?

A – The public improvements on Vallejo Street should be completed by the end of the summer and the improvements on Indiana Avenue should be completed by this fall.

Library:

Q –Why do we keep building libraries when they will eventually become obsolete and are now only used as afternoon daycare centers?

A – Libraries continue to be used because they are an important part of a community which encourages life-long learning. Our libraries are filled with people who are reading and checking out books for study and pleasure. Children's listening areas at City libraries are active gathering places for families encouraging the next generation to read. Our libraries also have computer centers for expanded research and communication for those who do not have computer access in their homes.

Parks, Recreation & Community Service

Q – Are any plans being made for a park that could be used by the community other than the space at Orrenmaa Elementary? If not, would the city be willing to add lights, benches and additional parking to the school?

A – The La Sierra South Neighborhood has only one park site within its boundary, the Victoria-Cross Park site. Victoria-Cross Park is designated as a neighborhood park site and is located on the northeasterly corner of Victoria Avenue and Cross Street. The master plan for the Victoria-Cross Park site was approved in the mid-1990s and when developed as proposed, the park will include a children's playground, non-lighted tennis courts, basketball half-courts,

sand lot volleyball courts, and open play field that can be used for football/soccer practice and/or a pick-up game of softball. There is currently no funding available for its development.

The neighborhood is currently served by near by Harrison Park at the intersection of Harrison Street and Lincoln Avenue (adjacent to Harrison Elementary School) and by La Sierra Park located at La Sierra Avenue and Gramercy Place.

The Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department is not aware of any plans for any other park facilities, either at the Orrenmaa Elementary School site or any other location within or near the neighborhood.

Q – What are the plans and a timeline for Challen Park?

A – The following Challen Park improvements will be completed this summer:

- A fence was built around the perimeter identifying the park
- A monument sign was placed at the trailhead on Challen Avenue
- Irrigation and landscaping in the trailhead parking lot area on Challen Avenue will be completed mid-summer
- Trail work is in process.
- Trailhead seating area and information kiosk will be completed mid-summer.

Public Works:

Q –The speed limit on Fillmore Street is 35 mph, yet this is a residential area. Can anything be done to reduce the speed limit to 25 mph?

A – The speed limits are set by law and cannot be arbitrarily adjusted. However, an all-way residential stop can be installed at Allwood Drive with the permission of those residents living at that corner. This would help control speeds on Fillmore Street. Public Works Department staff is working with residents to see if there is interest in pursuing that option.

Q – Graffiti in our area has been increasing, despite the fact that the City spends \$950,000 a year on graffiti removal. What is the City doing to put a stop to this, and why are the methods not more effective?

A – The City of Riverside has a full-time staff dedicated to removing graffiti throughout the City. Crews are dispatched seven days a week to respond to service requests (calls from the community) and to eradicate graffiti along proactive routes (assigned routes where recurring graffiti occurs). Currently, the Graffiti Crews, on average, respond to and remove graffiti vandalism within 12 hours after being reported to 311.

In January 2009, The Public Works Department implemented an aggressive approach to combat graffiti in the City of Riverside. This approach includes

providing school education, business outreach, community paint-outs, and Green Wall projects. Our Graffiti Education has been shared with more than 1,500 students at 11 schools in the City of Riverside. Ten graffiti paint-outs have been conducted with volunteers to remove graffiti throughout various neighborhoods in all wards. The Public Works Department works closely with the City Attorney's Office and the Riverside Police Department to arrest, prosecute and seek restitution from individuals arrested for graffiti vandalizing. In 2008, 190 individuals were arrested for graffiti vandalizing and restitution. In addition to encouraging the community to report graffiti vandals, the City provides a \$500 reward to individuals who report graffiti vandals that lead to an arrest. To date, the City has received 80 calls resulting in 28 rewards issued.

Q – Traffic in the Inwood Drive area has worsened, making it hard to get out of the neighborhood. Can the city help with this?

A – The City is working with Orrenmaa Elementary School to create a better traffic flow plan and will fine tune the plan this coming school year, which will affect traffic on Inwood Drive. As for exiting the tract, Fillmore Street should still be the easiest way to gain access to Indiana Avenue.

There is a widening of Indiana Avenue at Sayward Circle coming with the new high school that is under construction. Left turn acceleration and deceleration lanes will be added there, providing another viable option for exiting the tract. (Inwood Drive to Sayward Circle) This work should be completed within one year.

Q – There is an empty lot at the intersection of Fillmore and Queensborough Streets. It has become a dumping point for local trash. Additionally, the broken wall and gate on the lot allow children to play near the railroad tracks, which is potentially very dangerous. Is the city planning on developing this lot, or at least fixing the current problems?

A – The block wall will be repaired by the Public Works Department this summer. However, the lot is a Public Works utility easement where both a storm and sewer line runs through. There are no plans at this time to develop the lot as development would be difficult due to the utilities that run underground.

Effective June 1, Fillmore and Queensborough Streets were added to the City's weekly trash mitigation clean-up route to pick up any dumped materials left in the public right-of-way.

Q – What can the City do to silence barking dogs?

A – The City does have a mechanism in place to deal with dogs that bark excessively. The City of Riverside contracts with the County of Riverside for our Animal Control Services. Residents can contact the Animal Control staff member at 358-7494 to start the process for a noisy animal hearing

Q – With the new high school being constructed on Pierce Street, are there any plans to construct a railroad underpass? If there are not, why is this not being considered?

A – The cost to construct a railroad grade separation is running between \$30 to \$50 million and the City must rely on state and federal funds for these projects and it takes between three and six years to fund, design and construct. Unfortunately, the City cannot immediately construct as many grade separations as are needed and unfortunately, there are no plans to construct a grade separation at Pierce Street at this time. However, the City is constantly looking at where future grade separation should be constructed and looking for funding for the projects.

Public Utilities:

Q –Where is the City in terms of the Green Riverside Plan? Where can I find out about updates and how to become more involved? (note: in particular item #s 14 & 15)

A – On December 18, 2007, the City Council adopted the Clean and Green Sustainable Riverside Action Plan. The 38-point Green Action Plan was developed with consideration of state and federal regulations, as well as meeting compliance requirements of Assembly Bill (AB) 32 which sets specific guidelines for the state wide reduction of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. So far, Riverside has completed or is on target with 34 of 38 action items. Some of the completed items include:

- Establishing a Municipal GHG Emission Baseline.
- Implementing a green building ordinance for the City and other voluntary green building programs.
- A number of programs have been created to encourage the reduction of hazardous material. In addition to Riverside Public Works providing the CURE program which recycles e-waste and other hazardous material, a special campaign for No Drugs Down the Drain was kicked off in the Spring of 2008.
- Educational programs for electric, water, and waste reduction are in place through Public Utilities and Public Works. In addition, Riverside created a green purchasing policy which can be duplicated in businesses throughout our community.

Regular updates on Green Riverside and The Green Action Plan are available on our website at www.GreenRiverside.com.

Regarding the progress on Items 14 and 15 specifically see below:

Goal #14 – Encourage the reduction of any disposable, toxic or nonrenewable products by 5% through program creation by 2009

Accomplished with the following projects:

- No Drugs Down the Drain Campaign in 2008.
- Added e-waste recycling to commercial service.
- Requested program information and pricing for curbside fluorescent/ CFL light bulb recycling programs.
- Partnered with the State Department of Conservation in a Comprehensive Recycling Communities program to promote bottle and can recycling.

Goal #15 – Implement education programs to promote green purchasing throughout the community before

On target:

- A green purchasing policy was approved by the City Council on February 3, 2009.
- Public Works is coordinating with the City's Marketing Department regarding this message.

Police:

Q – What can the police do to stop or reduce the noise pollution resulting from subwoofers in cars?

A – Residents are encouraged to report incidents to their Neighborhood Policing Center (NPC) representatives. This allows the police to track the activity and take any appropriate enforcement action that might apply.

Q – How can we keep people from going through the trash cans on pickup days?

A – Please call Riverside Police Department at the Non-Emergency Dispatch Number (787-7911) and report this activity.