

City of Arts & Innovation

Proclamation

WHEREAS, California ranks #1 in the nation in both trespassing and grade crossing deaths. There are more than 10,000 highway-rail grade crossings located within 52 counties, and more than 400 cities in California, and this State has the highest number of fatality related highway-rail grade crossing incidents in the United States;

WHEREAS, Amtrak, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway, Metrolink, and Union Pacific Railroad run through the City of Riverside with a total number of 65 grade crossings; and

WHEREAS, the Riverside County Transportation Commission and Metrolink place a priority on safety by improving at-grade crossings with features such as flashing warning devices, gates, raised center medians, striping, signing, and pavement markings. Amtrak, BNSF Railway, Metrolink, and Union Pacific Railroad stride toward the implementation of Positive Train Control; and

WHEREAS, the Southern California Rail Safety Team, comprised of multiple rail operators and governmental agencies, including BNSF Railway, Amtrak, Union Pacific Railroad, Metrolink, the Federal Railroad Administration, the California Public Utilities Commission, California Operation Lifesaver, and law enforcement agencies, work to improve railroad safety and to educate people of the dangers of not obeying the signs and signals around railroad property; and

WHEREAS, the See Tracks? Think Train campaign by Operation Lifesaver, and its federal partners, aim to help reduce pedestrian and driver injuries and fatalities around railroad tracks by highlighting behaviors that put people at great risk. California Operation Lifesaver supports the See Tracks? Think Train effort by conducting on-the-ground law enforcement trainings, safety presentations, and public awareness activities to help reduce train related incidents; and

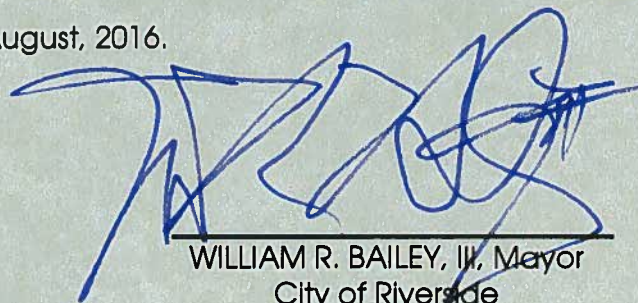
WHEREAS, September is back-to-school month for most children in California and because many of these children must cross railroad tracks to get to and from school, it is important to reinforce the rail safety message with children and their caretakers.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, William R. Bailey, III, Mayor of the City of Riverside, California, do hereby proclaim September 2016 as

Rail Safety Month

and on behalf of the City Council, commend local, State, and Federal government, industry, and citizen efforts to improve railroad crossing safety and strongly urge all Californians to be cautious and safe around all railroad tracks and property.

Dated this 23rd day of August, 2016.



WILLIAM R. BAILEY, III, Mayor
City of Riverside

