

Date: 5-9-17

Item Nos.: 6 and 26

-----Original Message-----

From: Chani Beeman [mailto:chanibee@earthlink.net]

Sent: Monday, May 08, 2017 1:18 PM

To: Anderson, Lynn <LAnderson@riversideca.gov>

Subject: [External] DANA Budget Priorities

Hi Lynn,

Attached are the budget priorities adopted by DANA at the last member meeting. We would like to them to be shared with the BEC and anyone else involved in the budget decision.

Thank you for you assistance.

Chani Beeman

Chair

Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance

cc: Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACMs  
Finance Director

From: Chani Beeman

Date: 5-9-17

## **DANA “Measure Z Fund” Budget Priorities**

**ADOPTED: April 17, 2017**

The Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance endorses the following Measure Z Fund budget priorities:

- Creation Problem Oriented Policing Positions – All agree that hiring additional police officers is necessary to enhance public safety. However, DANA recommends that the additional positions be in areas that will enhance the capacity to address chronic problems in our neighborhoods.
- Joint Use/Reuse of Current Main Library and Metropolitan Museum Locations – With the end of the Exclusive Negotiation Agreement with Discovery Cube, DANA recommends exploration of exchange of location between the Main Library and Metropolitan Museum and/or joint use of the two locations.
- Development of an Urban Forest Master Plan and Shortening the Trimming Cycle for Street and Park Trees – Riverside is a city of trees and must invest in the management and care of those trees. Unmaintained trees result in high costs to residents and the city when they fall and damage property.

Date: 5-9-17

Item Nos.: 6 and 26

**From:** "JEDIRUIZ@aol.com" <JEDIRUIZ@aol.com>  
**To:** "Bailey, Rusty" <RBailey@riversideca.gov>, "Gardner, Mike" <MGardner@riversideca.gov>, "Davis, Paul" <PDavis@riversideca.gov>, "Melendrez, Andy" <ASMelendrez@riversideca.gov>, "Soubirous, Mike" <msoubirous@riversideca.gov>, "MacArthur, Chris" <CMacArthur@riversideca.gov>, "Perry, Jim" <JPerry@riversideca.gov>, "Burnard, John" <JBurnard@riversideca.gov>  
**Cc:** "Justin Scott-Coe" <waterscottcoe@gmail.com>, "Zelinka, Al" <azelinka@riversideca.gov>  
**Subject:** [External] Request for funding

Dear Mayor Bailey and Council Members:

On behalf of Riverside residents concerned about environmental sustainability, please see the attached letters requesting funding of an Urban Forest Management Plan to be developed with community involvement. These letters have also been sent to the Budget Engagement Commission for consideration.

Should you have any questions, please contact me or Justin Scott-Coe ([waterscottcoe@gmail.com](mailto:waterscottcoe@gmail.com)).

Thank you for your consideration.

Diana Ruiz  
Resident  
(909) 238-8338

cc: Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACMs  
Finance Director

Received from Diana Ruiz

Date: 5-9-17



May 3, 2017

To: Riverside City Council

The Inland Urban Forest Council is a nonprofit organization that is working to advance the greening of cities and the sustainable management of community forests in western Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Our members share technical information about the proper care and maintenance of trees, and we provide educational materials to the public about the many benefits that our often-neglected urban forest provides for us.

The Inland Urban Forest Council strongly supports the grassroots effort that is underway to encourage the city of Riverside to develop a robust urban forest management plan. Our organization is available to provide educational and technical assistance in this area.

Sincerely,



Nancy Sappington  
President, Inland Urban Forest Council

Received from Diana Ruiz

Date: 5-9-17

May 5, 2017

Riverside Council Members and Members of the Budget Engagement Commission:

Once considered a “City of Trees”, Riverside is now suffering from a dramatic and rapid loss of trees, largely due to:

- lack of water during extensive drought
- secondary pest infestations in drought-stressed trees
- influx of new, invasive pests
- and miss-communication to the public.

During the drought, residents and municipalities were instructed to turn off irrigation water, without consideration for the resulting impacts to urban trees and the multitude of benefits they provide. Trees take decades to mature and provide those benefits, while shrubs and lawns can be replaced quickly. Eventually California’s drought messaging shifted, from “Save our Water” to “Save our Water **and** our Trees”, but the correction to prioritize watering trees came too late.

Cities and residents are now facing:

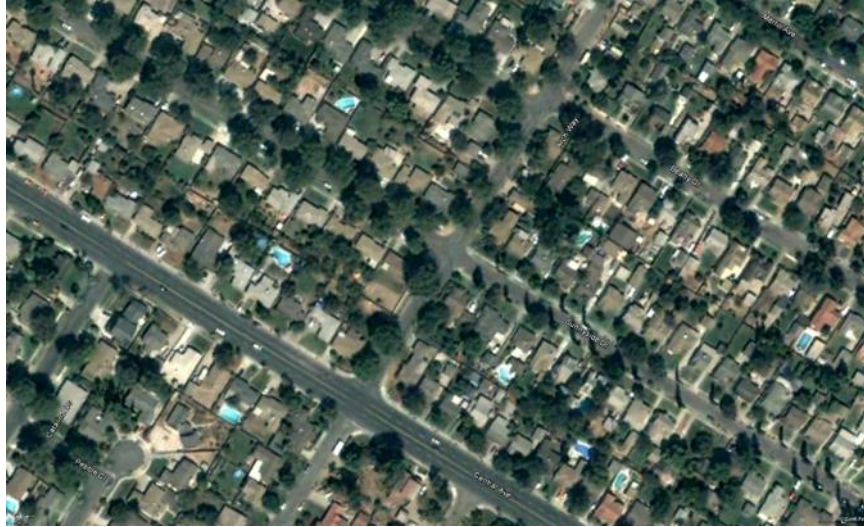
- increased expense of removing hazardous dead and dying trees
- greater energy demands due to loss of shade and the cooling benefits that trees provide
- reduction of carbon storage (sequestration) in trees
- reduced runoff and erosion control services that trees provide
- increasing amounts of dust and air pollutants, and
- loss of quality of life, property values, and wildlife habitat.

For more information about the devastating and rapid loss of trees in Southern California, please refer to the April 19, 2017 article in the LA Times: “The Trees that make Southern California shady and green are dying. Fast.” At <http://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-dying-urban-trees-20170403-story.html>

## Example of loss of tree canopy cover in Riverside, Ca.: 2004-2016.

### Neighborhood in Magnolia Center

2004



2016



Map data: Google, DigitalGlobe

The demise of urban tree canopy also results from poor management and lack of awareness and community education. Although cities require developers to plant trees, there is no follow-up to ensure the trees are properly cared for and maintained for the reasons they were planted. Businesses and individual property owners frequently over-prune and miss-shape trees, which causes permanent damage to tree structure, leading to future hazards, and destroying the intended benefits. Several steps could be taken to remedy this problem, including education, ordinances, code enforcement, requiring tree care worker certification and/or licensing certified arborists, re-establishing a city-wide tree committee, and coordination from a certified, **city-wide** urban forester who works with Riverside Public Utility and multiple city departments.

The following pictures demonstrate what frequently happens to trees in Riverside area parking lots; trees that were planted to provide shade to cars and to mitigate for heat absorbing asphalt and concrete.



Here is an example where the City of Riverside leases property for a Library, yet does not require the owner to provide proper tree care (and shade) in the parking lot. The picture (left) demonstrates the over-pruning that results in a “lollipopped” tree (right). Notice how the tree is actually holding up the stake that should have been removed after the first year of growth. The tree ties have begun to “girdle” the tree, cutting off growth.

Ironically, in the Galleria at Tyler parking lot, the energy plug-in sign says “Respecting Nature is in our Nature”, yet their shade trees have been mutilated!



Tree topping is commonly found in Riverside. Topping (cutting off the top of the main trunk) damages the structure and function of a tree, resulting in future hazards and expense.



Topped and over pruned pines at a business on Hole Ave.





A windbreak row that for decades protected the football field at Ca School for the Deaf, yet was topped in 2017. In this situation, a shorter tree should have been initially planted.  
Standard practice: “Plant the right tree in the right place”.

We urge you to support funding for the development of an Urban Forest Management Plan. An Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP or Plan) would provide a shared vision for the future of our urban forest. The long term Plan is a tool to identify priority issues, management alternatives, and future funding needs. Management decisions of today will influence the amount and types of benefits derived from the urban forest for future generations.

An effective urban forest management plan will include:

- a **Vision** for the urban forest
- **Assessments** of the current status of the urban forest
- a **Strategic Plan** with *goals, objectives, and actions* based on the information analyzed and identified needs
- an **Implementation plan** with specific dates and assigned responsibilities
- a **Monitoring plan** with a system or matrix to measure progress toward the Strategic Plan’s goals, in order to check effectiveness and revise the urban forest management plan as needed.

The planning process itself educates and engages city departments, elected officials, and members of the community to answer the questions:

- *What do you have?* (Assessments and tree survey consolidation, past and current canopy spatial analysis, management approaches, community values and needs)
- *What do you want?* (Vision, Goals, Objectives)
- *How do you get what you want?* (Action/Implementation with assigned responsibilities and due dates)
- *Are you getting what you want?* (Monitoring to adapt to change.)

The lengthy planning process starts by developing a **work plan** to identify who needs to be coordinating its development, stakeholders that need to be involved, when the planning steps will be completed, what areas will be included, etc. **To learn more about the planning process itself, please visit the free online toolkit's "Step 1, Work Plan" at <http://ufmptoolkit.net/>.**

Each management plan is unique and assesses the current status of the urban forest, including:

- canopy cover, heritage trees, and inventories of tree species, size, health, and site conflicts
- tree management programs, multiple department and RPU responsibilities, practices, policies
- environmental considerations
- land use/community history
- community values and issues.

Extensive community involvement through meetings, surveys and focus groups ensures that the community is engaged in identifying needs and helping with stewardship.

During the planning process, additional documents, such as budgets, policy and procedure manuals, standards and specifications, and public education programs would be reviewed and targeted for updates. Annual work plans and budgets are developed based on the long-term planning horizon of the plan.

In addition, we highly suggest that a comprehensive public education component be added, as approximately 50% of the urban forest falls on private property, and residents lack awareness and tools to carefully manage their trees.

**COST ESTIMATE for plan development \$85,000-110,000** (for consultant fees or for adding additional certified urban forester and spatial analysis staff during the duration.)

As a result of the Plan, the City would expand the urban forest and recoup costs, improving efficiencies for educating about, and caring for, both City and privately owned trees. UC researchers have quantified the average value of a mature tree in Riverside to be \$3,880. At that value, an expanded urban tree canopy will rapidly recoup costs of developing an Urban Forest Management Plan.

For additional information, please see the Urban Forest Management Plan free online toolkit <http://ufmptoolkit.net/> .

Many residents have identified a need for greater planning, education, and urban forest management. This letter and request for funding has been endorsed by numerous neighborhood groups and is continues to be circulated and discussed at neighborhood meetings. The Riverside Neighborhood Partnership has posted related information on its website at <http://www.rnpinfo.com/single-post/2017/04/30/URBAN-FOREST-MANAGEMENT-PLAN-FOR-RIVERSIDE> .

Respectfully submitted,

*Neighbors Better Together (NBT), Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance (DANA), Lincoln Park Group, Northside Improvement Association, University Knolls Neighborhood, Residents for Responsible Representation (RRR), and more to come.*

**How many years will it take to replace this urban canopy and the many benefits it provides, including reduced heat and pollution, buffer for noise, wildlife habitat, greening the grey urban environment, improved health, better school performance, quicker recovery times at hospitals, slowing of runoff, controlling erosion, and more?**

**91 Freeway at 14<sup>th</sup> St.  
2005**



**2016**



Date: 5-9-17

Item Nos.: 6 and 26

-----Original Message-----

From: K Wright [mailto:twodogkd@yahoo.com]

Sent: Tuesday, May 09, 2017 11:24 AM

To: Melendrez, Andy <ASMelendrez@riversideca.gov>; MacArthur, Chris <CMacArthur@riversideca.gov>; Perry, Jim <JPerry@riversideca.gov>; Burnard, John <JBurnard@riversideca.gov>; Gardner, Mike <MGardner@riversideca.gov>; Soubirous, Mike <msoubirous@riversideca.gov>; Davis, Paul <PDavis@riversideca.gov>; Bailey, Rusty <RBailey@riversideca.gov>; Morton, Sherry <SMorton@riversideca.gov>

Cc: Alicia Robinson <arobinson@pe.com>

Subject: [External] KDWright comments for the written record on Measure Z Items for both the afternoon and evening Tue May 9 Riverside City Council sessions

To: Riverside City Clerk, City Council, and Mayor, and others

From: Karen Doris Wright

Subject: KDWright comments for the written record on Measure Z Items for both the afternoon and evening Tue May 9 Riverside City Council sessions

1. The City Council needs to renegotiate agreements with the Fire/Police/Engineering etc and STOP the outrageous practice of giving automatic annual 5 percent increases to executives and higher paid employees, and also STOP automatic annual 3% increases to lower paid employees. Of course the disparate treatment favoring higher paid employees NEEDS TO STOP NOW. Such increases are UNSUSTAINABLE, are beyond what our city taxes etc can support and WILL LEAD RIVERSIDE INTO BANKRUPTCY.

The solution is NOT to continue raising fees/fines/charges/parking meter and the hundreds or thousands of ways the City finds to charge its citizens, but to focus on NEEDS and to stop the Councils continuous frivolous spending in wants and pie in the sky ideas. For example expanding the Convention Center had been listed as one of the Measure Z capital projects. Well as I told you BEFORE you WASTED \$40 Million on the first renovation and mini expansion of the Convention Center NOTHING YOU WILL EVER DO TO THAT CONVENTION CENTER will bring in REAL CONVENTIONS TO RIVERSIDE. Any such money spent is money down the sink hole. There are reports and studies to back up what I say, that I happen to have read before your misguided and overly expensive expansion the first time around. Just so you know even locations with CONVENTION SPACE 3 or 4 times what Riverside has now cannot get conventions. We citizens do not need to spend money so downtown interests can eat lunch in a bigger bigger building or so the Chamber of Commerce had a larger room and can charge more people for attending when Rusty gives his annual state of the City talk.

In that regard in the PROPOSED MEASURE Z for many or most eh 87 folks they are proposing to or have hired they specify that they are to have 5% annual salary increases. NO NO NO and again no. Same for the 3% increases, those are unsustainable.

2. NO NO NO on spending 5 million on a new general plan/specific plans for the city with new guidelines for building or the like. The ONLY PURPOSE of this is to DENY citizens the right to have a say on what goes up on this or that property, and also allows developers to come right in say they want to build this or that and because they build in accordance with the new guidelines for building (forget the name) there is nothing citizens may do.

So if they redo the entire general plan/specific plans then citizens have a short time to comment on an area covering the entire city or most of the major city corridors, which in effect denies citizens a reasonable opportunity to comment.

3. No new police headquarters at this time, they have a 54 or 8 year lease

4. Do NOT LATERAL POLICE. They can retire after 20 years, and if they come in having worked 13 years say, they have 7 years of automatic 5 percent salary increases and RIVERSIDE CITIZENS ARE STUCK WITH A HUGE PENSION PAYMENTS.

WE SHOULD HIRE LOCALLY. It would be MUCH LESS EXPENSIVE and would PROVIDE RIVERSIDE CITIZENS JOBS if we hired and trained over time. Say hire so many a year.

have to go more later

Karen Doris Wright

cc: Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACMs  
Finance Director

Date: 5-16-17

Measure Z Item

**From:** Anderson, Lynn

**Sent:** Thursday, May 11, 2017 2:21 PM

**To:** Nicol, Colleen <[CNicol@riversideca.gov](mailto:CNicol@riversideca.gov)>

**Cc:** Gardner, Mike <[MGardner@riversideca.gov](mailto:MGardner@riversideca.gov)>

**Subject:** Message from Constituents Jack and Nanci Larsen re: Measure Z and Police Officer Hiring

Good Afternoon Madame Clerk,

Nanci and Jack Larsen of Ward 1 asked me to send you an e-mail to be shared with all Council Members and Mayor Bailey advising that they are in full support of approving the hiring of police officers before the Measure Z budget is finalized.

Thank you,

*Lynn Anderson*

*Council Assistant - Ward 1*

**Council Member Mike Gardner**

City of Riverside

3900 Main Street, Riverside, CA 92522

951-826-5242 (office) 951-966-8614 (cell)

[landerson@riversideca.gov](mailto:landerson@riversideca.gov)

cc: Mayor  
City Council  
City Manager  
City Attorney  
ACMs  
Finance Director