



CONSIDERATION OF MEDIAN LANDSCAPING PLACED BY RESIDENT VOLUNTEERS AND AN ADOPT-A-MEDIAN PROGRAM

Public Works Department

City Council
May 25, 2021

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BACKGROUND

1. Landscaped medians are one of Riverside's most prominent features within the public right of way.
2. RMC Section 13.16.010 requires a permit in order to install landscaping within a public street.
3. The City received a complaint that unpermitted features (rocks & desert friendly plantings) were installed within Mission Grove Parkway.



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BACKGROUND

- The City notified residents via signage that the unpermitted rocks were scheduled for removal and sought to make contact to ensure the return of these rocks.



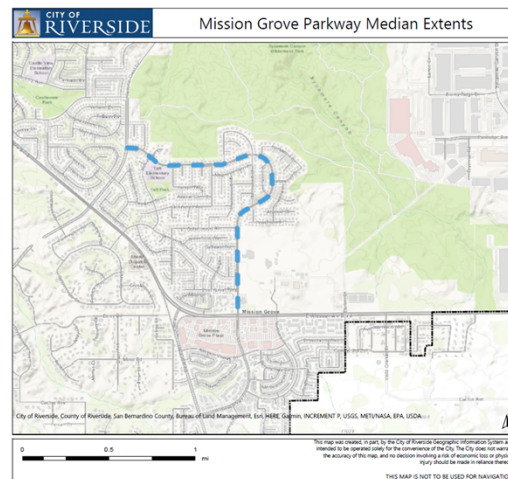
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DISCUSSION

- Residents' work within the median on Mission Grove are generally appreciated by neighbors and are aesthetically pleasing.
- Staff appreciates the spirit of the additions to medians but has a responsibility to enforce the R.M.C. and is seeking Council guidance.



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DISCUSSION

3. On 12/13/2020 a vehicle collided with the median and scattered rocks into the roadway.
4. From 2016-2021 63 recorded collisions have occurred along this stretch of Mission Grove Parkway, including 20 injury collisions.



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DISCUSSION

5. Adopt-a-Median programs:
 - Establish a program to enable residents seeking to volunteer time & resources to beautify medians
 - Set guidelines for the safe deployment of landscaping features such as rocks & pavers
 - Set expectations for shared maintenance
6. The City of Los Angeles' Adopt-a-Median guidelines require rocks to be secured, set back from the curb & distanced from specific locations in the median.



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DISCUSSION

7. Staff estimates that an Adopt-a-Median program would take 6-8 months to develop.
8. Staff seeking guidance for application of R.M.C. along Mission Grove's median as program guidelines are developed with resident consultation.
9. The Adopt-a-Median program would be an extension of existing successful partnerships within the City.



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RECOMMENDATION

1. Direct staff to pursue the establishment of an Adopt-a-Median program; and
2. Provide direction regarding the plantings and rocks placed within medians along Mission Grove Parkway (North) to either:
 - a. **Option 1:** Stay any action by City staff to remove plants and rocks for six months while staff prepares a Program for City Council consideration.
 - b. **Option 2:** Direct City staff to remove rocks and plants within the median not installed by City staff or a City contractor.



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