

**CITY OF PEORIA, ARIZONA
COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

CC: 8C
Amend No. _____

Date Prepared: May 20, 2008

Council Meeting Date: June 3, 2008

TO: Honorable Mayor and Council
FROM: Councilmember Dave Pearson
PREPARED BY: Terri Smith, Council Assistant *TS*
SUBJECT: Request for Authorization to Expend Up To \$20,000 in Council District Funds

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Mayor and Council authorize the expenditure of up to \$20,000 in Council District Funds from account 1000-0300-522044-02019 for the purpose of upgrading landscaping in accordance with Peoria Police Department recommendations near Desert Harbor Drive, adjacent to the pedestrian trail and riverbed.

BACKGROUND:

In April, 2008 Peoria Police reviewed the trail area east of the Desert Harbor community where the trail is closest to Desert Harbor Drive. The review evaluated the area in question as it relates to the *Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)* perspective. CPTED's primary objective is the design of amenities to encourage legitimate users and to discourage illegitimate users.

Among several recommendations made by Peoria Police, in accordance with CPTED standards, is the addition of thorny landscape on the east side of the two-foot wall. This thorny vegetation will encourage users to enter the trail at the designated opening, rather than at indiscriminate points elsewhere over the wall.

Staff is already addressing recommendations such as thinning of trees near the trail, and the review of modifications that would provide additional lighting for users on the trail.

ATTACHMENTS: Peoria Police Department Recommendation Memo
Vendor project quotation

CITY CLERK USE ONLY:

- Consent Agenda
- Carry Over to Date: _____
- Approved
- Unfinished Business (Date heard previous: _____)
- New Business
- Public Hearing: No Action Taken

ORD. # _____ RES. # _____
LCON# _____ LIC. # _____
Action Date: _____



Peoria Police Department
MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 2, 2008
TO: Larry J. Ratcliff, Chief of Police
FROM: Jay Davies, Staff Services Manager
THROUGH: Donna Marcum, Deputy Director
SUBJECT: Rio Vista Park/Desert Harbor border

In response to a request to evaluate the installation of a fence from a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) perspective, On April 1, 2008, I surveyed the area along the river bed adjacent to the Desert Harbor community. One of the primary objectives of CPTED is to design facilities and amenities to encourage legitimate users and discourage illegitimate users. The two are inversely proportional: when the presence of illegitimate users rises, legitimate users will decrease, and vice versa.

There are a few recommendations I would make with respect to the area. First, there are a number of trees along the east side of the wall that should have their canopies trimmed to six feet above the ground and/or the top of the wall. Currently, those trees provide considerable opportunities for concealment. Additional landscape with thorns or similar characteristics could be planted along the east side of the wall to discourage pedestrians from climbing over the wall, which should also discourage pedestrians from crossing the street mid-block. Although the street appears to have adequate lighting, it would seem that lighting within the river bed itself, including along the trail, could be improved. Greater visibility at night would invite legitimate users while discouraging illegitimate users.

In my opinion, the addition of a fence along the perimeter would result in undesired consequences. First, the fence would create a physical and psychological barrier for those who would gather in the river bed for criminal activity. They could reasonably assume they have a layer of protection against citizens or law enforcement at the street level who would have to find an access point in order to intervene with the criminal activity. Conversely, a park amenity that is integrated with - rather than separated from - a neighborhood would act as a deterrent to criminal activity. For citizens concerned about crime in the area, installing a fence would likely have the opposite effect. Additionally, access by emergency personnel would be limited. Police responding to suspicious activity would have their access limited, and suspects trying to elude police would have a greater likelihood of success. Emergency medical personnel responding to injuries sustained by park users would have their access options impeded as well. As has been the case with other barriers in the area, those who routinely access the park may be inclined to modify and/or damage the fence for their own convenience, and create an eyesore and additional maintenance costs while defeating the purpose of the fence.

It is my recommendation that the City not install a fence in this area, but consider instead the installation of additional lighting along the path and in the river bed, trim existing landscaping as described, and install additional landscaping along the wall.

'Committed To Excellence Through Community Partnerships'

AGAVE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTRACTING, Inc.
RIO VISTA TRAIL SOUTH JOC
5/20/2008

DESCRIPTION	Unit	Quantity	Unit Price	Extended Price
150' SECTION OF CACTUS ROW	EA	8	\$ 1,543.75	\$ 12,350.00
WATER TRUCK TO ESTABLISH CACTUS	LS	1	\$ 4,950.00	\$ 4,950.00
REMOVAL OF EXISTING TREES	LS	1	\$ 587.50	\$ 587.50

\$ 17,887.50

NOTES:

ABOVE PRICES DO NOT INCLUDE SALES TAX OR BONDING.

EACH 150' SECTION INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

- 10 - 15G OCOTILLO
- 10 - 5G DESERT SPOON
- 10 - 5G PRICKLY PEAR
- 10 - 5G STAGHORN CHOLLA
- 10 - 5G BOUGAINVILLEA

The area included in the above proposal is along the trail located on the East side of Desert Harbor Dr. from 100' South of Acoma Dr. to 500' North of the Watson Ln. alignment.