



**APPROVED BY COUNCIL JANUARY 28, 2003
STAFF REPORT**

To: City Council
From: City Manager
Date: 01282003

Subject: Neighborhood Cleanup

Recommendation: Receive information, give direction

Discussion: Portions of Neighborhoods throughout Twentynine Palms need cleanup attention to improve their appearance, livability and value. There are generally three kinds of programs that can be instituted to improve the neighborhoods:

1. Code Enforcement to address nuisances and abatements of properties and buildings;
2. Waste pickup programs to address windblown paper and debris; and
3. Education & Encouragement programs to get local businesses and residents to address their particular locations.

It is anticipated that the Council will address Code Enforcement and the kinds and intensities of Code Enforcement most desirable and budgetarily sustainable as part of its Strategic Planning Process.

This report focuses on windblown paper and debris.

Windblown papers on streets and vacant properties can be addressed by a mix of public and private sector efforts.

An **'Adopt a Street'** or 'Adopt a Park' program can be instituted that would permit Service Clubs, Youth Organizations, Families, Social Organizations, Churches, Businesses to pick up windblown trash alongside city streets. The City could provide bags and arrange to have the full bags picked up routinely by Sierra Waste. The program would be similar to that of CalTrans adopt-a-highway program and would allow organizations like the Kiwanis, Soroptomists, Scouts, Swimteam, Downtown Business Association, BNI, Senior or Junior High School class etc to adopt streets in the town and keep them free of paper and debris. Sierra Environmental Waste has volunteered to provide dumpsters for such programs. The city would permit signs to be placed that identified the street as having been adopted by the organization.

Neighborhood Sponsorship - Councilmember Spear has proposed a program where he and other sponsors would donate money to the non-profit organizations that would clean up scheduled neighborhoods on a monthly basis. The Boy or Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts etc would notify the city of their intent to clean up a neighborhood, Sierra Environmental Waste would provide dumpsters and take calls from organizations wishing to participate. The city would provide bags for the youth or other organization doing a weekend cleanup in a select neighborhood. The pot of private money raised for that month would then be given to the organization. Councilman Spear suggests that he and others could donate \$100 a month to the participating organizations.

Use of Court Ordered Community Service People – The City uses Community Service persons to assist with Park Maintenance and Cleanup and to assist with animal control. On occasion, there are additional people available that we can use for street pickup and cleanup. It is difficult to anticipate with any regularity when a 'surplus' of community service people would be available for utilization in a clean street or neighborhood program. This, making such a program difficult to administer, renders the program ineffective.

It appears that the least costly most effective programs would be the Adopt a Street program and the Neighborhood Sponsorship program. Staff believes that they can be valued additions to a more beautiful community and such a program could be effective if Council chooses to have us facilitate and support them. The two programs could be easily linked to an encouragement and education element.