City of Independence

Roadside Memorial Program Guidelines

Purpose: To establish guidelines for the placement of approved roadside memorials for any Independence resident who has suffered a fatality caused by a vehicular accident on a City street within the City of Independence.

Effective Date: These guidelines shall become effective June 1, 2013.

Memorial Design: Memorial markers erected along City streets will be 24 inches by 18 inches with a brown background, white border and white letters. The marker shall read "In Memory of" followed by the name of the deceased. In addition, the marker may also display the date of the fatality and an appropriate phrase such as "Drive Carefully"; "Buckle Up"; or "Drive Safely."

Scope: An application for a memorial marker shall be submitted to the City Public Works Department on forms provided by the department. Requests will be accepted from the following immediate family members of the deceased: Parent(s), Sister(s), Brother(s), Spouse, Child(ren).

Memorial Installation: Memorial markers will be designed, constructed and installed by the City. Each marker will be installed at a safe location, as determined by the City, in the vicinity of the vehicular accident. Memorial markers will not be installed within the limits of active construction work zones. A memorial marker will only be installed in a residential neighborhood with the written permission of the resident whose property abuts the street where the memorial is to be placed.

Cost: The cost of a memorial marker is $150. The cost must be paid prior to installation of the marker.

Time Period: A memorial marker will be allowed to remain in place for two years after initial installation, after which time the marker shall be removed by the City. During the two-year period the City shall be responsible for replacing the marker twice, at no additional cost to the applicant. After the two-year period the applicant may claim the marker.

Non-Standard Memorials: Non-standard memorials consisting of signage, flowers, balloons, ribbons, or other materials, are not allowed within street rights-of-way. The City will attempt to provide notification to any individual placing a non-standard memorial in a street right-of-way that such memorial must be removed. If the non-standard memorial is deemed to be a traffic hazard by the Public Works Director, the Director may authorize the immediate removal of the non-standard memorial. The Public Works Director or the Director's designate shall cause the removal of a non-standard memorial within seven days after the Director receives notification of the memorial's existence.