



CITY OF ESCONDIDO

POLICY FOR PLACING TEMPORARY MEMORIALS

INTENT:

Grieving families or friends often wish to erect or place items as a temporary memorial near the site of a fatal or tragic incident. The intent of this policy is to provide employees with guidelines regarding removal of such objects in a reasonable time with respect for those grieving and yet recognizing the primary concern for public safety.

1. City of Escondido employees shall have no role in placing, erecting, or maintaining any memorial. The City's Public Works Department is authorized to remove all memorials with Police Department support as needed. Memorials shall be removed approximately 30 days after an incident, depending upon available resources, and may be removed earlier if any of the circumstances listed below are present.
2. No memorial or portions of a memorial shall remain in any location for any period of time which create hazards to the general public, city personnel, or others including, but not limited to, distractions to motorists, obstructions to the free movement of pedestrians or motorists, and threats to surrounding property, such as flammable materials.
3. Memorials shall not remain in any area if they interfere with routine maintenance activities such as mowing, irrigation, painting, weed removal, or related activities. Memorials shall not be allowed in any permitted construction or maintenance work zone.
4. The City will make reasonable efforts to contact either family or friends of the deceased, or those placing the memorial, prior to removal. The City will also make reasonable efforts to collect and preserve photographs, writings, or objects with tangible monetary or reasonably objective sentimental value at the Public Works Yard for 90 days, and thereafter, those materials will be destroyed.
5. If a memorial is placed on private property, the City's zoning regulations, private CC&R's, lease arrangements or a variety of other rules may apply depending on the size, scale and location of the memorial. The City's Planning Division may be an additional resource.
6. To place a permanent memorial in a city park, citizens are encouraged to refer to the City of Escondido's Policy for Placing Memorials in City Parks and Open Space which can be found at <https://www.escondido.org/parks-open-space.aspx>.
7. For those wanting more information about memorials on state highways in which an accident was the result of an intoxicated driver, the Caltrans Victim Memorial Sign Program may be consulted at the following link:
<http://www.dot.ca.gov/trafficops/tcd/victims.html>