

		City of Longview Policies and Procedures
Policy Name: Memorials in the Public Right of Way (xxxx)		Effective Date: 05.01.2017
Supersedes:	Originating Office: Public Works	Approved by:
Responsible Office/Person: Public Works Director		

PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY:

The purpose of this policy is to recognize that while city residents may respond to the unexpected death of a friend or family member by placing memorial items at or near the location of death and that this location may be within the public right of way, the City is ultimately responsible for any consequences that result from this action.

Roadside memorials expose the City and the public to unnecessary risk by creating a visual distraction to motorists, attracting grieving family members and friends to gather at the side of the road often next to high speed vehicle traffic, and objects left at the memorial such as large rocks, posts, signs, bottles, etc. may pose a safety hazard to the public. This policy formalizes the City's policy to prohibit temporary memorials to help City staff deal with grieving parties.

DEPARTMENTS AFFECTED:

This policy is applicable to the Public Works Department.

DEFINITIONS:

A memorial is considered to be any object left as an expression of grief at a location of death as a way to deal with death. Memorial objects commonly consist of flowers, cards, photos, candles, or statues either arranged or randomly placed in the public right of way.

The public right of way means all real property owned or held by the city in fee, or by way of easement, or dedicated to the public and located within the city, and used or intended for use as a street, alley, sidewalk, public way or easement for public or private utilities, whether developed or undeveloped.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

The establishment of memorials is prohibited. If a memorial is created, staff will attempt to contact family members or responsible parties and notify them that memorials are prohibited.

POLICY/PROCEDURE:

100.0 General Policy

Temporary memorials are prohibited within the public right of way.

DRAFT: OPTION 1 – MEMORIALS NOT ALLOWED

1. The City will attempt to deal sensitively with memorials that appear but will not encourage placement in the public right of way.
2. The City will attempt to contact family members or responsible parties to remove memorials.
3. If the City is unable to contact the family or a responsible party within thirty (30) calendar days of the memorial being brought to the City's attention, the City will remove all items placed in the right of way. Items will be stored for a period of thirty (30) calendar days. If unclaimed after 30 days, the items will be disposed of in an appropriate manner.

REFERENCES:

None.