

# The Good Neighbor Guide

This guide is provided to you by The Downtown Area Neighborhood Alliance. It's intended to be a source of information on several aspects of neighborhood livability. This guide provides you with information on current neighborhood municipal codes everyone should be adhering to, tips on how to make your neighborhood safer, ways to approach your neighbor when dealing with difficult situations, conflict resolution, as well as other useful resources.

DANA always encourages communication between neighbors and asks that the information provided herein is not used to create a community of tattletales. Give your neighbor an opportunity to right any wrongs, as you would appreciate someone doing for you. Always try to work code violations, disagreements, disputes, etc., out between both parties before involving city officials. It's the neighborly thing to do!

*most of all, make sure the Good Neighbor in your Neighborhood... is **YOU!***



**Won't You  
Be My  
Neighbor?**

## Laws that affect neighborhood livability and quality of life

**Landscape Maintenance** – RMC 6.14.020(B) – It shall be unlawful for any owner and/or occupant of any property to allow the lack of landscaping or landscape maintenance including overgrown, dead, or decayed vegetation and weeds and the accumulation of rubbish and debris.

**Lawn Parking** – RMC 6.15.020 (G) – It is unlawful for any person owning, leasing, occupying or having charge or possession of any property to allow the storage or parking of vehicles on the landscaped front and street side yard setback area of all residential zones, including but not limited to the front lawn areas.

**Outdoor Storage** – RMC 6.15.020 (H) – It is unlawful for any person owning, leasing, occupying or having charge or possession of any property to allow the outdoor storage of personal property on including any furniture on porches, balconies, sun decks, front, side or rear yards, or any other personal property not designed for outdoor use.

**General Noise Regulations** – RMC 7.35.010 – It is unlawful for any person to make, continue, or cause to be made or continued any disturbing, excessive or offensive noise which causes discomfort or annoyance to reasonable persons of normal sensitivity.

**Property Maintenance** – RMC 6.14.030 – It shall be unlawful for any person owning or having possession and control of any property to maintain any structures on the property with a lack of exterior structure maintenance, including, but not limited to, partially destroyed or partially constructed buildings.

**Trash and Debris** – RMC 6.15.020 (A/E) – It is unlawful for any person owning, leasing, occupying or having charge or possession of any property to allow the existence of any garbage, rubbish, refuse or waste matter, abandoned or discarded furniture, stove, refrigerator, freezer, sink, toilet, cabinet, or other household fixture or equipment visible from a public right-of-way.

**Trash Cans** – RMC 6.04.030 – Residential customers who place their standard containers at the City curb shall not do so earlier than six p.m. of the day preceding such collection nor fail to remove the container from the curb prior to eight p.m. of the day of collection. Sidewalks shall not be blocked.

**No Parking in Alley** – RMC 10.52.075 (a) – No person shall stop, stand, or park a vehicle for any purpose or length of time other than for expeditious unloading and delivery or pickup and loading of passengers or materials in any alley.

**Prohibited Stopping, Standing, or Parking** – 22500(e)(f) CVC

- **Blocking Sidewalk** – 22500 (f) CVC – On any portion of a sidewalk, or with the body of the vehicle extending over any portion of a sidewalk, except electric carts when authorized by local ordinance, as specified in Section 21114.5. Lights, mirrors, or devices that are required to be mounted upon a vehicle under this code may extend from the body of the vehicle over the sidewalk to a distance of not more than 10 inches
- **Blocking Driveway** – 22500 (e) CVC – In front of a public or private driveway, except that a bus engaged as a common carrier, school bus, or a taxicab may stop to load or unload passengers when authorized by local authorities pursuant to an ordinance.

**Litter in public places** – RMC 9.16.030 – No person shall throw or deposit litter in or upon any street, sidewalk, mall or other public place within the City except in public receptacles, in authorized private receptacles for collection, or in official City dumps.

**Liability for false report of an emergency or a of a criminal offense and for extraordinary police services or responses** – RMC 9.60B - Owners and/or occupants of certain businesses and properties utilize a disproportionate amount of public safety resources thereby diverting these critical resources from other parts of the City.

**Social Host Ordinance** – RMC 9.07 – Prohibiting hosting, permitting or allowing a party, gathering or event where minors consume alcoholic beverages, marijuana or other controlled substances

**Room Rentals** – RMC 19.520.030 – Rented rooms are permitted in any single family residence for the occupancy of not more than four (4) individuals per single-family residence.

**Conduct on public property** – RMC 9.04.400 E – Public Urination and Defecation Prohibited. No person shall urinate or defecate in public except when using a urinal, toilet or commode located in a bathroom or restroom enclosed from public view.

**Public Intoxication** – 647F PC – Who is found in any public place under the influence of intoxicating liquor, any drug, controlled substance, toluene, or any combination of any intoxicating liquor, drug, controlled substance, or toluene, in a condition that he or she is unable to exercise care for his or her own safety or the safety of others, or by reason of his or her being under the influence of intoxicating liquor, any drug, controlled substance, toluene, or any combination of any intoxicating liquor, drug, or toluene, interferes with or obstructs or prevents the free use of any street, sidewalk, or other public way.

**Consumption of alcoholic beverage** – RMC 9.05.030 – It shall be unlawful for any person to drink or consume any alcoholic beverage in any public place within the City of Riverside.

**Presumption regarding consumption** – RMC 9.05.040 – Any person possessing an open container containing any alcoholic beverage and having an odor of alcoholic beverage on the person's breath is presumed to be consuming or attempting to consume an alcoholic beverage at the place where the person is located.



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RIVERSIDE MUNICIPAL CODE?  
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[www.riversideca.gov/municode/](http://www.riversideca.gov/municode/)



**KEEP OUR CITY  
CLEAN & SAFE**

①

**TAKE  
PICTURE**

②

**IDENTIFY  
CATEGORY**

③

**SUBMIT**

FOR EMERGENCIES, CALL 911



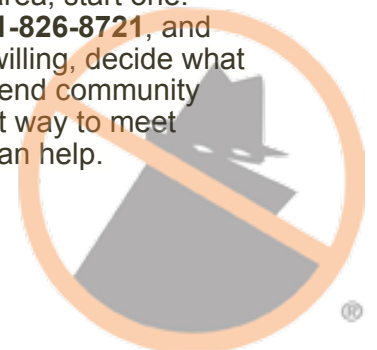
You know you have a good neighbour  
when you go to borrow a  
cup of sugar and leave  
with a cup of wine.



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# 10 Things you can do to make your neighborhood safer

1. **Report crime as soon as possible.** Whether the issue is graffiti, petty vandalism or something much more serious, police cannot act without first hearing about the problem from you. Calling won't guarantee that police can fix the problem, but failing to call can guarantee that they won't. Don't assume someone else has already called, make the call yourself. For **Emergencies call 911, for non-emergencies: 951-354-2007 or 311**
2. **Take away the opportunity for crime.** Think about your home, your car and even your lifestyle and ask what you could change to take away the opportunity for crime. Lock your car and never leave valuables, even for a few minutes in the car. Trim bushes or trees on your property that offer too-convenient hiding places. Also, trim where trees and bushes block clear view of your front door, or make it difficult for a person to see out the windows of your home.
3. **Introduce yourself to your neighbors.** Make a list of names and phone numbers of every neighbor on your block. Set a goal of at least 10 neighbor contacts. Each citizen is responsible for their own neighborhood. Any citizen who has turned around a problem block is a citizen who really knows the people who live there. Did you grow up in a neighborhood where everyone knew each other? That is rare today. Neighborhoods have changed, but realize that you can fix it. It makes a huge difference to know your neighbors and be able to talk to them.
4. **Know the names of neighborhood kids and their friends.** This can make a profound difference should there be a need for adults and young people to talk to each other in cases of emergency. It is difficult to help form a safe and supportive community for children without the adults and children knowing each other. Every adult will be better able to help in an emergency and will be better prepared to discuss problems if they arise.
5. **Make a list of landlords in your area.** As owners of property in the community, landlords are responsible to the neighborhood and should be concerned with the health of that neighborhood. You can easily find out the name and address of the owner of the property by using the online property search tool on the county assessors website.
6. **Walk around the block.** It sounds simple, but it is a great way to meet neighbors, and get to know your neighborhood while getting a little exercise. Walk at night if you are comfortable doing so, and if not, your neighborhood needs more involvement. *Chat with neighbors while walking, they will get to know you too.*
7. **Drive slowly through your neighborhood.** Stop signs, lights and speed bumps can slow traffic down, but so can you. By regularly driving slowly on neighborhood side streets, you encourage those in a hurry to find another route rather than getting stuck behind a slow poke.
8. **Pick up litter near your home.** Even if you didn't put it there. Most people are less likely to litter where they don't see litter already. You can help stop littering in your neighborhood by taking away the litter that attracts it. Ever heard of the broken window theory? Pet owners should make sure they pick up after their pets.
9. **Get involved in Neighborhood Watch.** If there is not one formed in your area, start one! **Contact North Policing Center Police Service Rep. Donna Granillo, 951-826-8721**, and express your desire to start a neighborhood watch in your area. If you are willing, decide what greater contribution you could make to your neighborhood and regularly attend community meetings like DANA. Keep informed of neighborhood issues. This is a great way to meet other neighbors who are also concerned. Even an evening walking group can help.
10. **Be the kind of neighbor you want to have; Follow the Golden Rule.**



If you can't come to a mutually beneficial agreement or you are dealing with an unreasonable neighbor, your last ditch attempt at resolving a conflict might just be mediation



#### What is Mediation?

Mediation is a process through which disputants work together with the assistance of a neutral third party, trained in the technique of mediation, to arrive at a mutually acceptable agreement with regard to their conflict or dispute. The purpose of mediation is to settle disputes, not to assign blame, fault, or to legally represent either party. Mediation saves money, time, and allows a workable relationship, whereas, the court procedure is time consuming, expensive, and places the parties in adversarial positions.

#### How do I open a mediation case?

1. Contact us to discuss your case and learn how mediation can be the ideal option in resolving your conflict.
2. We will listen to your concerns and provide you with the paperwork to open your case.
3. Once we receive the paperwork, we will contact the other party to invite them to consider mediation. Both conversations remain confidential and the privacy of both parties is respected.
4. If the other party agrees to mediate, we will schedule a session at a convenient place and time so that both parties can work together to solve the conflict.
5. The mediation session usually lasts 1 to 2 hours. At the mediation session, the mediator listens to both parties to learn how each would like to resolve the dispute. The mediator does not decide who is right, but will help reach a mutually acceptable agreement.
6. When an agreement is reached, the resolution will be put in writing and signed by all parties.
7. Mediation is confidential, voluntary and neutral. The volunteer mediator acts as an impartial third party. They do not arbitrate, make decisions, or provide legal advice.



#### What is the time frame?

Our agency provides timely service. After discussing your case with you, we will contact the other party and invite them to participate in mediation. We allow 10-14 days for the other party to respond. If the other party agrees to mediate we proceed to scheduling; finding a time that is convenient for both parties. At that point we call our list of volunteer mediators and assign the case.

#### How much does it cost?

Our non-refundable fee is \$25 (\$75 if your attorney is involved) for each party involved and due before the mediation session. We are committed to providing mediation services to our community and will adjust or waive fees for low-income individuals who qualify. Community Mediation Fee: \$25.00 per party (sliding scale for low-income individuals). [www.capriverside.org](http://www.capriverside.org)

## Prepare for a conversation with your neighbor



## Check out

[www.badneighboradvice.com](http://www.badneighboradvice.com)  
for more great information, advice and  
blog posts

