

AGENDA REQUEST

FOR: COUNCIL MEETING OF AUGUST 4, 2009

FROM:

Alderman Matthew Petty and Mayor Lioneld Jordan

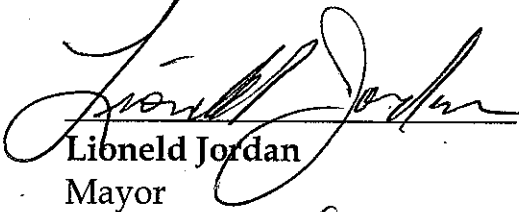
ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTION TITLE AND SUBJECT:

A Resolution Reaffirming The City Council's Support For Medians in Garland Avenue

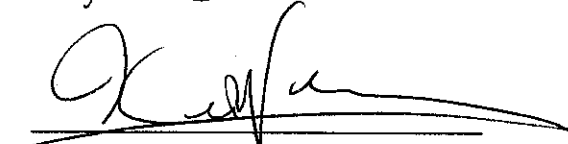
APPROVED FOR AGENDA:

Matthew Petty
Alderman

Date


Lioneld Jordan
Mayor

7/28/09
Date


Kit Williams, City Attorney
(as to form)

7-28-09
Date

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THE CITY COUNCIL'S
SUPPORT FOR MEDIANS IN GARLAND AVENUE**

WHEREAS, the Fayetteville City Council Street Committee has previously expressed unanimous support for specific improvements to Garland Ave, including a continuous median with turn lanes and trees, bicycle lanes, sidewalks, reconfiguration of several intersections; and

WHEREAS, a recent public hearing clearly indicated strong support among community leaders and neighborhood residents for a design that included a continuous median; and

WHEREAS, a recent survey indicates community-wide support for a design that includes a continuous median is 2-to-1; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fayetteville is contributing the majority of the cost of the improvements; and

WHEREAS, the City of Fayetteville has adopted a Master Street Plan that includes a requirement for streets like Garland to contain a median, if they are under the jurisdiction of the City; and

WHEREAS, the distribution of revenue from the transportation bond issue is under the jurisdiction of the City Council; and

WHEREAS, any plans must be approved by the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Department before being implemented.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS:

Section 1: That the City Council of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas hereby supports Mayor Jordan's efforts to secure AHTD approval for a design for Garland that includes continuous medians with turn lanes.

Section 2: That the City Council of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas hereby requests AHTD officials review the summary of the survey, attached hereto as Exhibit "A" to this resolution.

Section 3: That the City Council of the City of Fayetteville, Arkansas hereby requests AHTD officials consider this project and the funds contributed by the City as an opportunity to study the effects of urban highways on city neighborhoods and how to mitigate them.

PASSED and APPROVED this 4th day of August, 2009.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

By: _____
LIONELD JORDAN, Mayor

By: _____
SONDRA E. SMITH, City Clerk/Treasurer

EXHIBIT "A"

Garland Survey Summary

Introduction

As Ward 2 Alderman I called a ward meeting to clear up confusion about what was happening to Garland Avenue. At the same time, I created a survey to gauge citizens' understanding and opinion of the options.

In order to help citizens understand the issue, I also wrote an article for the Fayetteville Flyer and asked all who visited the survey to read it for background. It is viewable here: <http://tr.im/aboutgarland>

For reference, view the survey itself at <http://tr.im/garland>

What are citizens' first preference for Garland?

Of 353 respondents, 71% indicate a design with a continuous median as their first preference, and 65% of those indicate a median with four lanes as their first preference. It is my personal interpretation that a four lane solution is preferred by the community at large, while the neighborhood sees a larger number of property owners who prefer a median with two lanes. Only 8% chose the island proposal as their first preference. 1% chose the AHTD's recommendation as their first preference.

What are citizens' second preference for Garland?

Of the 263 citizens who indicated a continuous median as their first preference, 29% indicated the island proposal as their second preference. The other 71% indicated they wanted a median even if it meant a different number of lanes than they indicated in their first preference.

What it means:

71% of all of the respondents want a median. 50% want a median no matter what. Only 17% want the island proposal or are willing to settle for it. 3% of the respondents either want to accept AHTD's proposed configuration or are willing to settle for it.

Limitations of the survey:

Some citizens wished to choose options that were not available on the survey, such as abandoning the project or restricting improvements to bike lanes and signalization. These were not included as official options in the survey because they were not considered serious options by the author and others at City Hall. The survey was filled out and collected by volunteers. Completing it was not mandatory and the responses are not random. Specific neighborhoods and community leaders were targeted to advertise the survey. Specific information about the opinions of Garland Ave property owners is being gathered, but was not available at the time of this summary.

