

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (CRAB)
REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL**

SUBJECT: Council Referral – City Holiday Decorating Contest

BACKGROUND: At the Regular Meeting on November 13, 2018, Council referred this matter to CRAB. Council suggested that CRAB consider an “Annual Holiday Decorating Contest for 2019.” This proposal was also referred to the Arts Advisory Board and the Park and Recreation Advisory Board.

DISCUSSION: CRAB considered and discussed this referral at their meetings on March 14 and April 11, 2019.

CRAB appreciated the “holiday spirit” behind the idea and several members asked about the goal/objective of the proposed contest. If “holiday spirit” was the goal, it was asked if this proposal was the best way to achieve that goal.

There was concern about barriers to participation in such a contest (i.e. cost of lights and decorations, apartment dwellers less able to participate, etc.) and that those residents with fewer resources may not be able to participate. There was also concern about additional workload for City staff to administer such a program. Finally, it was also noted that there are many City holiday activities already taking place (tree lightings, Festival of Lights, etc.). Given that there is a tree lighting in central city and Greenbelt East, the City could consider a tree lighting in Franklin Park.

RECOMENDATION: – For the reasons listed above, CRAB does not recommend a City Holiday Decorating Contest at this time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rick Ransom, Chair
Community Relations Advisory Board