

STAFF REPORT
City of Lancaster, California

| |
|----------|
| PH 2 |
| 05/10/11 |
| MVB |

Date: May 10, 2011

To: Mayor Parris and City Council Members

From: Brian S. Ludicke, Planning Director

Subject: **Amendment of Title 17 of Lancaster Municipal Code – Placement of Cargo Containers for Storage of Emergency Supplies**

Recommendation:

Introduce **Ordinance No. 964**, amending Title 17 of the Lancaster Municipal Code to allow the placement of cargo containers for the storage of public emergency supplies, subject to approval of a Director's Review.

Background:

On April 18, 2011, the Planning Commission voted (6-0-0-1) to adopt Resolution No. 11-07, recommending to the City Council approval of this ordinance.

Analysis:

In 2009, the City adopted an ordinance to restrict the placement of cargo containers on private property in response to concerns about the aesthetic appearance of these containers. Recently, staff has been contacted regarding the placement of cargo containers for public emergency supplies in neighborhoods by the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), which consists of volunteers trained by the Los Angeles County Fire Department and intended to assist as emergency responders. The goal of CERT is to disperse emergency supplies throughout the City, especially in proximity to residential areas, so that they are readily available in emergency situations. Church sites, for example, often provide good locations for such storage, but are currently prohibited by the City's ordinance.

The objective of locating emergency supplies in dispersed areas where they are available to emergency responders is worthwhile and in line with the City's goals of emergency preparedness. The ordinance would allow for these cargo containers to be placed in various areas, subject to a Director's Review, if they are used exclusively for storage of public emergency supplies. The Director's Review process would allow sufficient review to ensure that any such containers provide a direct general public benefit, and do not create significant aesthetic, circulation, or parking concerns.

Attachments:

Ordinance No. 964
Planning Commission Staff Report dated April 18, 2011