

Safer Cities Initiatives Applicable to Planters on Public Road Rights-of-Way

City Council approved the Design Guide for Safer Cities in 1995. This guide incorporated the concepts of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) and calls for enhancing safety and security through planning and design factors. Two of the important principles are:

- Awareness of the surrounding environment, and
- Visibility by others.

The concept of placing planters on public road rights-of-way to generally enhance the aesthetics of a street allows for large planters to be installed. While potentially large objects can be attractive, the concepts of CPTED must be realized since the proposed planters may be immediately adjacent to sidewalks and private lands used by pedestrians. The impact of the planters on the safety and security of pedestrians must be minimized as much as possible and should reflect the following:

Unobstructed sightlines and the avoidance of creating confined and hidden spaces.

Pedestrians must be able to see around or over the planter to see if danger exists. The planters should not be placed in locations that would create a space where a person could hide or confine another person.

Visibility by others.

The ability to be seen by others increases a sense of safety. The location of the planters should allow for visibility by passing motorists or other pedestrians.

This is a summary of the guide's concepts as they apply to planters on road rights-of-way. Further information regarding the Design Guide and the CPTED concepts can be obtained through the Maps & Publication Sales staff of the Planning and Development Department. Their number is 496-6160 and the office is located on the 7th Floor, Allstream Tower, 10250 – 101 Street.