

## **Safer Cities Initiatives Applicable to Landscaping 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 landscaping public road rights-of-way to generally enhance the aesthetics of a street allows for a wide range of landscaping to be planted within boulevards. While potentially large landscaping features can be attractive, the concepts of CPTED must be realized since the proposed landscaping may be immediately adjacent to sidewalks and private lands used by pedestrians. The impact of the planting 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, over, or through the landscaping to see if danger exists. The trees, shrubs, and/or plants should not be placed in locations or in such density 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 landscaping should allow for visibility by passing motorists or other pedestrians.

This is a summary of the guide's concepts as they apply to landscaping or planting 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 7<sup>th</sup> Floor, Allstream Tower, 10250 – 101 Street.