

In This Issue:

RPD Introduces "Know Your Limit" Program

Miracle on Main Street

Council Corner Wards One and Two

ADA and Your Business

Business Buzz – Ten Ways to Improve Your Small Business

Use RDP's Social Media to Promote Your Business

Business Buzz – Top Web Design Trends Your Business Should Implement for 2015

Security Corner - Internet Alerts

There is no monthly luncheon in December.

The next monthly luncheon will be Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at Loft.84 3840 Lemon Street

There will be a presentation on Riverside City College's Centennial Plaza

The January luncheon will be sponsored by Parkview Community Hospital





RPD Introduces "Know Your Limit" Program

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Riverside Downtown Business Improvement District

Riverside Police Department has been awarded a \$551,542.00 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for a year-long program of special enforcements and public awareness efforts to prevent traffic related deaths and injuries. Riverside Police Department will use the funding as part of the city's ongoing commitment to keep our roadways safe and improve the quality of life through education, training and enforcement.

"There is no doubt that this grant will aid in the city's ongoing effort to focus our resources of the Riverside Police Department Traffic Division toward reducing the number of fatal collision, DUI incidents and traffic violations. We thank the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for the funding of this program and its continued vision and support," said Sergeant Robert Tipre.

After falling dramatically between 2006 and 2010, the number of persons killed and injured in traffic collisions saw slight increases in 2011 and 2012. Particularly worrisome are recent increases in pedestrian and motorcycle fatalities and the dangers of distracting technologies. This grant funding will provide opportunities to combat these and other devastating problems such as drunk and drugged driving and speeding.

To promote a positive education oriented aspect, the Riverside Police Department will introduce its "Know Your Limit" program to the community at the upcoming Festival of Lights in its downtown entertainment district. The program is mirrored from the Scottsdale, Arizona Police Department's "Know Your Limit" DUI program, which has proven to be successful in reducing their DUI arrests and fatalities. "Know Your Limit" is designed to raise awareness of how little alcohol it takes to have a 0.08 percent blood-alcohol content, which would get





you arrested for driving under the influence. A team of officers will spend an evening walking Riverside's downtown entertainment district asking volunteers to be checked with a portable breathalyzer. "The hope is to simply educate those on what impairment is and how it can change their lives by making simple well thought out decisions while having a good time," said Lieutenant Mark Rossi.

"California's roadways are still among the safest in the nation," said OTS Director Rhonda Craft. "But to meet future mobility, safety, and sustainability objectives, we must create safer roadways for all users. The Riverside Police Department will be using these and other resources to reach the vision we all share – Toward zero deaths, every 1 counts."

Activities that the grant will fund include:

- Bicycle, pedestrian and other educational presentations
- DUI checkpoints
- DUI saturation patrols
- Motorcycle safety enforcement

Miracle on Main Street

For the past six years, Gram's Mission Bar.B.Q. has organized a toy drive that last year collected over 1,500 toys for 1,000 plus kids. Last year, the McGuire Brothers Group (ProAbition, Mezcal, Boardwalk) organized the first Miracle on Main Street, a combination health fair and toy distribution event that served nearly 250 families.

This year Gram's Mission Bar.B.Q. and the McGuire Brothers Group are partnering so that Miracle on Main can reach more children and families with the joy of a toy and the gift of a healthy life style during the holiday season. Also partnering on Miracle on Main Street are the Riverside Community Health Foundation, New York Life, D Dogs Sports Restaurant, A Better Way of Life, American Heart Association, National LBWA - Inland Empire, Inland Empire Autobody, PrimeCare, Borrego Health, Riverside City College School of Cosmetology, and RDP.

On December 5th, 2014, the public is invited to join a Toy Drive Party at Gram's Mission Bar. B.Q. from 6 pm to 10 pm. Individuals who donate toys valued at \$10 or more will be entered into a raffle to win gift certificates from various businesses. On December 14, registered families will be invited to pick toys up at the Miracle on Main Street event from 11 am to 2 pm. The event will be on Main Street between 5th and 6th Streets and will include a Healthy Kids Zone featuring games and prizes, free health screenings for adults and children in attendance, and complimentary haircuts and styling from The Boardwalk and students from the RCC School of Cosmetology. Children will also receive a free hotdog from Gram's Mission Bar.B.Q sponsored by RDP.

In addition to Gram's Mission Bar.B.Q., local businesses will serve as drop off zones for toys and donations. A full listing of drop off zones is available at www.miracleonmain. org Sponsorships are still available and details are provided on the Miracle on Main website.

Michael Lopez Jr., Events Director for Mezcal and ProAbition and one of the co-chairs for this year's event stated "This project has always been about creating a great

- Distracted driving enforcement
- Seat belt and child safety seat enforcement
- Speed, red light, and stop sign enforcement
- Warrant service operations targeting multiple DUI offenders
- Compilation of DUI "Hot Sheets," identifying worstof-the-worst DUI offenders

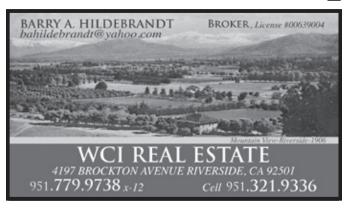
Specialized DUI and drugged driving training such as Standardized Field Sobriety Testing (SFST), Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement (ARIDE), and Drug Recognition Evaluator (DRE)

Funding for this program is from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

From Riverside Police Department Press Release of November 12, 2014 To see a video on the Scottsdale, Arizona 'Know Your Limit' program, go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LQWz1fSI6E8



holiday memory for families in need. Our partners are going to help us do that in a big way this year." Robert Martinez, Community Relations Manager for NAMM California/ PrimeCare and the other co-chair for this year's event added "As much as this event is about giving kids a great holiday, it also helps connect local families to health resources and more. It's a win/win."



Free 2015 Calendar Inserts

Enclosed is a compact 2015 calendar that provides a year at a glance and has the phone numbers of our office and of our Ambassador patrol for easy reference. Also enclosed is a calendar of RDP meetings for 2015.

Page 2 • December 2014

COUNCIL CORNER

Ward One Council Update

Contributed by Councilman Mike Gardner



City Council Appoints Code of Ethics Ad Hoc Committee

The City Council has appointed the Ad Hoc Committee that will review and make recommendations for change to the city's Code of Ethics and the procedure for hearing complaints against elected and appointed officials. There was strong interest in serving on this committee with a large field of very

qualified candidates. The Council appointed Virginia Blumenthal as the non-voting chair of the committee.

The other members are:

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Ward 1	Chris Manning, retired RPD Lieutenant, local office staff to Assembly Member Jose Medina
Ward 2	Leni Zarate, Psomas
Ward 3	Rod Pacheco, former District Attorney
Ward 4	Dave Stahovich, former Chief of Staff to Supervisor Bob Buster
Ward 5	Deborah Macias, Park and Recreation Commission member

Ward 6 Erin House, Library Board of Trustees member and former Human Resources Commission Board member, owner of Kountry Folks Restaurant

Ward 7 Alysia Webb, Rehabilitation Counselor

At large Jennifer Vaughn-Blakely, Chair of The Group At Large Elio Palacios Jr, Metropolitan Museum board

member, attorney and administrative hearing officer

Alternates: Katie Greene, retired Air Force Major, attorney and member of The Group

Kathleen Barth, educator

Lance Sayavong, Veterans Services worker

The Council hopes the committee will complete its work and have a recommendation for Council consideration within 90 days. The committee will hold several public meetings where you are encouraged to make your views known.

Monte Vista Terrace Fire

The Monte Vista Terrace Apartment building was destroyed by fire November 16th. The building is located directly across Market Street from the entrance to Fairmount Park. It has been vacant for many years as a succession of owners have struggled to find an economic use for the property. The current owner was working on converting the complex to senior living apartments. One of the issues facing the property is that it lacks adequate parking for conventional apartment use.

While unfortunate for the owner, loss of the building may open up a range of exciting projects for the site and the adjacent vacant properties. Watch for developments.

Mike Gardner

Ward Two Council Update

Contributed by Councilman Andy Melendrez

Happy Holidays!

On December 4th the Riverside County Health Coalition will be presenting Placemaking on a Budget Workshop: Improving Small Towns, Neighborhoods &



Downtowns without Spending a Lot of Money. The event will be in Ward 2 at the SolarMax facility located at 3080 12th St, Riverside, CA 92507. Join us for a FREE, half day, interactive workshop where we will learn how to create distinctive public spaces that enhance community identity and social connections without breaking the bank. Featured speakers will be Al Zelinka, the Community Development Director for the City of Riverside and Susan J. Harden, the Vice President and National Planning Practice Lead at Michael Baker International. The event will be from 9 am to 2 pm. You can RSVP by calling 951-358-7171. I hope to see you there!

The UCR Highlanders men and women's basketball season is officially upon us! Please be sure to go out and support your highlanders and athletes in the upcoming games. For dates and tickets, please visit the website, http://www.gohighlanders.com/. GOOOOO HIGHLANDERS!

Congratulations to Lee's Sandwiches and Sam's Bann Thai for their grand openings! We are pleased to have you in the City of Riverside serving your happy and hungry community.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered and helped with the free annual Thanksgiving dinner that took place at the Lincoln Park community center. I want to recognize the Lincoln Park Neighborhood Group for all their hard work over the years in serving a thanksgiving meal to hundreds of children, seniors and families in need. I also want to thank everyone who came out to support and donated to the Riverside School of the Arts in Give BIG! We have come far along and will continue working to raise funds to ensure we can provide the opportunity for our children to be educated in music and the arts.

Wishing everyone a **Merry Christmas** and **Happy Chanukah!**

Andy Melendrez

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BID Bulletin Rage 3

ADA and Your Business

SB 1186, a bill to address frivolous lawsuits for minor ADA infractions by giving businesses 90 days to fix minor infractions before being sued for non-compliance, was signed into law in September of 2012. The bill was prompted by the increase in small businesses being targeted by a few attorneys who used a boilerplate lawsuit claiming the business was in violation of a number of special access laws. Since many small businesses lacked the resources to combat such a lawsuit in a court of law, they often chose to settle out of court to avoid going to trial.

The legislation, among other things, reduces damages under state law and provides some protection for defendants who meet specific conditions in correcting construction-related accessibility violations of California's Unruh Civil Rights Act. It also provides small businesses with more incentives to fix any violations rather than settle out of court. The main provisions of SB 1186 became effective in 2013 and are as follows:

- A business in a location that was completed after January1, 2008 or one that has received a Certified Access Specialist (CASp) inspection has 60 days to fix an ADA violation. Statutory damages may be reduced from \$4,000 to \$1,000.
- A small business with 25 or fewer employees has 30 days to fix an ADA violation. Statutory damages may be reduced from \$4,000 to \$2,000.
- Letters from attorneys demanding money for ADA violations are no longer allowed. Letters advising of a potential ADA violation or infraction can be sent to a business but cannot contain a demand for money. Attorneys must send a copy of the letter to the California State Bar for review to ensure that it meets the legal requirements.
- Attorneys must also send a copy of letters they send to businesses to the California Commission on Disabilities (CCDA) to be added to their "Top 10" list of violations and to their list of attorneys and law firms filing lawsuits.

SB 1186 also requires that letters sent alleging an ADA violation follow strict guidelines. Such letters must contain the following:

- A statement of facts in plain language explaining the alleged violation so that a reasonable person can identify the specific access barrier and its location.
- An explanation of the way in which the barrier interfered with the person's full and equal access and the date on which the alleged violation occurred.

One unforeseen difficulty is that SB 1186 did not require notice prior to the filing of a complaint. In some instances, plaintiffs can file a lawsuit and go to the business owner or property owner with a demand. However, in filing the lawsuit,

the plaintiff must advise the business or property owner of their rights including the limitation on damages and the procedural protections that can be invoked to stall these claims. These protections are to expedite the process of reviewing ADA claims and help dismiss unsupported lawsuits with minimal time, effort and expense.

In certain instances, businesses who qualify are entitled to an immediate stay of any lawsuit filed against them and an "Early Evaluation Conference" in which the plaintiff must present its entire claim and prove that plaintiff was denied access. Businesses who would qualify would be a small business with 25 or fewer employees and gross receipts of less than \$3.5 million, and who agrees to correct any violations within 30 days. If it is proven that denial of access did occur, damages can only be recovered based on the occasion that access was denied, not on the number of violations that occur.

The damages are subject to lower limits, now \$1,000 from \$4,000 if the property meets certain guidelines and the ADA violation is remedied within 60 days. Additionally, a special damages limitation is available to small businesses that are liable for a construction-related accessibility claim and where that business remedies all construction-related violations within 30 days of being served with the complaint.

Important Note to Businesses:

The provisions of SB 1186 only relate to California law. Under Federal law, there is no parallel early evaluation conference, and limited ability to reduce damages provided. Businesses should understand that if there is a violation to be corrected, they are not safe from paying out damages. When a business is in violation of ADA access statutes and then corrects the violation after they are contacted by a Plaintiff, the damages may be reduced under California law but they are not eliminated.

Businesses should address and correct all ADA deficiencies before they are found in violation. As required by California Civil Code Section 55.3, information about businesses' legal obligations and how to comply with disability access laws is available through the Division of the State Architect (DSA). The website links to the Division of the State Architect's website is http://www.dsa.dgs.ca.gov/default.htm The website also provides information on the DSA Voluntary Certified Access Specialist Program (CASp).

Please be aware that the above information is a brief summary of SB 1186 and taken from information available from various resources. This information is not intended in any way as legal advice or guidance. Businesses who have a lawsuit filed against them for alleged violations should contact a qualified attorney.

Shop Local Business Spotlight



Molinos Coffee



Check out the article at http://www.riversidedowntown.org/buy-local/

Page 4 • December 2014

Business Buzz

Ten Ways to Improve Your Small Business

Small business owners are always watching for ways to improve their company. From streamlining important processes, to saving money on utilities, to hiring better team members, there are dozens of things that can make a good small business even better. If you're looking for ways to improve try one of the following tips.

1. Crunch the Numbers

If you're so busy with the daily operation of your business that you don't take time out to monitor your business financials, you're not doing yourself any favors. Crunch the numbers daily, weekly, and monthly so that you know where you stand financially and can make more sound business decisions. Invest in a bookkeeper or bookkeeping software if you are overwhelmed by numbers.

2. Use To-Do Lists

Give yourself a few tasks to accomplish each day and write them down. Then, when it's time to cross them off your list, you can feel good about what you've accomplished. To-do lists are excellent for helping you with time management and prioritization.

3. Jumpstart Your Morning

Resist the urge to ease into your work by drinking coffee and surfing the Internet from your desk. Give yourself 15 to 30 minutes at most to catch up, and then get started on your to-do list for the day. Set a timer if you need to.

4. Take Time Out to Learn Something New

Make learning a part of your job responsibilities. Read a small business blog for the latest tips and trends, enroll in an online course or one at the community college to learn a new skill, or attend a conference to brainstorm with other small business owners.

5. Let Go of Worries and Stress

Learn to limit the amount of time you spend worrying. Whether you delegate responsibilities to competent staff or set aside a few minutes to meditate, make a habit of freeing yourself from negative, stressful thoughts. When you do, you'll be a better problem solver.

6. Upgrade Your Technology

Another way to improve your business is to upgrade your technology. You can get faster, more powerful machines, invest in new software to simplify your daily tasks, or make your small business completely mobile. With improved technology, your business will be more efficient.

7. Green Up Your Small Business

If your business embraces green practices, you can do more than just save the environment. Going green in many cases helps you create a more efficient workspace while reducing the amount of money you spend on supplies and utilities.

8. Hire Based on Character

You've probably seen the quote: "Hire character. Train skill." There is a lot of truth in this statement, and putting this into practice means surrounding yourself with a positive, hardworking team that can tackle anything with the right attitude. Any skills an employee doesn't already possess can be learned on the job.

9. Improve Customer Service

You can never go wrong when you implement improved customer service practices, because your customers are your business. If you continue to make them happy and give them the support they need, the improvements will spread throughout your company.

10. Accept a New Challenge

Stagnation is not an option for those who want to improve. If you start to feel too comfortable, accept a new challenge. Business growth comes from trying new things, so look for an opportunity to offer a new service, open a new store location, or break into a new market.

You can tackle each of these tips one by one or try implementing a few at a time. The important thing is that you continually strive to build a stronger and more profitable business.

Information from Alyssa Gregory, About.com Small Business Guide Visit http://sbinformation.about.com/ for more small business information and to sign up for their newsletters

Use RDP's Social Media to Promote Your Business

In today's wired world, having a significant presence on the Internet is critical. It's not sufficient to have just a website now to provide information ... you have to also be able to communicate using social media. And to be really effective, you need to link your social media to others to increase your reach.

RDP uses Facebook as its primary social media outlet. To access our main Facebook page, go to www.Facebook.com/RiversideDowntownPartnership. It has a direct feed into our www.RiversideDowntown.org website. To access the Facebook page for our retail initiative, type in Fashion District Downtown Riverside in the Facebook search bar. Our Facebook page for our restaurant initiative can be

accessed by typing in Restaurant Week Downtown Riverside in the search bar.

We use our Facebook pages to provide information about downtown, activities and events. We also use them to share information on our downtown businesses. We strongly encourage out downtown businesses, particularly restaurants and retailers, to use the above Facebook pages for promotion. If you would like information and news on your business posted on our Facebook pages, please send an email to Robbie Silver at rdprobbie@sbcglobal.net with all of the relevant information and a link to your Facebook. You can also sign up at the same time for our Constant Contact emails.

BID Bulletin Rage 5

BUSINESS BUZZ

Top Web Design Trends Your Business Should Implement for 2015

If you haven't changed up your website in a few years, it's time to consider an update. Just make sure it includes these 3 features.

Ever since businesses started using the Internet for commerce solutions, one thing's been constant: the need to evolve with consumer behaviors. Much like local brick-and-mortar stores need to adapt to compete with off-site retailers, so, too, do businesses need to adapt to the way customers interact with their sites when making a purchase.

As we move into a more mobile-driven landscape—and one where frictionless buying truly is the holy grail—website design mindsets need to change with the ever-evolving buyer. With that in mind, here are three of the top Web design trends for next year.

1. Truly Interactive Storytelling

There's a lot of buzz online at the moment about how businesses need to tell better stories to connect with their customers. The problem is, while this advice is generally good, it also places a lot of pressure on business owners to try to work out what your story is and how to tell it. Some companies have found a way to do it—just take a look at Tesla Motors.

The company's Go Electric page answers consumer questions about the evolution of the Tesla motor, how the electric-powered cars work, the benefits to users and much, much more. Check it out for yourself—simply scroll down the page and see how the story plays out with multiple forms of media.

This is the way to tell your brand's story, and you don't need the design budget of Tesla to do so. If you run a WordPress powered site, Aesop Story Engine is a wonderful solution that enables you to blend multiple media together to tell one cohesive story. From text and full-width images to overlaid videos, PDF embeds and historical timelines, it's an excellent and inexpensive solution for your business.

If you're not on WordPress, then Readz offers another solution for combining multiple media together into an embeddable presentation that can be used on pretty much any main Web platform. (You can see an example of the "9LIVES" project here.)

This online form of brand storytelling is a powerful and inexpensive way to interact more with your customers and a great way to set yourself apart from your competitors.

2. Richer Backgrounds on Web Pages

One of the most underused components in Web design is the background of your site's pages. Many sites are content to have a simple dark font on a white background (or vice versa) and let the copy do the talking. However, you're missing a big opportunity to really attract your visitors' attention.

While there's been a rise over the past few years in using background images, the ability to really make backgrounds more than just static images opens up a whole new world of design potential. HTML video, for instance, allows you to have fully responsive HD video embedded in the background

of whatever your sales page or call-to-action may be.

Think of sports teams selling season tickets: You enter which game you went to that year, and the site loads video replays of that game's best plays on-screen. Depending on which seat you choose, the video can highlight that, and the call-to-action might be "Relive the magic again—your seat is reserved." The design is simple, effective and plays to the buyer's impulses, given their connection to the product, their sentiment around a victorious day and the very seat from which they watched it all happen.

3. One-Page Scrolling Instead of Clicking

Scrolling website design, which is when all the information about your company, services and more is on one page, has its critics, mainly because of its potential impact on SEO and how one-page design is implemented. But there's no denying that it's becoming more popular—and understandably so.

Instead of having to worry about poorly implemented navigation menus that use multiple drop-down tabs, the one-page site can offer an elegant and effective experience for the end user.

Additionally, one-page websites are perfect for the kind of interactive storytelling highlighted at the start of this article.

Themeforest offers a great collection of HTML, site templates, WordPress themes and more that offer one-page scrolling with excellent support and documentation. Some good examples of one-page scrolling sites include:

- My Life Without Me
- Beatrate
- Whitmans
- The Future Is Bright

These three trends are just a few examples of where the Web is heading from a design point of view in the coming 12 months and beyond. Also making inroads in Web design are:

- retina display, which allows for much higher-resolution browsing on tablets, smartphones and hi-definition monitors;
- material design, which takes the current-darling flat design and adds slight gradients and layers to achieve a richer effect; and
- a more personalized experience—driven by cookies that remembers a visitor's preferences and loads up a customized UX on their next visit.

Creative Web design offers everyone a chance to make their business stand out. The great news is, the cost is becoming less prohibitive and the potential is only beginning to be realized.

by Danny Brown, Manager Social Engagement and Insights
The above article is taken from the American Express Small
Business Open Forum website. For more articles, visit
www.americanexpress.com/us/small-business/openforum/

Page 6 • December 2014

SECURITY CORNER

Internet Alerts

The following reports are based on information from law enforcement and complaints submitted to the IC3. For more information, visit www.IC3.gov.

IC3 is a partnership between the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C) to receive Internet related criminal complaints.

E-ZPASS SPAM CAMPAIGN

The IC3 has received reports of a phishing scam involving E-ZPass. The E-ZPass group is an association of 26 toll agencies in 15 states that operate the E-ZPass toll collection program. The IC3 has received more than 560 complaints in which a victim receives an e-mail stating they have not paid their toll bill. The e-mail gives instructions to download the invoice by using the link provided, but the link is actually a .zip file that contains an executable with location aware malware. Some of the command and control server locations are associated with the ASProx botnet, which has previously disseminated other spam imitating major retail stores. It does not appear the E-ZPass e-mails actually attempt to entice recipients to pay anything. Rather, the infected machines are reportedly used for advertising click-fraud.

FAKE BREACH DATA SOLD FOR BITCOIN

The IC3 and partners have identified a recent trend which occurs shortly after a high-profile organization suffers a data breach. Along with the normal phishing attacks expected from a high-profile breach, false advertisements offering the "full leaked database" of compromised account credentials for sale have also appeared on various dump sites. Advertised pricing has ranged anywhere from 0.5-1.453 Bitcoins, and other virtual currencies are sometimes also accepted. Each advertisement usually includes a small sampling of compromised credentials reported to be from the breach, but further analysis of the sampling indicates the records are invalid.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE TELEPHONE SCAM

The Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3) has received reports related to a telephone scam in which the caller purports to be an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) representative. Using intimidation tactics, the caller tries to take control of the situation from the beginning. The caller advises the recipient of the call that the IRS has charges against them and threatens legal action and arrest. If the recipient questions the caller in any way, the caller becomes more aggressive.

The caller continues to intimidate by threatening to confiscate the recipient's property, freeze bank accounts, and have the recipient arrested and placed in jail. The reported alleged charges include defrauding the government, money owed for back taxes, law suits pending against the recipient, and nonpayment of taxes.

The recipients are advised that it will cost thousands of dollars in fees/court costs to resolve this matter. The caller creates a sense of urgency by saying that being arrested can be avoided and fees reduced if the recipient purchases

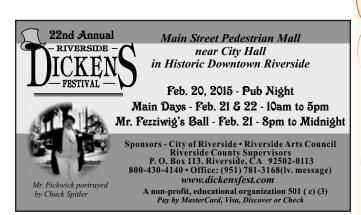
moneypak cards to cover the fees within an hour.

Sometimes the caller provides specific instructions on where to purchase the moneypak cards and the amount to put on each card. The caller tells the recipient not to tell anyone about the issue and to remain on the telephone until the moneypak cards are purchased and the moneypak codes are provided to the caller. The caller states that if the call is disconnected for any reason, the recipient would be arrested. Some recipients reported once the caller obtained the moneypak codes, they were advised that the transaction took too long and additional fees were required.

Call recipients, who are primarily immigrants, reported that the caller spoke with broken English or stated the caller had an Indian accent.

- If you receive a call similar to this follow these tips:
- Resist the pressure to act quickly
- Report the contact to TIGTA at http://www. treasury.gov/tigta by clicking on the red button, "IRS Impersonation Scam Reporting."
- Use caution when asked to use a specific payment method. The IRS would not require a specific payment method such as a moneypak card or wire transfer
- If you feel threatened, contact your local police department
- File a complaint at www.IC3.gov

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BID Bulletin Rage 7



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Press deadline is the 15th of each month prior to publication.

For Downtown News Alerts email Janice@riversidedowntown.org

For Events email Janice@riversidedowntown.org.



RDP Facebook Page

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



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