

Ward 1 Annual Report 2023



Councilmember Edwards reads to TK students at Fremont Elementary for Read Across America

Dear Neighbors,

It has been four years since I was sworn into office! You've heard me say, "more is more," and this year is an example of what that momentum looks like: more housing, more neighborhood connectedness, and more investments into City parks, streets, trees, and equipment. Together, we advocated for small businesses, nonprofits, and residents when we passed policies and budgets. Keep reading for a year in review from my Ward 1 office and highlights of my term.



It is an honor to serve,
Councilmember and current Mayor Pro Tem, Erin

Thanks to Councilmember Edwards' leadership as the **Chair of the Housing & Homelessness Committee**, Riverside became an officially State-designated **Pro-Housing City** this year!

Habitat for Humanity's **Mulberry Villages** and TruEvolution's **Project Legacy** opened, adding 64 units of supportive housing. **The Aspire** broke ground, bringing **34 units of affordable housing for aged out foster youth** in partnership with the Riverside Community College District.

The City secured **\$4.3M for 25 additional beds for vulnerable youth**, and Councilmember Edwards advocated for **Mulberry Gardens**, 207 units of affordable housing for families and seniors, to receive **\$27M for sidewalk and park improvements**.

For developments City-wide, Councilmember Edwards established a **\$1M Affordable Housing Fund**. To dedicate resources most effectively, City Council established Riverside's first **Housing and Human Services Department**.

482 units of market-rate housing are in construction at **The Exchange Project**. **The Mark** opened in Downtown, bringing an additional 165 units.

Councilmember Edwards was honored to be a part of the **Riverside County CARE Court launch** to address mental illness and substance abuse. The **Homelessness Action Plan** turned one year old, showing a **decrease in chronic homelessness by 12%**. UCR Medical School opened a **clinic at Hulen Place** for homeless patients. Councilmember Edwards was elected to the Riverside County **Continuum of Care Board of Governance** to advocate for critical resources County-wide.

Addressing Housing & Homelessness



Councilmember Edwards at the groundbreaking for The Exchange Project in the Northside.



Supporting Neighborhoods

Councilmember Edwards championed the City's very first **Community Engagement Policy & Toolkit**, which passed in October 2023. To increase access to Riverside's libraries, Councilmember Edwards was thrilled to **expand library hours and eliminate overdue fines** for library materials. To **implement the Northside Specific plan**, the City released a request for proposals for a master developer, and Councilmember Edwards was proud to support a plan for **increased Downtown security**.

This year, the City Council hosted **20 public meetings on Redistricting** to create new ward maps. There were also **seven community meetings for your input on the upcoming 2024 budget**.

Investing in Infrastructure

Councilmember Edwards supported a **\$23 million increase in Parks funding** and **\$8 million for 12 new trash trucks**. 451 vacancies were filled across the City, 26 of which were in the Public Works Department. The **Palm Avenue Sewer Project** is complete, and Councilmember Edwards approved **\$3.39 million towards repaving Ward 1 streets**: Glenwood Avenue, Panorama and Olivewood, and the Salmon River Neighborhood. Councilmember Edwards voted in favor of an **updated urban tree policy** and an **electrification policy**.

Councilmember Edwards supported funding to **clean Lake Evans for paddle boating** in summer 2024. To increase walkability in Ward 1, Councilmember Edwards championed a pilot to **increase pedestrian safety in Fairmount Park**, and the City received a **\$700,000 grant to create safer routes to school**. Councilmember Edwards was also thrilled to allocate \$1.4M to **repave the trail on Mt. Rubidoux**.





Yellow bubble: Councilmember Edwards at her monthly office hours. Top Orange: grand re-opening of Downtowne Bookstore. Bottom Orange: RISE! Mural in Downtown. Blue: Councilmember Edwards and Habitat for Humanity President David Hanh at Mulberry Villages.

Putting Riverside on the Map

Councilmember Edwards advocated for **an official LGBTQ Context Statement** to document historic LGBTQ people, places, and events, and she supported a **brand new Commission of the Deaf**. To realize the vision for the **Northside Agriculture Innovation Center**, Councilmember Edwards supported a partnership with Lamplighter to **research climate-resilient agriculture and to incubate ag-tech startups**, and Ward 1 **welcomed 313 new businesses** in 2023. Alongside the Mayor, Councilmember Edwards hosted **delegates from Riverside's sister city, Can Tho, Vietnam**. The City Council allocated **an additional \$725,000 for city-wide events, expanded the Art Walk**, and hosted the very **first summer concert series in the Downtown**. Councilmember Edwards supported the return of the **4th of July Fireworks at Mt. Rubidoux** and the **Festival of Lights Ice Skating Rink**.

Four Years

Served two terms as Mayor
Pro-Tem: January-June 2020
& June-December of 2023

Led the City's public health
response to the COVID-19
pandemic as Mayor Pro Tem

Passed a warehouse
moratorium in the Northside
in 2020 and passed the
Northside Specific Plan

Advocated for street nurses,
Park & Neighborhood
Specialists, and Wildlands Public
Safety & Engagement Teams

Hosted 30 office hours,
attended regular
neighborhood meetings, and
advocated for increased
community engagement on
housing policies, the budget,
and redistricting

Wrote the 5-Year
Homelessness Action Plan

Celebrated the new Main
Library, the Cheech, the
Civil Rights Institute, and
funding for Ward 1 cultural
landmarks: the Harada
House and
Trujillo Adobe



of Impact

Championed investments in
parks, food security, small
businesses & non-profits with
\$101.4M in CARES Act and
American Rescue Plan
Act funding

Developed 489 affordable
housing units and invested
\$82,765,587 into housing and
homelessness projects

Addressed the humanitarian
crisis in the Santa Ana River
by leading regional
collaboration, hiring more
homeless outreach workers,
and passing an
anti-camping ordinance

Chaired the Mayor's Housing Task
Force, the Mayor's River Task
Force, and the Council's Housing &
Homelessness Committee

Led a policy to prioritize our
local workforce on the
development of City surplus land

Supported translating Council
meetings in Spanish

Removed barriers for street
vendors and food trucks

Hired three new charter
officers: City Clerk Donesia
Gause, City Attorney Phaedra
Norton, and City
Manager Mike Futrell

Thanks for a productive year in office.



ERIN EDWARDS

City Councilmember

951.783.7811

EEedwards@RiversideCA.gov



PALOMA MONTES

Ward 1 Council Assistant

951.640.9853

PMonteseRiversideCA.gov

