

City proposes new roadside memorial regulations

Will leave memorials up for nine months

BY JOEL KOM, CALGARY HERALD FEBRUARY 13, 2009

Roadside memorials should generally be allowed to remain in place for nine months as long they're not a safety hazard and not on roads with speed limits of 70 km/h or more.

Those are the main guidelines the city has drawn up for the memorials that friends and families have taken to erecting in memory of lost loved ones.

The guidelines, written up after a public survey and traffic safety study, are meant to balance the desire for people to mark a loved one's death with public safety and keeping streets clear.

They came after Ald. Diane Colley-Urquhart asked city staff to explore ways to deal with the memorials that pop up on the sites of fatal crashes.

In a report going to a city committee next week, the city says people should be allowed to place memorials as long as they don't make the road less safe. The city would generally leave the memorials in place for nine months, and would talk to the families of those being memorialized before removing them.

If the guidelines are approved by the committee, they would then have to be backed by city council before they're formally adopted.

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