



81 Days of Progress INTERIM MAYOR TODD GLORIA

City of San Diego

WEEKLY UPDATE: December 19, 2013

Transitional Storage Center

I need to highlight a challenge we're facing in San Diego, and ask that you spread the word so we may be able to get the help needed.

The homeless storage facility known as the Check in Center, or Transitional Storage Center, is at risk of closing. My office has been actively working to identify a new location and continued funding for the Downtown Homeless Storage Center, which is currently set to close on January 10. The City Council committed \$50,000 in General Funds this past year to operate the Storage Center, which has been located on a temporary parking lot generously donated by St. Vincent de Paul Villages.

Run by Girls Think Tank, this facility stores the belongings of more than 300 homeless individuals, which amounts to over 30,000 pounds of possessions that would otherwise be on our city streets and in our canyons. This safe storage access allows homeless individuals to begin the transition back to housing and job hunt, work, and attend classes without having to take these belongings with them. Girls Think Tank is seeking a donated space for the facility as well as funding to help with operating costs. Please contact my office or Girls Think Tank at www.girlsthinktank.org for more details on how you can help.

Free Library Parking

I am happy to announce that we have heard the complaints about the parking rates at the San Diego Library @ Joan ^ Irwin Jacobs Common, and, starting January 2, visitors will now enjoy two free hours of parking instead of just one. Anecdotally, we believe most library visits citywide would be about an hour. But let's face it. The new library is pretty awesome, and we should be encouraging people to stick around and check it all out. We will continue to monitor usage and continue to welcome feedback.

San Ysidro Land Port of Entry

I will be submitting a letter today to the House Appropriations Committee urging that the San Ysidro Land Port of Entry Renovation and Expansion Project be funded at the President's FY 2014 Budget level. This money would allow Phase II and Phase III of the project to begin moving forward. In a 2007 study, the San Diego Association of Governments estimated that

delays due to border wait times cost our cross-border economies \$7.2 billion in lost gross output and more than 62,000 jobs. Our lobbyists are also working hard on this.

Zero Waste Objective

On Monday, the City Council approved the Zero Waste Objective. The City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department proposed a Zero Waste Objective for the City, with an initial goal of diverting 75% of waste generated in the City from landfill disposal by 2020, and a goal of zero waste by 2040. Monday's item was just a starting point for this initiative, and I look forward to considering a plan in the coming year that establishes a framework for the City's planning and decision-making process that will allow us to achieve the City's Zero Waste objective.

Barrio Logan Community Plan Update

On Tuesday, the City Council took an important stand for neighborhoods by remaining firm with our approval of the Barrio Logan Community Plan Update. San Diego voters will now get to decide whether a neighborhood's vision for its future will be realized or not. I hope that the voters will be presented with facts instead of inflammatory rhetoric and that the will of a neighborhood isn't stymied.

Southwest Airlines

As some of you saw on Monday, Southwest Airlines will start daily non-stop service from San Diego to Portland, Seattle, New Orleans, and Orlando in 2014. Combined with the re-launched efforts of our Tourism Marketing District, San Diego's coming years are sure to be positive for our local economy and for visitors, and we appreciate the gift.

Christmas tree recycling program

With Christmas right around the corner, I want to remind everyone about the City's Christmas tree recycling program. Recycling your tree is a great way to help the environment and extend the life of the Miramar landfill. Beginning December 26, there are 16 locations throughout the City where residents can drop off their trees free of charge during daylight hours. You can find a list of these locations at recyclingworks.com, the Environmental Service Department's web site. Those residents who are eligible for the City's curbside-yard-waste-recycling program can also put their trees at the curb on the same day as their regular yard-waste recycling.

Cabrillo Bridge Closure

Finally, though it's a few weeks away, I want to remind San Diegans about the upcoming closure of the Cabrillo Bridge for seismic retrofits by Caltrans. Caltrans will close the bridge on January 2 to complete the work. During this time, there will be no car access to or from Balboa Park across the bridge.

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