

News from Councilmember Todd Gloria

District Three

DIALOGUE



City of San Diego

May 2011 Volume 3, Issue 5

The Bittersweet Budget Proposal: Your Input is Needed

By Councilmember Todd Gloria

Springtime means budget season at City Hall and, again, tough decisions need to be made.

On April 14, Mayor Jerry Sanders unveiled his proposed budget Fiscal Year 2012, which starts July 1, 2011.

The budget is now in the hands of the City Council. As the Council's Budget Chair, the public has my commitment that we will aggressively review the Mayor's proposal, we will work hard to identify additional cost savings and we will use them to provide the citizens of our City with the highest level of service that we can afford.

I want to thank the Mayor for hearing the calls from me, my colleagues and so many community members and

proposing a budget that ends fire station brownouts. As glad as I will be to have Engine 11 in Golden Hill and Engine 14 in North Park and the others back in service, this restoration is only a result of prioritization; we have not grown any new money.

Last Fall, Mayor Sanders and I spent considerable time advocating for a temporary sales tax increase to help right the City's financial ship so brownouts could end and additional cuts could be avoided. Prop D didn't pass and we're still dealing with a budget deficit, hence the very significant cuts now being proposed.

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Councilmember Gloria Earns "A" on Environmental Quality Report Card

San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria achieved an A grade on the 2010 Environmental Quality Report Card issued on April 20 by a coalition of local non-profit organizations.

Councilmember Gloria earned the top score of all current City leaders with a 94.4%, an improvement over his 90% grade last year. The grades were based on 18 pieces of legislation considered to be environmentally significant. These included:

- Voting to establish a demonstration project for Indirect Potable Water Reuse;
- Voting in favor of various pieces of water-related legislation including Indirect Potable Water Reuse projects, water submetering, and public education programs;
- Supporting recommendation to oppose Proposition 23 and promote City energy efficiency projects; and
- Voting in favor of sustainable land use programs.

Also among the issues examined for the Report Card was the Restoration of Swan Canyon in the District Three neighborhood of City Heights. Councilmember Gloria has been a longtime advocate for this project and is pleased with the progress that continues to be made there.

"San Diego's environment is worth protecting. I'm proud to have earned an A and will continue to do all I can to preserve our precious natural resources and to promote sustainability," said Councilmember Gloria.

The Report Card seeks to hold Councilmembers and the Mayor accountable for both their votes and public stances on environmental quality issues from January 2010 to December 2010.

The entire report card is available on the League of Conservation Voters website, http://www.lcvsd.org/PdfsDocs/2010_EQRC_FINAL.pdf.

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Fiscal Year 2012 Budget *(continued from page 1)*

This budget proposes over \$5 million in cuts to police, including the elimination of 20 sworn-officer positions. Library pairings – where neighboring libraries will be open on alternate days – and severe cuts to recreation center hours were proposed. Basically, we will now be browning out our library and parks systems.

These are devastating cuts, especially to the low-income, urban neighborhoods I represent.

As we look at the proposed cuts, it's important to remember that things could be even worse.

Earlier in April, the City adopted collective bargaining agreements with our City employees that will yield nearly \$38 million in savings in the next fiscal year, and hundreds of millions in pension and health care savings in the years to come. Had our employees not agreed to pay and benefit reductions, the cuts in the Mayor's proposal would have been deeper. I thank our employees for helping us address our financial challenges while continuing to serve the public.

I am glad to see that the Mayor's proposed budget reflects many of the budget priorities developed by the Budget and Finance Committee and approved by the City Council:



Engine 14 (left) may soon be back in service full time if brownouts are eliminated in the FY 12 budget.

- Completing the fiscal reforms from Proposition D;
- Protecting public safety;
- Adhering to our guiding principles for the elimination of the structural budget deficit;
- Identifying and funding mandated and core services; and
- Implementing full cost recovery for programs supported by fees.

The proposal includes many other responsible elements. It includes the full pension payments. It maintains our reserves level. It addresses deferred infrastructure needs.

I am anxious to delve deeper into this budget and to collect community input during our budget deliberations, which begin on May 4 with in depth reviews of the Police Department and the Fire-Rescue Department budget proposals.

This proposal demonstrates a concern for the safety of the public, and I look forward to a time when we can restore more than just fire engine brownouts.

FISCAL YEAR 2012 BUDGET HEARING CALENDAR

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2011

9:00 am – 10:30 am IBA Report Overview
10:30 am – 12:00 pm Police; Family Justice Center
2:00 pm – 3:30 pm Fire-Rescue (EMS); Office of Homeland Security
3:30 pm – 5:00 pm Development Services Department;
Neighborhood Code Compliance; Planning

THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2011

9:00 am – 10:30 am Park and Recreation; Golf
10:30 am – 12:00 pm Library
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Public Works; Engineering & Capital Projects;
General Services; Communications; Facilities; Publishing
Services; General Services Administration; CIP- Capital
Improvement Program; TransNet
4:00 pm – 5:00 pm Transportation & Storm Water; ROW
Coordination; Streets; Transportation Engineering

FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2011

9:00 am – 12:00 pm Public Utilities; Environmental Services; Real
Estate Assets; Qualcomm Stadium; PETCO Parks;
Airports
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm Business Office; Administration Department;
EOC; Purchasing and Contracting; Financial Management;
City Comptroller; City Treasurer; Risk Management

MONDAY, MAY 9, 2011

6:00 pm City Council Meeting: Public Hearing on the Mayor's
Proposed FY 12 Budget

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11, 2011

9:00 am – 10:30 am City Auditor; City Attorney; Ethics Commission;
City Clerk
10:30 am – 12:00 pm Special Promotional Programs; Arts and Culture

THURSDAY, MAY 12, 2011

9:00 am – 10:00 am San Diego City Employees Retirement System
10:00 am – 11:00 am Department of Information Technology; ERP
(OneSD); San Diego Data Processing Corporation
11:00 am – 12:00 pm Housing Authority
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm Redevelopment Agency; Redevelopment
Department; SEDC; CCDC; San Diego Convention Center
Corporation

FRIDAY, MAY 13, 2011

9:00 am – 12:00 pm Open (will be used if necessary)
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm Open (will be used if necessary)

All meetings will be held in Council Chambers, 202 C Street

This schedule is available online: <http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/committees/budgetandfinance/>

Community Connection: The Todd Squad is Working for You

Public Safety

- A traffic study was performed at the request of neighbors for an all-way stop sign at Myrtle Avenue and Felton Street. It was determined that the intersection did not qualify for the stop sign.
- SDPD will increase traffic enforcement in the 3600 block of 33rd Street.
- A speed hump was tentatively okayed for the 3500 block of Felton Street. If a petition is signed by 75% of affected residents, the traffic calming measure will be installed.
- A tripping hazard was removed from the 3300 block of University Avenue.
- A hazardous backflow cage was removed from the 3300 block of University Avenue.
- Graffiti was removed from the Georgia Street bridge.
- Parking enforcement was ramped up on Iowa Street following complaints of perpetual 72-hour violations.
- A streetlight was repaired on Lucille Drive.

Infrastructure Improvements

- Potholes were filled in the 1900 block of 33rd Street, at Polk Avenue and Menlo Avenue, 2900 and 3000 blocks of Beech Street, 1500 and 1600 blocks of 30th Street, 2000-2200 blocks of 31st Street, 2800-3300 blocks of Vancouver Avenue, Sixth Avenue at Palm Street; 3400 block of University Avenue, University Avenue at Sixth Avenue, University Avenue at 41st Street, Boundary Street at Upas Street, and on Mountain View Drive.
- The 4300 and 4400 blocks of Illinois Street were determined needy of repaving and added to the unfunded needs backlog.
- A leaning light pole on Park Boulevard in University Heights was repaired.
- Knocked down street signs on Adams Avenue in University Heights were replaced twice.

Community Character

- Debris was removed from a dilapidated building in the 3700 block of Arnold Avenue.
- A misspelled Louisiana Street sign was replaced with a correct version.
- An administrative citation was issued to a property owner in the 3500 block of Utah Street because of miscellaneous storage on the front porch and wood piled up on the south side of the property.
- An investigation into a potential sewer spill in Snowdrop Canyon revealed the questionable smell was caused by a decomposing cat, which was removed.
- Graffiti was removed from a building on El Cajon Boulevard near Texas Street.
- Illegally dumped construction materials were removed from Pennsylvania Avenue between Albatross Street and Curlew Street.
- Administrative citations were issued to individuals in the 3300 and 3400 blocks of University Avenue to address illegal signs and objects in the public right-of-way.

- Urban Corps removed weeds and trash from the corner of Lincoln Avenue and 33rd Street.
- Construction materials were removed from Talmadge Circle.
- The Washington Street underpass near 163 was cleared of debris.
- Overflowing trash cans in Balboa Park near Florida and Upas Streets were cleaned and added to the regular pick up schedule.

Medical Marijuana Ordinances: A First Step Toward Securing Safe Access from Responsible Outlets

In April, the City Council approved ordinances regulating medical marijuana consumer cooperatives.

The ordinances that resulted from a long public process tried to strike a fair balance for all stakeholders. Along with many members of the public who testified, Councilmember Gloria found elements of the ordinances excessively and un-necessarily restrictive. He was thankfully able to secure some common-sense amendments that strengthened the policy.

Instead of the proposed 1,000 feet separation requirement between cooperatives and uses such as schools, playgrounds, and other youth-serving establishments, Councilmember Gloria advocated for a decreased distance restriction of 600 feet, making it consistent with regulations for businesses selling alcohol for consumption off-site. His colleagues also supported the recommendation that cooperatives be approved through a Process 3 Conditional Use Permit instead of the proposed Process 4, removing the potential to politicize an application to site a cooperative. "These are reasonable recommendations that place medical marijuana consumer cooperatives in a context that is similar to other land uses in the City," said Councilmember Gloria.

While the ordinances passed by the City Council are the best that was possible given the positions of the individual councilmembers, they are far from perfect.

"I remain concerned that the zoning restrictions in the ordinance place cooperatives out of the City's central neighborhoods. This hurts the sickest patients the most because they are the ones who are unable to travel long distances for their medication. Ironically, cooperatives have been zoned out of some of the communities most supportive of them, including some neighborhoods in District Three," said Councilmember Gloria.

"Though the approved ordinances fell short in some ways, I must disagree with those who say they amount to a ban," he continued. "San Diego could have followed the lead of other cities and issued a moratorium or even an outright ban. Instead, we took input from hundreds of people at hours of public hearings and crafted a measure that provides a clear method for medical marijuana consumer cooperatives to operate legally. Given the lack of political consensus on this issue, I believe this is a significant first step."

Redistricting Process Underway: Public Hearings Scheduled

San Diegans have an important opportunity to be heard as part of the City's redistricting process at upcoming meetings of the Redistricting Commission, including one in District Three on May 2. Details are below.

The San Diego City Charter requires that the City Council district boundaries be redistricted at least once every 10 years, generally following the completion of the federal census. The seven-member Redistricting Commission has the authority to set the new boundaries of City Council districts, which will be first used in 2012 elections.

The Redistricting Commission is currently holding public hearings to collect input from San Diegans about how the nine districts may be drawn. For more information about the City's redistricting process and for a full calendar of meetings, please visit www.sandiego.gov/redistricting/index.shtml.

Monday, May 2
6:00 p.m.

Regional Transportation Center Showroom
4001 El Cajon Boulevard

Wednesday, May 4
6:00 p.m.

Point Loma-Hervey Library Community Room
3701 Voltaire Street, San Diego, 92107

Monday, May 9
6:00 p.m.

Bayside Community Center Grand Hall
2202 Comstock Street, San Diego, 92111

Wednesday, May 11
6:00 p.m.

La Jolla Library Community Room
7555 Draper Avenue, La Jolla, 92037

Water Conservation Garden of the Month: E. Palisades Road

Congratulations to Judith Shragge, whose home on E. Palisades Road near Ridgeway Drive in Kensington is May's Water Conservation Garden of the Month! With full foliage and mature plantings, the landscape includes diverse vegetation that draws attention from passersby and neighbors alike.

Yards like this one demonstrate that water conservation gardens do not have to be barren landscapes of rocks and cactus. While succulent plants and natural materials like stone can certainly be beautiful, a variety of plants can be incorporated on your property and keep it drought-tolerant. Want more ideas? Visit the water conservation garden near the Azalea Park Recreation Center, 2596 Violet St.



The City of San Diego offers rebates for some water conservation elements. Before you start your landscape renovations, please visit <http://www.sandiego.gov/water/pdf/press/110112landscapemakeovers.pdf>.

Call for Submissions:

Where is your favorite drought-tolerant yard in District Three? Submit the address and a photo to ToddGloria@sandiego.gov, and you may see it in a future District Three Dialogue. As always, don't be afraid to submit your own!

Upcoming Events

Roots Fest

Saturday, April 30 – Sunday, May 1, 2011
10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Adams Avenue in Normal Heights

2011 San Diego Equality Awards

Saturday, April 30, 2011, 6:00 p.m.
Hall of Champions
2131 Pan American Plaza

2nd Annual Asian Cultural Festival

Sunday, May 1, 2011, 10:00 a.m.
NTC Park at Liberty Station

Annual Community Holocaust Commemoration

Sunday, May 1, 2011, 1:30 p.m.
Lawrence Family Jewish Community Center
David and Dorothea Garfield Theater
4126 Executive Dr., La Jolla

Redistricting Public Hearing

Monday, May 2, 2011, 6:00 p.m.
Regional Transportation Center Showroom
4001 El Cajon Boulevard, San Diego, 92105
*For more information about the redistricting process,
please visit <http://www.sandiego.gov/redistricting/index.shtml>.*

May Day at the Marston House

Saturday, May 7, 10:00 a.m.
3525 Seventh Ave.

EARTH Awards

Wednesday, May 11, 7:30 p.m.
Environmental Services Department
9601 Ridgehaven Ct.

American Planning Association-San Diego Awards

Thursday, May 12, 7:00 p.m.
Birch North Park Theatre
2891 University Ave.

North Park Festival of the Arts

Sunday, May 15, 10:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
University Ave. at 30th St.

3rd Annual Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast

Friday, May 20, 7:30 a.m.
Hilton San Diego Bayfront
1 Park Blvd.

UPAC Annual Leadership Awards Gala

Wednesday, May 25, 6:30 p.m.
Hyatt Regency La Jolla
3777 La Jolla Village Dr.

Crime Stoppers “Enough is Enough” Luncheon

Thursday, May 26, 12:00 p.m.
Crown Plaza Hotel Mission Valley
2270 Hotel Circle North

9th Annual Visionary Awards

Thursday, May 26, 5:30 p.m.
Hilton San Diego Bayfront
1 Park Blvd.

29th Annual Memorial Day Parade

Monday, May 30
10:00 a.m.
Marlborough Ave. in Kensington

Philippine Day Celebration

Thursday, June 2, 12:00 p.m.
Balboa Park Recital Hall
Palisades Building on Pan American Plaza

Stepping Stone Open House

Friday, June 3, 3:00 p.m.
3767 Central Avenue

Open House — North Park Mini Park and Associated Streetscape Improvement Project

Saturday, June 4, 9:00 a.m.
Claire de Lune
2906 University Ave.

Coffee with your Councilmember

Saturday, June 4, 2011, 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
City Heights-Weingart Branch Library
3795 Fairmount Ave.

Art Around Adams

Saturday, June 4, 3:00 p.m.
Adams Ave.

15th Anniversary of the Human Dignity Foundation

Saturday, June 11, 6:00 p.m.
Eden
1202 University Ave.

South Park Old House Fair

Saturday, June 18
All Day
30th and Beech

World Refugee Day

Sunday, June 19, 5:00 p.m.
Museum of Photographic Arts
1649 El Prado

Tracking Todd



Above, Todd smiles with one of the many new friends he met at the annual Easter Egg Hunt at Trolley Barn Park. The Councilmember was glad to deliver almost 100 Easter baskets he collected from community members. He is grateful to the Imperial Court de San Diego for organizing the always popular event and to the San Diego City Fire Fighters, Local 145 and the Municipal Employees Association for their generous monetary contributions as well.



On April 16, Councilmember Gloria enjoyed a soccer expo in City Heights (top). He also helped cut the ribbon on Revivals, a new store located at 1644 University Ave. benefiting the Desert AIDS Project, a Palm Springs-based HIV/AIDS service.

Councilmember Gloria serves on the following:

- Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
- Chair, Ad Hoc Committee on Redevelopment
- Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
- Land Use and Housing Committee
- Rules, Open Government and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee
- Metropolitan Transit System Board
- San Diego Association of Governments
- San Diego Workforce Partnership
- San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau
- San Diego River Conservancy

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