

## District Three

# DIALOGUE



City of San Diego

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## Public Safety Update: Arrests Made in Significant Cases

By Councilmember Todd Gloria

As San Diego Police Chief Bill Lansdowne contemplates how he could cut \$15 million from his already depleted budget, the hardworking men and women of the SDPD recently solved two significant crimes in Council District Three. An individual connected to over 50 residential burglaries in Mid-City neighborhoods was arrested, as were taggers responsible for defacing Montclair Neighborhood Park.

### Burglar Arrested

Starting in Spring 2010, SDPD Detective Jacques identified a series of residential burglaries occurring in the University Heights

and North Park areas. In the incidents, the suspect generally entered residences through an open window or door taking only laptop type computers and a pillowcase. Based on interviews with the victims, Detective Jacques determined that the suspect in some of the cases was conducting surveillance of the intended target residence and entering only when the victims left and were gone only for a short time. Over the next several months, Detective Jacques worked with Western Division police officers to conduct surveillance and patrol activities in an attempt to identify the suspect involved in the burglaries.

On September 14, at approximately 3:39 a.m., Western patrol officers responded to a report of a Hot Prowl – a residential burglary with occupants inside – in progress on Illinois Street. A neighbor of the victim had observed the suspect remove a screen, open a window, and attempt to enter the residence. Numerous patrol officers responded to the call and upon arrival the suspect attempted to hide. When Officer Temnick approached, the suspect fled on foot and a pursuit ensued. The suspect was eventually taken into custody by Officer Castillo and identified by the witness.

Detectives Jacques and Williams responded. After an extensive interview with the suspect, he confessed to 52 residential burglaries. The San Diego District Attorney's Office's Major Violators Unit has agreed to prosecute the offender.

While this arrest should make us all feel much more secure, I implore each of you to take common sense steps to protect yourself, your loved

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## Permanent Homeless Facility Plans Move Forward

San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria is proud that the City Council moved forward with plans for San Diego's first permanent homeless service and housing facility. The facility is proposed for the World Trade Center, located on the corner of Sixth Ave. and A St. in downtown San Diego.

On October 5, the Council voted 8-0 to enter into negotiations with the project's developer and service providers to finalize plans for the facility, which would combine healthcare, mental health services, substance abuse care, and job training with housing.

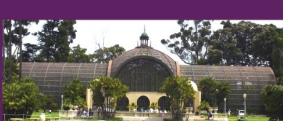
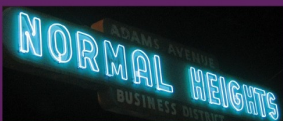
"A permanent homeless services center is the most important civic project the City Council can consider, and its completion will make better use of limited taxpayer funds while improving the quality of life of its clients and strengthening the downtown community," said Councilmember Gloria.

The proposed project would house 223 individuals in a secure, regulated environment and accommodate services to care for them. The proposal was brought forward by a coalition including Family Health Centers, Affirmed Housing and PATH, which runs similar very successful comprehensive service facilities for homeless in Los Angeles.

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## The Changing Face of City Heights: Water Conservation Garden is Complete and Fall FaceLift is October 23

Councilmember Todd Gloria joined hundreds of volunteers and neighbors on October 2 to help with projects showcasing Azalea Park as a leader in renovation and sustainability. The projects were completed near the Azalea Recreation Center, located 2596 Violet St.

The hallmark project of the Azalea Park Community Build was a water conservation garden designed by Estrada Land Planning at the neighborhood park.

"Water is becoming more and more precious, and the water conservation garden being completed this weekend at Azalea Park will serve as a model for sustainable and beautiful landscaping," said Councilmember Gloria. "I am thankful to the sponsors and volunteers who have made the project possible."

### Homeless Facility is Much-Needed

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"The permanent homeless services project will truly help our homeless neighbors lead more productive, healthy lives, and I am extremely proud of my Council colleagues for finally taking this step," said Councilmember Gloria. "I am confident this facility will be a model for comprehensive care that we will want to replicate to ensure that help is available to all who need it."

With the Council's action, the City of San Diego enters into exclusive negotiating agreement with Connections Housing. Through the negotiation process, project details, funding and neighborhood mitigation measures will be developed. The negotiations are expected to conclude in Spring 2011, after which the City Council will consider approval of the facility.

Addressing issues related to homelessness and affordable housing has been an interest of Councilmember Gloria for years, which has been demonstrated by his work as a San Diego Housing Commissioner and as the current chair of the Land Use and Housing Committee. However, his participation in the San Diego homeless survey gave him additional drive to accomplish more to provide the basic need of shelter.

At 4:00 a.m. on Monday, September 20, Councilmember Gloria joined other volunteers to meet some of his less-fortunate neighbors, living on San Diego's streets. Asking a series of prepared questions to each, he helped obtain a much clearer understanding of each person's situation including their health issues and their road to the streets. This information is instrumental in prioritizing services for these individuals, starting with the most vulnerable.

"Some of our homeless neighbors use extraordinary amounts of services, from emergency medical care to police interactions. Connecting individuals with appropriate services and care improves their lives and makes better use of resources," said Councilmember Gloria. "The wraparound services proposed for the permanent homeless services facility at the World Trade Center would allow even more neighbors to get the help they need, an effort all San Diegans should support."

In addition to the water conservation garden, a local home was also refurbished. In total, the Azalea Park Community Build highlights the area's character and showcases the value of neighborhood investment.

The Community Build is made possible by Rebuilding Together San Diego, Cricket Wireless, the San Diego Park and Recreation Department, and many community partners.



Councilmember Gloria encourages all San Diegans to further strengthen City Heights by participating in Fall FaceLift on October 23. Twelve houses will be fixed up and a great deal of landscaping and cleaning up will be done on Cherokee Ave. between El Cajon Blvd. and Orange Ave.

For more information or for a volunteer waiver form, please contact Linda Pennington, 619-563-4014 or [gizmopennington@cox.net](mailto:gizmopennington@cox.net).

### Mayor and Councilmember Introduce Balboa Park Conservancy

On September 14 in front of the majestic Botanical Gardens, Councilmember Todd Gloria joined with Mayor Jerry Sanders to introduce San Diego to the inaugural leadership of the newly formed Balboa Park Conservancy. The Conservancy, created through a multi-year public process aimed at ensuring the Park's long term viability, will provide marketing and fundraising support to the City's crown jewel. Modeled after successful organizations in New York, St. Louis, San Francisco and Denver, the Balboa Park Conservancy, with the guidance of the 11 dedicated civic leaders introduced in September, will strengthen the public park through improved infrastructure and program development. "I look forward to working with the Conservancy and am confident its members share my commitment to preserve our Park for generations to come," said Councilmember Gloria.



## Community Connection: The Todd Squad is Working for You!

### Infrastructure Improvements

- Upas St. between 33rd St. and Bancroft St. will be resurfaced by the end of summer 2011.
- Herman Ave. from Thorn St. to Upas St. will be slurry sealed by the end of summer 2011.
- The 2900 and 3000 blocks of Madison Ave. were determined to be worthy of resurfacing and were added to the City's backlog list and will be improved when funds are available.

### Community Character

- To combat personal car sales, two areas of 40th St. will be added to the proposed "No Car Sales" ordinance that is expected to be considered by the City Council this winter.
- Debris in violation of the Municipal Code was cleared from a property near Park Blvd. and Polk Ave.
- Tree clippings and construction debris left by a City contractor were cleared

from multiple parking spaces near John Adams Elementary School in time for the Adams Ave. Street Fair.

- Construction materials left behind by City staff were cleared from various locations on Madison Ave.
- Construction materials were removed from 39th St. following extensive City repairs to a broken fire hydrant.
- An alternate parking location was found for a business near University Ave. and 10th Ave. in Hillcrest which was challenged by nearby construction.
- A sidewalk barrier and curbing were installed on a section of Hawley Blvd. to eliminate flooding problems that plagued the neighborhood for years.

### Public Safety

A swarm of bees near Violet St. and Pepper Dr. was addressed thanks to Council District Three's work with County Vector Control

- The pavement at the intersection of 42nd St. and Polk Ave. will be repaired and striped with crosswalks and stop lines.
- Several curbs along thoroughfares in City Heights were repainted.
- Fallen tree limbs and brush were cut back from Aldine Dr. near Fairmount Ave.
- Multiple street lights were repaired in Kensington.

### Coffee with your Councilmember

Councilmember Gloria invites neighbors to meet casually at community coffees throughout District Three.

Please come by at any time during the hours listed to take the opportunity to share your thoughts with the Councilmember.

Saturday, November 13  
10:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.  
Super Cocina  
3627 University Ave.

## Public Safety Update

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ones, and your home. Whether you are home or away, please lock your windows and doors. For those who enjoy fresh air, please invest in window locks and ensure your windows cannot open wider than a few inches. Learn more about home security: <http://www.sandiego.gov/police/prevention/homesecl.html>.

I offer my most sincere thanks to the San Diego Police Department. San Diego is safer thanks to the diligence and follow-through of all officers involved.

I am also grateful to the neighbor who alerted the police to the offender's last attempted burglary. This individual's vigilance improved the safety of our entire community.

### Montclair Taggers Arrested

In August, I had the joy of joining with local families and kids to cut the ribbon on the new playground at North Park's Montclair Neighborhood Park. The playground equipment had been unusable for three years since a drunk driver damaged the previous equipment. I was devastated to learn the very next day that the equipment had been extensively tagged.

Thankfully, our San Diego Police Department understood the grave nature of this crime against the community, and on September 6, two individuals suspected of the tagging crime were arrested. Officers Wuehler and Craft contacted two male juveniles who were emerging

from a restricted storm drain area in the canyon area of Montclair Park. Upon contact, Officer Craft saw "suer" written on one of the juveniles' shoes and recognized it as one of the tags found on several park light posts, benches, and the play structure.

The suspect admitted to vandalizing the park upon questions from the officers. Both suspects later identified their tagging in photographs that were taken at Montclair Park. They were booked into Juvenile Hall for felony vandalism. Other cases involving the two are pending.

I am extremely grateful to Officers Wuehler and Craft and all of Sergeant Cedrun's team for their investigative ability and focus on this crime. Without this arrest, these two juveniles could have continued to use the City of San Diego as their canvas to further their illegal activities.

The work in these two cases demonstrate the effectiveness and professionalism our police officers bring to their efforts every day. The idea that we may be forced to cut more than 100 sworn officers by July 1, 2011 because the City lacks sufficient revenue devastates me and will devastate the quality of life throughout San Diego. We cannot take for granted the security our first responders provide through law enforcement, crime prevention, firefighting, and rescue services.



## South Park Schools Announce Academic Achievement

Albert Einstein Academies announced on September 14 their standings on the Academic Performance Index (API) at a celebratory event featuring stories and presentations from students as well as comments from San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria and San Diego School Board member Richard Barrera.

The elementary and middle schools, led respectively by principals Jeannette Vaughn and David Sciarretta, have managed to excel in an era of budget cuts thanks to well-rounded programs and involvement with the prestigious International Baccalaureate (IB) program.

As IB-affiliated schools, Albert Einstein Academies focus on the whole child instead of specifically gearing all lessons on standardized testing. The schools are co-located at 3035 Ash

St. and have positively impacted the diverse South Park neighborhood of San Diego.

"Albert Einstein Academies deserve the community's congratulations for demonstrating academic excellence," said Councilmember Todd Gloria, who represents the area. "The schools are also terrific community partners, a benefit that should be counted among their many successes."

The API scores were notable for several reasons. Albert Einstein Elementary School excelled 11 points beyond last year's API mark. The middle school gained 62 points over the previous year's API score, making it the highest ranked middle school in Metro San Diego and the 8<sup>th</sup> overall middle school in the San Diego Unified School District.

## Tracking Todd

In September, Councilmember Gloria enjoyed spending time at many gatherings that make Council District Three so special. In addition to Coffee with Your Councilmember, held at Zio's Restaurant on El Cajon Blvd., he discussed neighborhood issues at the Adams Avenue Street Fair, helped out with California Coastal Clean Up Day, participated in AIDS Walk, welcomed people to design charrettes for ongoing community plan updates, and enjoyed a variety of additional events.

Right, the Councilmember thanks a young volunteer at a Coastal Clean Up Day site. Below, he pauses with friends toward the end of AIDS Walk.



## Upcoming Events

### Walk to School Day in City Heights

Wednesday, October 6  
7:00 a.m.  
Cherokee Point

### Annual NAMI Awards Dinner

Friday, October 8  
6:00 p.m.  
Catamaran Hotel  
3999 Mission Blvd.

### San Diegans for Safe Schools Rally and Vigil

Sunday, October 17, 6:00 p.m.  
Education Center Lawn  
4100 Normal St.

### LGBT Community Center's 37th Anniversary Gala

Saturday, October 23, 6:00 p.m.  
Hilton San Diego Bayfront  
One Park Blvd.

## Councilmember Gloria serves on the following:

- Chair, Land Use and Housing Committee
- Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
- Budget and Finance 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

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