

# News from Councilmember Todd Gloria

## District Three

# DIALOGUE



City of San Diego

February 2011 Volume 3, Issue 2

### Birney Joint Use Field is Open!



After more than a dozen years of effort by countless individuals, the Birney Joint Use Willie Serrano Field was officially opened by Councilmember Todd Gloria on January 28. The renovations include a 1.6-acre irrigated turf field, a new jogging track, and entry gates from Park Blvd. and Meade Ave. Joining Todd for the event were Mayor Jerry Sanders, Park and Recreation Department Director Stacey LoMedido, Marcia Boruta of the University Heights Recreation Council, School Board Member Richard Barrera and Amanda Hammond-Williams, Principal of Birney Elementary.

### Redevelopment Benefits San Diego

By Councilmember Todd Gloria

Redevelopment has received a lot of state-wide attention since Governor Brown proposed to eliminate redevelopment agencies as part of his plan to address the state budget deficit.

As Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Redevelopment, this is of great concern. On January 24, the City Council stood up for San Diego and approved a resolution opposing the Governor's proposal.

Redevelopment impacts all of our neighborhoods, directly and indirectly. In addition to well-known downtown projects like the original Horton Plaza, Petco Park and the proposed expansion of the convention center, redevelopment has been a catalyst for remarkable turnaround in North Park and City Heights in my district, and it helps fund infrastructure investments which otherwise would either have to come from our challenged General Fund or wouldn't happen at all. Redevelopment spurs private investment and heightened economic development, which has created more jobs for our region.

Taking redevelopment away as a tool for local prosperity is a short-sighted proposal that would be detrimental to San Diegans and Californians.

COUNCILMEMBER TODD GLORIA  
INVITES YOU TO JOIN HIM FOR THE  
**STATE OF DISTRICT THREE**

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2011  
6:30 P.M.

THE BIRCH NORTH PARK THEATRE  
2891 UNIVERSITY AVENUE

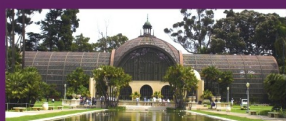
RSVPs ARE REQUESTED  
(619) 236-6633 TODDGLORIA@SANDIEGO.GOV



Balboa Park City Heights Golden Hill Hillcrest Kensington  
Normal Heights North Park South Park Talmadge University Heights

### District Three Dialogue

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## City Council Round Up

### Payday Lending Restrictions

To address the impacts of payday lending establishments on communities in Council District Three, Councilmember Todd Gloria is advocating the State Legislature enact legislation capping the interest rates charged by such establishments at 36%.

Payday lenders in California commonly charge interest rates as high as 459% for a two-week \$300 loan.

At Councilmember Gloria's request, the issue was included in the City's 2011 Legislative Program, which was approved by the City Council in early February.

"Payday lending establishments have been shown to engage in exploitative lending practices that can result in increased costs to taxpayers and the overall community through personal bankruptcy filings, delinquent loan collection, police auctions of personal property, lost rent payments and personal debts," said Councilmember Gloria.

City staff will now work with state legislators to enact the requested legislation.

### Community Gardens: Coming Soon?

On January 18, Councilmember Gloria asked City staff to develop a Community Gardens Ordinance. Future issues of the District Three Dialogue will include updates on its development.

### Creative Park Partnership

City Council recently approved plans to expand a downtown park to create a new public square on the outskirts of Westfield Horton Plaza. The public square renovation would be aided by approximately \$8 million in funding from the Centre City Development Corporation. Westfield would be responsible for demolition and maintenance costs at the park for 25 years. The 1.5-acre park is expected to be completed by late 2013.

### Medicinal Marijuana Dispensaries

An ordinance to regulate medicinal marijuana dispensaries was heard by the Planning Commission on January 20 and will next be considered by the full City Council.

### Interim Height Ordinance in Uptown

Councilmember Gloria gained his Council colleagues' support to have staff develop an extension of the Interim Height Ordinance, which restricts building heights, to last until the Uptown Community Plan Update is adopted. The extension will be considered in the next 180 days.

### Water Rates

To accommodate the new amounts charged to the City by the San Diego County Water Authority, the City Council recently approved new water rates. The Council is also looking into ensuring that the Water Authority's rates are appropriate and the City's water users are not overpaying.

## San Diego Police Perform Successful Blitz

On January 14 and 29, the San Diego Police Department performed successful blitz operations in North Park.

The operations resulted in the following significant results:

- 5 Felony Arrests
- 6 Misdemeanor Arrests
- 6 DUI Arrests
- 4 Misdemeanor Citations
- 40 Traffic Citations
- 9 Vehicle Impounds
- 5 Traffic Warnings
- 89 Field Interviews
- 1 Detention

Councilmember Todd Gloria, who visited the command on the evening of January 14, praised the officers.

"I am extremely grateful for the efforts of our police personnel in these operations and for their work every day," said the Councilmember. "It is good news that crime is down Citywide, and efforts like these blitzes will help ensure greater safety throughout District Three."

## "Park at the Art": Creative Pieces Added to North Park Parking Garage



On January 19, Councilmember Todd Gloria, Mayor Jerry Sanders and several neighbors gathered to celebrate the completion of a \$70,000 redevelopment project to cover the outside walls of the North Park Parking Garage with artwork.

Sixteen large panels are now seen on all sides of the garage, which is near the Birch North Park Theatre.

"This will always be a priority to this community, because we're unique," said Councilmember Gloria said. "We want redevelopment, but we want it on our terms. And that revolves around art and culture."

The art was provided for free by artist and 16-year North Park resident Blair Thornley. Redevelopment funds were used for the \$70,000 installation. Thornley's art has been seen in many well-known publications. The pieces featured on the parking garage are diverse and playful and include representations of animals driving cars, people dancing, and an opera singer.

In an interview, Thornley said she took on the project at no charge to reach out and connect with her community.

"It should be something that interacts with people as they walk by, makes them think and makes them smile," Thornley said. "I really wanted people to smile when they walk by the garage."

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

### Public Safety

Councilmember Todd Gloria moderated "Keeping San Diego Communities Safe: A Discussion on Hate Crimes and Public Safety in the New Year" on January 10 at the San Diego LGBT Community Center.

The forum included an overview of the process for investigating and prosecuting potential hate crimes; presentations from the San Diego Police Department, the San Diego County District Attorney's Office, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation; hate crimes scenarios; and a question and answer session.

- Streetlights were replaced at Meade Ave. and Oregon St.
- The Council District Three office helped a small business owner on the 3800 block of 30th St. resolve a false alarm issue with the San Diego Police Department.
- An investigation determined that neither a crosswalk nor a traffic signal were warranted at the intersection of El Cajon Blvd. and Mississippi St.
- Residents in Talmadge will be given additional time and assistance from

staff in complying with necessary brush clearing requirements after follow up from the District Three office.

### Infrastructure Improvements

- Asphalt repairs were completed in the 4100 block of Bachman Pl.
- Montecito Ave. was repaved and crosswalks were repainted at the corners of Bachman Dr., First Ave., and Front St.
- Signal timing on the 805 off-ramps at University Ave., El Cajon Blvd. and Adams Ave. will be coordinated with Caltrans.
- Large cracks in the street on Mountain View Dr. will be sealed and repaired
- A large waterline trench spanning Biona Dr. in Kensington has been filled and repaired.
- Potholes were filled in the 3800 block of Fairmount Ave., at Crestwood Pl. and Robinson Ave., in the 1400 block of Upas St. near an ADA ramp, in the alley behind the 4100 block of Adams Ave., Adams Ave. and Marlborough Dr. and at University Ave. and Fourth Ave.

### Community Character

- Neighborhood Code Compliance (NCCD) issued citations to a property owner in the 4200 block of Myrtle Ave.
- A couch was removed from the 4300 block of Hamilton St.
- A resident conducting auto repairs in the street and in violation of code was cited and vehicles were removed following reports and requests to NCCD.
- Graffiti on a utility box at Adams Ave. and 39<sup>th</sup> St. was removed.
- Newspaper advertisement sections littered in near Madison and Hamilton were cleared following a notification from the District Three office to the Union-Tribune.
- Construction paint markings on private property on Palisades Rd. in Kensington were removed.
- Construction paint markings were removed from Caminito Fuente.
- A fallen canary island palm tree in Balboa Park near the 163 was replanted.

## Water Conservation Garden of the Month: Pete and Connie in Burlingame

Congratulations to Pete and Connie di Girolamo for being selected as the Water Conservation Garden of the Month for February 2011!

Their home in the 2400 block of Pamo Drive in Burlingame is a lush display of low-water plants, rocks and pavers and proves that a yard need not be bare or minimalist to save water.



### Call for Submissions:

#### Where are the Best Water Conservation Gardens?

Each issue of the District Three Dialogue will feature a local garden that is both beautiful and water-conscious. Submissions including the address and photo(s) of your favorite drought-tolerant yards are welcome. Please send your suggestions to [ToddGloria@sandiego.gov](mailto:ToddGloria@sandiego.gov). Don't be afraid to submit your own!

## Upcoming Events

### 2nd Annual Lunar New Year Tet Celebration

Saturday, February 5, 11:00 a.m.  
Hoover High, 4474 El Cajon Blvd.

### Lambda Archives 4th Annual Leaders Event

Friday, February 11, 6:00 p.m.  
LGBT Community Center, 3909 Centre St.

### Coffee with your Councilmember

Saturday, February 12, 10:00—11:30 a.m.  
Alchemy, 1503 30th St.

### North Park Planning Committee

Tuesday, February 15, 6:30 p.m.  
North Park Christian Fellowship  
2901 North Park Way

### State of District Three Wednesday, February 23, 6:30 p.m.

Birch North Park Theatre  
2891 University Ave.

## Tracking Todd



Above, Todd honored outgoing Director of the Adams Avenue Business Association Dave McCann at the AABA Annual Meeting on January 18.



Above, the new CorePower Yoga opened in North Park on January 29 when Todd and North Park Main Street's Elizabeth Studebaker cut the ribbon.



Above, Councilmember Gloria honored the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation for its work at the City Council meeting on January 11.

Left, Todd joined elected leaders from throughout the region on January 31 to fight against the elimination of redevelopment agencies at a rally in City Heights.

### 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

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