



**CITY OF SAN DIEGO
OFFICE OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM ANTHONY YOUNG**



WEEKLY UPDATE SEPTEMBER 6, 2006

City Council Actions

I will be out of the City on September 6, 2006 attending and actively participating in a Gang Symposium. This very important symposium sponsored by the National District Attorney's Association and the American Prosecution Research Institute, will provide me the opportunity to hear about and learn about various strategies and programs from throughout the nation that have proven successful in addressing gang prevention and intervention. We will also be devising strategies and collaborating with subject matter experts and other elected officials to create a "Gang Response Model" that will assist San Diego and cities throughout the nation in addressing gang violence and prevention.

The Council is on summer recess. However today, the Council will be convening a Special Meeting at 1:00 p.m to consider the Mayor's response to the Kroll Report's remediation plan.

I applaud and support the Mayor and his management team for their efforts to assertively begin the process of reviewing and implementing remedial recommendations contained in the Kroll Report. However, I am also supportive of the IBA's approach and recommendations contained in her report.

In my opinion the one main point that was driven home by the Kroll Report is that this City got into a financial crisis because actions and decisions were made out of political expediency and not given thorough, careful, and prudent considerations necessary for financial decisions relating to issuance of bonds, pension benefits and/or sewer rates.

It has been often said that those who cannot remember and learn from the past are condemned to repeat it. I recognize that it is important to send a message to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), KMPG, and Macias Ginni & O'Connell that we are acting expeditiously to implement a new financial organizational structure and implement new financial practices and procedures that make this City financially sound and operating with the highest standards of integrity. However, the Kroll report, at this time is a report from consultants. **We must not forget that the SEC, as I understand it, is the entity that will provide us with a blueprint for action that is backed up by the courts.** Furthermore, we have to also consider SDCER's response to the Kroll report and factor their responses into the new financial system we implement. It is my hope and desire that the SEC will act very soon to give favorable consideration of remedial acts we are both considering and promptly implementing in a feasible manner that does not further erode our abilities to provide and maintain core city services to the residents of San Diego.

I have a strong commitment to eliminating the financial practices of the past that have done severe harm to the City and its residents. Accepting the Mayor's and IBA's reports are a beginning step in the dialogue this entire city has a stake in being a part of. It is my hope that on Wednesday you take actions regarding these two reports that leave me and the citizens of San Diego an opportunity for further discussions and to have questions answered pertaining to some of the proposals in the Kroll Report.

If you would like to read the Report, please go to the city's web site at www.sandiego.gov.

The Council approved an ordinance to ban smoking at all public beaches, parks, and open areas in July of 2006. The ban went into effect on August 17, 2006. The Mayor has the discretion to designate "smoking permitted" areas. The Park and Recreation staff is currently taking requests to appear before interested groups/organizations to get input on any specific locations you may want to recommend for exemptions from this ban. The

deadline for submitting recommendations is September 30, 2006. For suggestions or more information please contact Andy Field at (619) 525-8213.

You May Want To Know...

The 2nd Annual “Back to School Fair” held on Saturday, August 26th was a huge success. One of the most beautiful things to see was the smiles on faces of the thousands of children who received free back packs and school supplies. Again, I want to thank all of the sponsors, collaborating organizations, volunteers and staff that helped make this year’s Fair a success.

The 2nd Annual Filipino Heritage Festival will be held October 7, 2006 on Paradise Valley Road between Potomac and Mundo Roads in the beautiful 4th District community of Paradise Hills. This year’s event will feature a tribute to the Centennial Anniversary of the first Filipino immigrants arriving in the United States. There will be vendors, food booths, and daylong entertainment for all the communities of San Diego to enjoy. If you would like to participate as a vendor or entertainer and/or need additional information, please contact Lizel Mangonon at (619) 236-7273.

My office and the Environmental Services Department continue to conduct special community cleanup events under the auspices of my 21st Century Community Initiative. Over (39) tons of waste and recyclables was collected from the Lomita community on August 5th. At least (9) tons of waste and recyclables was collected from the Jamacha community on August 8th. At least (10) tons of waste and recyclables was collected from the Valencia Park community on August 17th. Several tons of waste and recyclables was collected from the Oak Park community on August 22, 2006. I thank the many community residents and volunteers who participated in these events and a special thanks to community cleanup organizers and City staff including Mary Joe Lofton Bruce, Richard Lujan, Victor Valdez, Christopher Penman, Michael Flores, Sylvia Sowadski and Kip Sturdevan.

The San Diego Mediation Center, provides county and city funded Community Mediation service at no cost to the participating parties.

In mediation, people involved in disputes meet together in the presence of a neutral, NCRC - trained mediator who works with the parties to arrive at a solution that is agreeable to all. The mediators are not judges or arbitrators. They will not decide for the parties, but help explore possibilities and work out a fair solution. The process saves time and court costs and can help to build stronger relationships and communities with productive rather than destructive conflict.

They deal with small business issues, consumer/merchant, landlord/tenant, neighbor, parent/teen, family, elder care, and many other disputes. They also have fee-based mediation services for Divorce Mediation and more complex business negotiations. Mediator training in the U.S. and internationally is also provided.

To find out more about NCRC and the San Diego Mediation Center, please visit www.ncrconline.com, or phone 619-238-2400.

Thank you for reading my E-mail Message for the Week. If you would like to receive this E-mail on a regular basis, please e-mail me at anthonyyoung@sandiego.gov.