



News from
Councilmember Todd Gloria

City of San Diego ▪ District Three

MEDIA RELEASE

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Contact: Katie Keach, 858-245-7673

Hillcrest Honors Pernicano Family for Opening Parking Lot After 25 Years
Lot Adds Parking Spaces and Reactivates the Block

SAN DIEGO, CA (June 18, 2010) – After 25 years, the gates around the Pernicano's parking lot in Hillcrest are down, a feat some community members are referring to as the Miracle on Sixth Avenue. Today, San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria and the people of Hillcrest honored the Pernicano family with a celebration of reopening the parking lot and reactivating the block between University and Robinson Avenues.

"I am thankful to the Pernicano family for opening their property for public use," said Councilmember Gloria. **"The parking spaces will be well-used, and the positive activity will bring life back to this block."**

The Pernicano property, including the parking lot and neighboring restaurants Pernicano's and Casa di Baffi's Steakhouse, has been fenced off for decades, much to the chagrin of the surrounding community, especially those who recall the site in its heyday from the 1960s through the 1980s.

Working with Hillcrest neighbors and organizations including the Uptown Partnership, Hillcrest Business Association and Hillcrest Town Council, Councilmember Gloria has championed the addition of much-needed parking and the strengthening of community character. When the Pernicano family suggested a willingness to reopen the parking lot, both needs were met.

"Having closed the restaurants on Fifth and Sixth Avenues years ago, the Pernicanos felt it was time to give back to the Hillcrest community by opening this public parking lot," said Stanley Paul Cook, spokesperson for the Pernicano family.

The community celebration featured comments from Cook, Anne Rast from Uptown Partnership, Amy Capano representing the Hillcrest Business Association, and Patrick Ryan of Sunset Parking. All in attendance expressed gratitude to the Pernicano family for sharing this asset with the neighborhood.

The lot was repaved and restriped to allow for 36 parking spaces. An automated payment system was added, and the lot will be professionally managed by Sunset Parking under its *Parking Company of America – San Diego* brand. The lot is open and reasonably priced, with rates ranging from \$2 for the first hour to \$5 for up to nine hours.

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