



March 2016
Volume 8 Issue 3

Councilmember
Todd Gloria proudly
represents

Balboa Park

Bankers Hill/Park West

Downtown

Golden Hill

Hillcrest

Middletown

Mission Hills

Normal Heights

North Park

Old Town

South Park

University Heights

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San Diego Approves Initiative to House 1,000 Veterans

By Councilmember Todd Gloria

This month the San Diego City Council unanimously approved San Diego's *1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative*, a \$12.5 million effort to house our City's homeless veterans. This is the fourth initiative of *Housing First—San Diego*, a three year Homelessness Action Plan and includes components focused on landlord incentives, rapid rehousing vouchers, and supportive services. It is estimated that between 1,000 and 1,200 homeless veterans live in the County of San Diego, so this program could effectively end veteran homelessness in San Diego.

The program is a collaboration between the City and the San Diego Housing Commission and utilizes millions in Federal, City, and Housing Commission resources including \$4 million recently approved by the City Council. No one who served our nation in uniform should be homeless. Tragically, one of the most vulnerable populations when it comes to falling into chronic homelessness are our heroes who served to preserve our nation's freedoms: our veterans.

Not a day goes by that I don't hear from my constituents that San Diego needs to do more to reduce the number of people living on our streets. The message I want to get out to San Diegans is that there is a way to end homelessness by following the Housing First model. This month, Connecticut joined the state of Utah, and cities like New Orleans and Phoenix in ending veteran homelessness. The *1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative* is in line with Housing First principles and I am confident that once veteran homelessness is drastically reduced we will have a roadmap to house other populations.

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Mid-City Gets a New Dog Park



Councilmember Todd Gloria joined Park and Recreation staff and community members to cut the ribbon on an interim dog park in the Mid-City community of Normal Heights this February. The new dog park was opened nearly a year to the day of a rally sponsored by the Normal Heights Community Association calling the City to provide the much needed space for pet owners.

Dozens of pet owners brought their dogs to the opening of the 20,500 square foot facility. The park includes dog friendly ground covering,

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Join Councilmember Gloria for Coffee in University Heights

March 19, 9:00—11:00 a.m.

Lestat's on Park- 4494 Park Boulevard



Art of the Open Air on Display in Balboa Park

Councilmember Todd Gloria joined representatives from the San Diego Museum of Art and the City's Commission on Arts and Culture to unveil seven sculptures on display in Balboa Park's Plaza de Panama. The exhibit is titled *Art of the Open Air* and is a collaborative project between the museum and the City of San Diego. It features seven sculptures by internationally renowned artists including Auguste Rodin, Joan Miró, Lynn Chadwick, and Tony Rosenthal.

The San Diego Museum of Art raised over \$250,000 through crowdfunding and other donations to fund the exhibit, which is free to the public. The funds paid for the restoration of the artwork, installation, security, and lighting.

"Plaza de Panama has evolved into a wonderful public space and serves as the perfect stage to connect park patrons to the artwork inside the surrounding museums. I am grateful to the San Diego Museum of Art for this investment which showcases Balboa Park's ability to shine as a premier institution dedicated to the promotion of arts and culture," said Councilmember Gloria.

The display features seven large-scale sculptures from the museum's internationally significant sculpture collection. Councilmember Gloria was joined by Roxana Velásquez, Executive Director of the San Diego Museum of Art, and Dana Springs, Executive Director of the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture. These priceless sculptures were previously confined to storage but were restored as part of this effort.

Art of the Open Air will be on display until February 13, 2018.



County Puts Forward Initiative to Stop the Spread of HIV

The San Diego County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the *Getting to Zero* initiative this month designed to end the HIV/AIDS epidemic in San Diego County. Councilmember Todd Gloria participated in the Ad Hoc Task Force to Address HIV Education, Prevention, Testing and Treatment which offered its recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

"I am grateful for the leadership shown by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors in taking this momentous step towards connecting the 20,000 residents living with HIV/AIDS with treatments in order to stop the spread of the disease," said Councilmember Gloria. "The *Getting to Zero* initiative is a meaningful commitment to the public health of all San Diegans to drastically reduce and perhaps eliminate new HIV infections."

The recommendations from the task force were as follows:

- Develop a media campaign or campaigns to provide general education as well as targeted education to individuals at high risk for infection;
- Engage private healthcare systems, including independent medical providers treating HIV disease and Medi-Cal managed care plans, to ensure the availability of routine, opt-out HIV testing;
- Develop action plans for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP), two medical interventions that can prevent HIV infection;
- Implement strategies to utilize surveillance and Ryan White program data to identify individuals who are out of care and bring them into care;
- Develop and incorporate specific, culturally appropriate strategies for addressing the needs of populations that are disproportionately impacted by HIV; and
- Develop a policy that will focus the County of San Diego, its programs and partners on ending the HIV epidemic over the next decade.

The Board of Supervisors directed their Chief Administrative Officer to bring back an implementation plan for the task force's goals and recommendations within 120 days.

Community Connection: The Todd Squad is Working for You

Strengthening Public Safety

- Street lights were repaired on B Street from 20th Street to 24th Street, as well as at 2000 Carolina Drive and 2510 El Cajon Boulevard.
- Graffiti was removed from several locations on B Street from 28th Street to 30th Street, the Georgia Street Bridge, 2836 30th Street, 1287 29th Street, 2404, 2835, 2444, and 2004 University Avenue, and San Diego Avenue.
- Continental crosswalks with flashing beacons were installed on Fern Street at Ivy Street.

Infrastructure Investment

- The water heater was repaired at the Golden Hill Recreation Center.
- Potholes were repaired at 30th Street and University Avenue, A Street and 26th Street, and Park Boulevard and University Avenue.
- Major street repairs were done at First Avenue and Laurel Street.
- A water leak at the intersection of 34th Street and Meade Avenue was repaired.

- As part of the North Park Main Street Red Sidewalks Replacement Project, sidewalks were replaced on the north side of University Avenue between Ohio Street and the alley east of 30th Street. Work on the portion from the alley to 30th Street is ongoing and will be completed within 30 days, pending weather conditions.

Community Character

- Ornamentation on the East Arcade in Balboa Park was repaired.
- A decorative trash can was repaired at North Park Way and 29th Street.
- An illegal encampment was abated at the 3500 block of 4th Avenue as well as at the 600 block of Robinson Ave.
- Angled parking on the 4000 block of Goldfinch St. was converted to head-in parking, creating an additional four parking spots.
- Illegally dumped debris was abated from the 4800 block of Kenmore Terrace.

Smart Meters Mean Smart Payment Options

San Diego's new smart meters just got a little bit smarter thanks to a new pilot program which allows them to accept mobile payments. The pilot, which has been in effect at 840 meters in the Uptown communities since September, was just extended to 443 additional meters in the Gaslamp District. When the smart meters were first approved by the City Council, Councilmember Todd Gloria requested staff explore ways to utilize the new technology to improve customer experience and maximize meter revenue, which is invested right back into parking management solutions.



The pilot comes at no cost to the City and payments are administered through an agreement with Parkmobile, a mobile application which accepts payments at thousands of locations internationally, including major cities such as Boston, San Francisco, and Seattle. The Parkmobile application is universal and will accept payments at any participating location in the United States.



Last year, the City completed a project to bring over 4,500 parking meters into the 21st Century to allow for credit card payments. The silver topped meters, designed and manufactured by San Diego based IPS Group, have already proven to be a benefit to the City, which has seen a nearly \$900,000 increase in revenues over last year as a direct result of the smart meters. The increase in revenue has been attributed to customers' ability to max out the time through credit card payments as opposed to being limited to the change they have available. The meters also provide the City with information about parking trends to allow leaders to make informed decisions about pricing and meter placement. The data allows for more effective management of limited parking resources.

Future opportunities enabled by mobile payments include validation programs where businesses pay a fee to the City, which can then go towards offsetting parking costs for patrons who parked at a meter. The pilot program is expected to last six months to allow staff to evaluate performance and inform decisions on a City-wide program.

Mid-Year Report Shows Positive City Finances

The San Diego City Council unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2016 Mid-Year Budget Monitoring Report this month. Councilmember Todd Gloria, who has chaired the Budget and Government Efficiency Committee for six years, spoke in favor of recommendations for budget adjustments including \$4 million for the City's *1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative*.

The annual mid-year report provides an opportunity for the City Council to compare the current year's adopted budget with the first two quarters' performance to make budget adjustments and authorize new appropriations.

The report projects a \$7.6 million surplus based on a net \$3.7 million increase in revenue and \$3.9 million in decreases in expenditures. The revenue increase was a result of strong hotel tax numbers and state legislation that freed up local funding, while the \$3.9 million decrease in expenditures was due to efficiencies in information technology, lower than expected energy and gasoline costs, and water conservation.

"Higher than anticipated revenues, a low unemployment rate, and rising property values translate to increased funding for City services and programs," said Councilmember Gloria. "Overall, the fiscal reforms the Council has enacted over the years along with the oversight provided by the Budget Committee have prepared San Diego's financial outlook to remain strong despite slowing growth and economic uncertainties."

The Council approved the recommendation to utilize \$5.8 million in surplus funds to replenish the City's Public Liability Reserve, though the reserve would still be approximately \$8 million short of meeting the targets set by the City's reserve policy. The remainder of the surplus was recommended to be set aside to address any year end variances.

The report was released the same week Moody's Investors Service affirmed the Aa2 issuer rating and A1 lease revenue bond ratings on the City of San Diego. Moody's noted "strong fiscal management with closely monitored budgets" as one of the City's strengths and a reason for reaffirming its credit rating. The report highlights expected continued strength in the City's tax base citing the lowest unemployment rate in nine years, ongoing strength in the local economy, and strong median housing sales prices.

"I appreciate that Moody's attributes the City's rating to a 'strong and improving financial position marked by growing reserves and policy targets' and will continue to support policies to ensure the City's fiscal health remains strong" said Councilmember Gloria.

Help to Others (H2O) Program to Protect Access to Water

The City of San Diego's Environment Committee approved a new program to provide assistance to low income San Diegans with paying their water bills. During the hearing for water rate increases approved by the City Council in November of last year, Councilmember Gloria requested City staff develop a program to help residents struggling to keep up with rising living costs.

City staff from the Public Utilities Department presented a report which recommended establishing a fund for the program, titled *Help to Others* or *H2O*, as well as a timeline for its rollout. The program as proposed would solicit donations from ratepayers through an insert included on residents' water bills. Upon gaining Council approval, staff would begin mailing the inserts in late spring to estimate the level of donations expected for the program over a six to eight month period before returning to Committee for additional direction.

"Access to water is a basic right," said Councilmember Gloria. "We must provide an option for low income and fixed income San Diegans to avoid shut offs and maintain their access to that vital resource in light of recent rate increases. Today's action is the first step towards establishing that option through the low income ratepayer assistance fund and I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Council to ensure the program is a success."

The timeline provided by staff proposes the program would be available in July of 2017 and could impact 10,000 households. Councilmember Gloria asked staff to explore options for providing the assistance earlier, as well as alternatives, such as corporate sponsorships or general fund allocations, to maximize revenue for the fund.

The item now moves on to the full City Council for their consideration.



SANDAG Breaks Ground on \$14.5 Million Bike Path



District Three Councilmember and SANDAG Transportation Committee Chair Todd Gloria joined Chairman Ron Roberts and Council President Pro Tem Marti Emerald to break ground on a \$14.5 million bike path. The path, first proposed in 1985, will connect Mid-City communities to the commercial, education, and entertainment destinations in Mission Valley.

The State Route 15 (SR 15) Commuter Bikeway will be a 12-foot wide separated bike facility providing a safe and direct bike route between Adams Avenue and Camino Del Rio South. The path comes as SANDAG is also constructing the Centerline project, which is adding dedicated *Rapid* bus lanes to the SR 15 corridor. Projects like the Bikeway and Centerline are regional commitments to provide true alternatives to transportation by car and will aid the City of San Diego in increasing mode share to meet goals set forth in its recently adopted Climate Action Plan. The path is slated to open in the summer of 2017.

Mid-City Gets New Dog Park *(continued from page 1)*

benches, shade structures, and pet waste dispensers. There are separated fenced facilities for large and small dogs.

In 2015, Councilmember Gloria acted to include \$100,000 in the City budget for construction of an interim dog park following a large rally held by community members highlighting the need for such a facility in their neighborhood. Members of the community collected over 1,200 signatures asking for an off-leash space for Mid-City residents to walk their pets. Now, one year later, that space is open and available for pet owners to use.

"I can't remember the last time a park amenity this impactful was built so quickly," Councilmember Gloria said. "Today's ribbon cutting should serve as a sign to the residents of Mid-City that the City is serious about investing in Ward Canyon Park and I will continue to advocate for funding the permanent expansion."

Councilmember Gloria has maintained that this interim solution does not lessen the need to identify funding for the permanent expansion and has called for phase one of the expansion to be included in the Mayor's fiscal year 2017 budget.

1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative *(continued from page 1)*

The initiative consists of four major components to implement its goals: landlord outreach, rapid rehousing assistance, Federal Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) vouchers, and Federal vouchers and services for homeless veterans that do not qualify for VASH vouchers. These components incentivize landlord participation through providing rent payments, security deposit and utility assistance, and contingency funds.

Housing homeless San Diegans is a regional effort, and this program adds to the County's *Project One for All* initiative to commit \$10 million towards behavioral and mental health services. As Chair of the Regional Continuum of Care, which serves as the regional taskforce on homelessness, we need all hands on deck to address one of San Diego's most serious challenges.



Landlords seeking information about the *1,000 Homeless Veterans Initiative* can call 619-578-7768 or email HousingOurHeroes@sdhc.org for more information.

Tracking Todd



1

1. Todd speaks before the San Diego Board of Supervisors in support of their *Getting to Zero* initiative, stressing the importance of stopping the spread of HIV in the region.

2. Todd joins students to celebrate National Read Across America Day, also known as Dr. Seuss Day.

3. Todd celebrates with Chief of Police Shelly Zimmerman to bring in the Year of the Monkey at the annual Chinese New Year Food & Cultural Fair.

4. Todd shows his love for man's best friend at the opening of the new dog park in Normal Heights along with many Mid-City neighbors.



2



4



3

Councilmember Todd Gloria serves on the following:

Chair, Budget and Government Efficiency Committee
 Member, Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee
 Member, Environment Committee
 Member, Smart Growth and Land Use Committee
 Chair, San Diego Regional Continuum of Care Governance Board

Chair Pro Tem, Metropolitan Transit System Board
 Member, San Diego Association of Governments Board
 Chair, SANDAG Transportation Committee
 Member, SANDAG Executive Committee
 Liaison, Civic San Diego

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