



June 2016  
Volume 8 Issue 6

Councilmember  
Todd Gloria proudly  
represents

*Balboa Park*

*Bankers Hill/Park West*

*Downtown*

*Golden Hill*

*Hillcrest*

*Midletown*

*Mission Hills*

*Normal Heights*

*North Park*

*Old Town*

*South Park*

*University Heights*

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## Horton Plaza Park Reopens to the Public

By Councilmember Todd Gloria

Last month, the City of San Diego celebrated the much anticipated reopening of Horton Plaza Park to the joy of hundreds of community members that came out to join in a day full of events and concerts. Horton Plaza has served as a cornerstone for Downtown San Diego since it was first given to the City by Alonzo Horton in 1870 and with this latest investment by the City and Westfield, it will continue to do so for generations to come.

The newly expanded Horton Plaza Park spans 53,000 square feet and serves as a dynamic urban plaza where San Diego residents and visitors alike can gather for special events and activities all year. The park includes plenty of tables and seating, as well as food and beverage kiosks, with partners including Starbucks and Sloan's Ice Cream.



The Irving Gill Fountain, one of San Diego's oldest civic landmarks, has been fully restored to its original condition from 1910. The new amphitheater, which sits in the footprint of former Robinson's May building, features an interactive jet fountain and eight 23-foot-tall color changing light sculptures. The space will host over 200 events a year ensuring Horton Plaza remains a point for community

*(Continued on page 4)*

## City of San Diego City Council Votes to Ban Spice

On May 23, the San Diego City Council voted unanimously to ban the sale, manufacture, possession, and distribution of Spice. The ordinance was swiftly brought forward by the City Attorney's Office and the San Diego Police Department following an April 7 memo from Councilmember Gloria outlining the urgent need for new regulations.

The new ordinance, which is expected to go into effect this month, targets a class of dangerous synthetic drugs responsible for sending people to emergency rooms at alarming rates. Councilmember Gloria also

*(Continued on page 5)*

Join Councilmember Gloria for  
Coffee in Hillcrest  
June 25, 1:00—3:00 p.m.  
Einstein Bros. Bagels  
420 Robinson Avenue



## Councilmember Gloria Breaks Ground on McKinley Joint Use Field

Councilmember Todd Gloria joined San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) Board Trustee, Richard Barrera, Superintendent Cindy Marten, and McKinley Elementary students and faculty to break ground on a 2.67 acre joint use park at the McKinley Elementary. "McKinley students have waited a long time for this improvement and I am happy it is becoming a reality today," Councilmember Gloria said. "I thank San Diego Unified for its partnership in making sure this new park can be used to benefit McKinley students as well as the community at large in the surrounding neighborhood."

In March, the San Diego City Council unanimously approved a joint use agreement with the District to open up the park at McKinley Elementary for public use when school is not in session. The District will construct the improvement, while the City will operate and maintain the joint use facilities for the entire term of the 25-year agreement.

The ground breaking came as a result of much public outreach during which Councilmember Gloria, the District, and City staff coordinated the park's design with the community and school. The project will include a natural turf field, shade trees, a drinking fountain, and hard courts. The cost of the improvements is estimated at \$2.2 million which will come from Proposition Z funds.

The ground breaking ceremony marked the beginning of construction for the project. SDUSD aims to have the park open by the end of the year.



## Downtown Mobility Plan

The Downtown Mobility Plan will be proceeding to the City Council this month after gaining approval from the Planning Commission and Smart Growth and Land Use Committee. The plan establishes policies, programs and projects that will improve overall mobility throughout the Downtown San Diego area. Funded by a SANDAG grant, the plan's goals include creating a network of "greenways," which provide wide pedestrian promenades similar to linear parks, and building a network of protected bikeways.

The Mobility Plan aims to encourage biking, walking, and transit use by increasing priority and safety for bicyclists and pedestrians through supportive facilities and amenities. The plan also seeks to provide desirable connections for all users to public parks, main shopping areas, entertainment facilities, major attractions, the waterfront, surrounding communities, and the regional transportation network. These goals will provide people Downtown with more safe mobility options while supporting reductions in greenhouse gas emissions as outlined by the City's Climate Action Plan.



## West Maple Canyon Mini Park Project Underway



The City of San Diego is currently constructing the West Maple Canyon Mini Park near the intersection of West Maple Street and Albatross Street. The project broke ground in May and will include the construction of retaining walls, fencing, paving, a new irrigation system, lighting, signage and ADA improvements. The historical monument will be preserved along with the existing tree southwest of the lot.

Construction is anticipated to take 220 working days and will be performed by Tri-Group Construction & Development, Inc. The park improvements include professional landscaping and will require 120 calendar days for plant establishment.



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

### Strengthening Public Safety

- Several mounds were removed from Children's Park to increase visibility for law enforcement.
- Street lights were repaired along Adams Avenue between 33rd Street and I-805 and at Broadway and 30th Street.
- Speed limit signs will be installed on 33rd Street between Meade Avenue and El Cajon Boulevard.
- A new all way stop sign will be installed at Mission Avenue and Monroe Avenue.
- Graffiti was removed from 3067 University Avenue.

### Infrastructure Investment

- A storm drain was fully cleared on the 2200 block of Guy Street in Mission Hills.
- A clogged drainage channel was cleared at 2361 Haller Street
- Additional traffic signage was installed on Pringle Street in Mission Hills.
- A red zone was installed to allow for driveway clearance on the 100 block of Robinson Avenue.

- Excessive red curb was removed at the 100 block of Robinson Avenue to create an additional parking spot for the neighborhood.

### Community Character

- Angled parking conversions were installed on Oregon Street between El Cajon Boulevard and Howard Avenue yielding a gain of 17 new parking spaces.
- Angled parking conversions were installed on F Street between 22nd Street and 24th Street yielding 3 new parking spaces and 3 new motorcycle spaces.
- New trees were planted in the Pepper Grove at Balboa Park during an Arbor Day event.
- An unnamed road leading to the baseball fields in Morley Field was dedicated as Joe Schloss Way, in recognition of Joe Schloss's 60 years coaching at North Park Little League.
- A business permitting issue was resolved at 3100 block of Hawthorn Street.
- Bike racks were repainted along University Avenue.

## City's Budget to be Decided June 13

Councilmember Todd Gloria, serving in his sixth year as Budget and Government Efficiency Chair, led the City Council in reviewing the Mayor's proposed Fiscal Year 2017 Budget proposal throughout the month of May. Each City department funded through the \$3.3 billion spending plan was reviewed by the City Council through a week of public hearings. Councilmember Gloria was clear that he wished to see greater investments towards improvements in Balboa Park, addressing police dispatch wait times, more historic staff for the Planning Department, and independent legal counsel for the City's Police Review Board on Police Practices.

The Mayor released his May Revise to the Budget on May 17. Approximately \$650,000 in additional resources were dedicated towards addressing police dispatch wait times. Facilities in Balboa Park also saw an investment of \$1.5 million in added allocations.

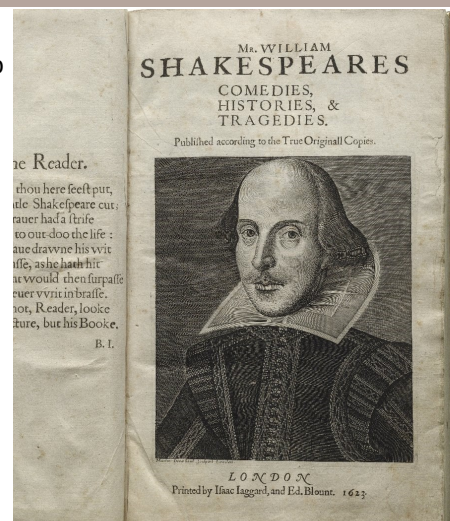
Councilmember Gloria is continuing to advocate for greater and more effective investments in Balboa Park's facilities. Gloria is also pushing for greater commitments towards the City's Penny for the Arts program. The Council will take a final vote to approve the FY17 Budget on June 13. Please be sure to contact our office or attend the hearing to participate in the this public process.

## Shakespeare's First Folio on Display at the San Diego Central Library

One of the world's most significant books is currently on display at the San Diego Central Library. The Old Globe and the San Diego Public Library secured San Diego as the only stop in California for *First Folio! The Book that Gave Us Shakespeare, on tour from the Folger Shakespeare Library*, a national traveling exhibition to commemorate the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death. The book in which 36 of William Shakespeare's plays were first assembled will be on display at the Central Library.

Shakespeare's First Folio, published in 1623, will be available for viewing and opened to the page with the line "To be or not to be" from *Hamlet*. Accompanying the rare book will be a multi-panel exhibit exploring the significance of the Folio. There will also be a large exhibition detailing Shakespeare's eight decades-long presence in San Diego on The Old Globe's stages, featuring original props, costumes, photographs and ephemera from the theatre's archive.

The exhibition opened to the public on June 4, and runs through Thursday, July 7.



## Horton Plaza Park Reopens to the Public *(continued from page 1)*

engagement, a public space worthy of serving the innovative and vibrant community members that visit it.

With March's groundbreaking for the new Bayside Fire Station, the opening of Fault Line Park and the County Water Front Park in the last few years, and many new developments on the way, Downtown San Diego is shining brightly as a key location to live, work, and play. Horton Plaza Park can once again serve as a central gathering space for San Diegans. I invite all residents, workers, and visitors Downtown to come and enjoy this new interactive 1.4-acre park in my district. I am proud to have another transformative project completed in my district.



## District Three Summer Concerts and Festivals

Summertime is the season for many annual festivals and street fairs in District Three, in addition to a number of concert series at neighborhood parks. Many community groups and organizations work hard to host these free events, so please take advantage of the opportunity and do your best to support these grass roots efforts.

- **El Cajon Boulevard Parklet Music Series**  
Sundays in June, 3-5 p.m.  
Alabama Street Parklet at 4237 Alabama Street
- **Mission Hills Concerts in the Park**  
June 17– July 22, Fridays, 6-8 p.m. unless noted  
Pioneer Park
- **Bird Park Concerts in the Park**  
June 11– August 9, Every other Saturday, 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Bird Park
- **Trolley Barn Park Concerts in the Park**  
July 8– August 5, Fridays, 6-8 p.m.  
Trolley Bard Park
- **Seaport Village Sunday Concerts**  
Sundays in June, 1-4 p.m.  
East Plaza Gazebo
- **South Park Old House Fair**  
Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
30th Street and Beech Street
- **San Diego LGBT Pride Parade and Festival**  
Saturday July 16, 11 a.m.  
University Avenue and Normal Street
- **City Fest**  
Sunday, August 14, 12 p.m.-11 p.m.  
5th Avenue and University Avenue

## Georgia Street Bridge Update

The Georgia Street Bridge capital improvement project is about to begin with a ground breaking planned in the next few months. The project has been awarded to a contractor and will soon proceed to construction.

In March of 2015, the City Council approved acceptance and expenditure of \$9.5 million of federal funds to complete construction of the project. The Georgia Street Bridge was initially constructed in 1914 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1998. The bridge requires seismic retrofitting and rehabilitation, and the city has been working with Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration to determine the most effective engineering alternatives to address the seismic, geometric and structural deficiencies in compliance with both Caltrans and historic guidelines.



Construction is anticipated to begin in summer of 2016 and last approximately one year.



## City of San Diego City Council Votes to Ban Spice *(continued from page 1)*



noted that taxpayers have spent \$3.2 million since March 2015 responding to over 350 emergency response calls related to spice, \$2.4 million for ambulances and \$800,000 for fire engines.

The ordinance contains the first comprehensive regulation of Spice, Bath Salts, and other psychoactive substances that mimic the effects of cannabis and other drugs. The effects of Spice include hallucinations, violent and combative behavior, paranoia, stroke, and often death.

Selling synthetic cannabinoid compounds like Spice has been illegal in California since 2012, with five specified chemicals banned by the State. However, Spice

manufacturers frequently change the drug with new and unknown chemicals and the state legislation has not kept up with banning these compounds. The City of Oceanside recently passed ambitious legislation prohibiting products containing various synthetic drugs. San Diego's new law will be the toughest Spice ordinance in California.

Increase of Spice related incidents in San Diego has been dramatic. The Downtown San Diego Partnership Clean & Safe Program recorded 161 Spice incidents in the Downtown core from January to March of 2016, a 500% increase over the previous three months. This dangerous, unpredictable, and unregulated drug is rampant in the Downtown community, putting users' lives at risk, tying up public safety personnel, and disturbing the quality of life in the neighborhood.

Councilmember Gloria saw the devastating effects of Spice first-hand during the annual WeAllCount homeless census, when he witnessed an 18-year-old overdose and learned of the frequency to which our first responders are dealing with Spice-related incidents. San Diego's neighborhoods will be safer thanks to the ban of this dangerous substance.

## Hotel Churchill Improvements to Provide 72 Units to Serve the Homeless

The historic Hotel Churchill renovation project is close to being finished. The building has been undergoing significant work as part of a San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) project to convert the hotel into 72 affordable studios for homeless individuals.

The project is one of the five key components of Housing First— San Diego, the City's Homelessness Action Plan, launched on November 12, 2014. The SDHC and its nonprofit affiliate, Housing Development Partners (HDP), have collaborated to preserve the much needed affordable housing. The \$20.5 million rehabilitation project will set aside 56 units for Veterans, 8 units for youth aging out of the foster care system, and 8 units for adults who will also need supportive services.



Councilmember Gloria has been a proponent of the project and others like it as they provide badly needed housing stock necessary to get homeless San Diegans off the streets and into permanent supportive housing. Gloria has championed the Housing First Model in the City of San Diego, a nationwide best practice centered on providing housing as quickly as possible, with supportive services as needed, to homeless individuals. Hotel Churchill will include on-site social services and case management for residents.

Built in 1914, Hotel Churchill is a seven-story building at the corner of Ninth Avenue and C Street, in the eastern part of downtown San Diego along the San Diego Trolley line.

The project is expected to be completed in July, after which tenants can be selected and served.



# Tracking Todd



1.

Todd Joins Councilmember Cate and members of Pacific Arts Movement and the Asian Business Association to proclaim May to be Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in the City of San Diego.

Todd and his team at Harley Gray for Dining Out For Life, an annual fundraiser to benefit AIDS service organizations.

Todd is presented with a commemorative plaque by Downtown residents at his community coffee event.

Todd poses with a custom Bike to Work Day donut from the Donut Bar at the San Diego Bicycle Coalition's pit stop.

Todd discusses neighborhood issues at the North Park Festival of Arts.



2.



5.



3.



4.

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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