



August 2016
Volume 8 Issue 8

Councilmember
Todd Gloria proudly
represents

Balboa Park

Bankers Hill/Park West

Downtown

Golden Hill

Hillcrest

Midtown

Mission Hills

Normal Heights

North Park

Old Town

South Park



University Heights

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City of San Diego Minimum Wage Now \$10.50

By Councilmember Todd Gloria

On June 7, 2016, San Diego voters approved the City Council's Earned Sick Leave and Minimum Wage Ordinance, and the law went into effect on July 11, 2016. The City of San Diego's minimum wage is now \$10.50 per hour and all workers are required to have access to a minimum of five earned sick days.

The law required the City Council to adopt an Implementing Ordinance to designate an Enforcement Office and establish a system to adjudicate complaints, as well as to order relief in cases of violations. On July 26, the City Council unanimously approved the Implementing Ordinance proposed by Councilmember Gloria, which will go into effect 30 days after the Mayor signs it into law.

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Earned Sick Leave and Minimum Wage Ordinance



Work Begins on Georgia Street Bridge Project

Councilmember Todd Gloria kicked off the commencement of work on the Georgia Street Bridge rehabilitation project, joined by U.S. Congresswoman Susan Davis, California State Assembly Speaker Emeritus Toni Atkins, and San Diego County Board of Supervisors Chairman Ron Roberts. Over the course of the next year, the 102-year-old bridge will undergo a complete seismic retrofit and rehabilitation.



"I am so proud the City of San Diego can finally begin work to repair and restore the historic Georgia Street Bridge, an iconic piece of infrastructure which has connected the communities of Hillcrest and North Park for over a century," said Councilmember Gloria.

(Continued on page 5)

Join Councilmember Gloria for Coffee in North Park

September 17, 10:00—11:30 a.m.

Communal Coffee
2335 University Avenue



San Diego Comes Out to Celebrate Pride

San Diego LGBT Pride welcomed over 100,000 people to Hillcrest over the July 15th weekend, including 20,000 visitors from out of town. This year, an economic impact report for the annual festivities was conducted by researchers at San Diego State University. The celebration was estimated to generate almost \$11 million in economic activity with each out of town guest spending \$560 on average. These dollars contribute to sales and tourism tax revenues which can be invested into roads and public services.

"I am glad to see so many people excited to come out and celebrate inclusivity with our community. Pride, at its core, is a political event. It is a time for our community to come together and stand up against hate, bigotry, and intolerance, promote equality, and to share in the pride of our incredibly diverse citizenry," Councilmember Todd Gloria said. "The event has a unique ability to unite our City in celebration of diversity."

Security was on high alert and the San Diego Police Department took every precaution to ensure that this year's festivities remained safe for all attendees. Several of the 190 Pride Parade participants included displays to honor the victims of tragic events that took place in Orlando in June. That massacre reminds us that we must be ever vigilant in our pursuit of freedom, security, and equality for all, a theme Pride participants know all too well.



Ground Broken on LGBT-Affirming Senior Housing Community

Councilmember Todd Gloria joined California State Assembly Speaker Emeritus Toni Atkins and many community partners to break ground on San Diego's first LGBT-affirming senior housing development located at 4200 Texas Street in North Park.

The 76-unit affordable apartments are being developed by Community Housing Works (CHW) who partnered with San Diego LGBT Community Center (The Center) to provide social services to future residents. Though the apartments will be available to all qualifying low-income seniors, CHW worked extensively with The Center throughout the planning process to ensure the community provided a safe and welcoming environment for LGBT seniors.

"This collaboration between Community Housing Works and the San Diego LGBT Community Center provides much needed housing targeted towards the large population of LGBT seniors in the area and combines it with support and services," said Councilmember Gloria. "Many of these folks have experienced a lifetime of rejection and prejudice. I am glad to have supported this project to provide residents a community where they can live proudly and without fear as their authentic selves."

A 2011 needs assessment led by The Center found many LGBT seniors suffered from fears of increasing social isolation, lack of access to culturally competent health and social services, and a shortage of safe, affordable, and affirming housing options. The \$27 million project was financed through several mechanisms including Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits, City of San Diego tax-exempt bonds, and grant funds from the San Diego Housing Commission, as well as several other public and private sources.

"We cannot let low inventory and cost be barriers to housing for San Diegans," said Councilmember Gloria. "As regional leaders, we owe it to our residents, especially those in our most vulnerable communities, to create more housing opportunities and increase the availability of affordable housing in our City."

Construction of the project is expected to take 18 to 24 months. More information is available at <http://chworks.org/real-estate-development/current-projects/north-park-seniors/>.



Community Connection: The Todd Squad is Working for You

Strengthening Public Safety

- Abandoned vehicles were abated from 4400 Swift Avenue and 2843 Felton Street.
- Parking enforcement staff worked to facilitate street sweeping services on Third Avenue between Redwood Street and Spruce Street.
- Graffiti was abated at 30th Street and University Avenue.

Infrastructure Investment

- A tree was removed from the 2300 block of Hickory Street due to sidewalk damage. Sidewalks repairs are scheduled and staff is evaluating an appropriate replacement tree.
- Sidewalk repairs were made at 2985 Beech Street.
- Trees were trimmed at 3022 Juniper Street.
- The first historic light pole on the Cabrillo Bridge has been refurbished, restored, and installed. All 30 historic lights

- on the Cabrillo Bridge will be refurbished by November.
- Potholes were patched at the 2900 block of Beech Street and the 1500 block of Dale Street.
- A street light was repaired at 31st Street and University Avenue.

Community Character

- New trash cans were installed at 4th Avenue and Pennsylvania Avenue and on Taylor Street and Pacific Highway.
- A substantial amount of litter and debris was cleared from Allen Canyon in Mission Hills.
- Weed and litter abatement was completed on Cedar Street between First Avenue and Second Avenue.
- Illegally dumped furniture was abated from the alley behind 4223 Arizona Street.

Progress Report on Veteran Housing Initiative

In March 2016, the San Diego City Council approved \$4 million, as part of \$12.5 million in Federal, City, and San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) resources to provide housing opportunities for homeless veterans in the San Diego region. The Housing Our Heroes initiative is part of the City's Housing First—San Diego program being administered by the SDHC. The initiative is based on nationwide best practices for ending homelessness and focuses on removing traditional barriers to housing to get people off the streets. The goal is to house 1,000 homeless veterans in 2016.

So far, 345 homeless veterans are being assisted through the Housing Our Heroes initiative. 209 homeless veterans have secured housing, including 18 families with 34 children. 136 homeless veterans have qualified for housing and are in the process of finding a rental apartment or house. It typically takes one to four weeks to find housing once an individual qualifies.

"As City leaders, we owe it to our veterans to do everything in our power to ensure that the brave women and men that served to protect our freedom have access to housing and supportive services," said Councilmember Gloria, Chair of the Regional Continuum of Care Council. "I am proud of the progress we have made to date in housing over 200 veterans, but our job will not be done until no veteran is forced to live on the streets. I call on San Diego's landlords to please help with this effort as I concurrently commit to doing all I can to end veteran homelessness in San Diego."

There are currently 130 landlords participating in the program. Landlords seeking to participate in the Housing Our Heroes initiative can call 619-578-7768 or email HousingOurHeroes@sdhc.org.

City of San Diego Moves to Level 1 Drought Watch

The San Diego City Council approved modifications to water-use restrictions as part of a move from Level 2 Drought Alert to a Level 1 Drought Watch, which is characterized by voluntary water-use recommendations and third day of allowable outdoor watering per week. Previously, water customers were limited to watering outdoor landscaping for a maximum of two days a week. While many permanent mandatory restrictions remain in place, such as restaurants only serving water upon request and no watering during a rain event, San Diegans are now able to water outdoors more than two days per week. The City still strongly encourages voluntary conservation and limiting water usage outdoors to three days per week.

Under Level 1 Drought Watch conditions, the City recommends:

- Odd addresses limit watering to Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday.
- Even addresses limit watering to Saturday, Wednesday, and Friday.
- Apartments, condos and businesses limit watering to Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.



For more information, please visit www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation/drought/prohibitions.

San Diego Minimum Wage \$10.50 *(Continued from page 1)*

The ordinance is informed by best practices used by the State and other jurisdictions with local minimum wage and sick leave laws. It establishes enforcement processes and revises sections of the law to ensure compliance requirements for employers are clear. The FY 2017 Adopted Budget included \$400,000 for Earned Sick Leave and Minimum Wage enforcement and administration.

The ordinance does the following:

- Establishes the Enforcement Office in the Office of the City Treasurer;
- Requires the Enforcement Office to report annually to the City Council to summarize activity;
- Establishes clear noticing requirements, and a system in line with the processes established by the State to receive and adjudicate complaints and order relief in cases of violations;
- Establishes the authority for the Enforcement Office to collaborate and/or contract with community-based organizations and other government agencies on community outreach and enforcement;
- Establishes the authority for the Enforcement Office to conduct proactive investigations and compliance reviews as needed;
- Includes higher fines for employers who repeatedly violate law;
- Establishes strong anti-retaliation measures and penalties; and finally
- Makes the method of awarding earned sick leave more consistent with newly approved state law to allow for both the accrual and front loading of sick leave.

Revisions were made to the earned sick leave component of the law to allow employers to cap an employee's total accrual of sick leave at 80 hours. The law also now allows employers to front load no less than 40 hours of sick leave to an employee at the beginning of each benefit year if they prefer that method to allowing the sick leave to accrue over time.

Members of the public are encouraged to visit <https://www.sandiego.gov/treasurer/minimum-wage-program> for the most up to date information, and for a copy of the laws.

San Diego City Council Approves Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance

The San Diego City Council voted 6-3 to approve a Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance in San Diego. The City had originally taken up the legislation in 2014, but work on the local measure halted when the state legislature passed SB270. That law was subsequently referendized and will appear on the November ballot, however the City Council took action to provide certainty in preserving our environment. It is estimated that over 700 million single-use plastic bags are distributed in San Diego each year, of which only about 3% are recycled. San Diego is the 150th jurisdiction in California to adopt such a ban and regionally, the cities of Solana Beach, Encinitas, and Del Mar have passed similar laws, with Oceanside voting on their ordinance in the coming months.

San Diego's Plastic Bag Reduction Ordinance includes a ban on all single-use carryout plastic bags at point-of-sale retail locations and requires a 10-cent charge for paper bags. The ordinance includes exemptions for restaurants, newspaper delivery, and bags for transporting produce, meat, poultry, dry-cleaning, or laundry. Additional exemptions are provided for those participating in California Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). Non-profit vendors are exempt for the first year.



There is a six-month grace period before enactment for pharmacy and grocery retail locations and a one-year grace period for all others. Outreach and education will be conducted by the City's Environmental Services Department who will also develop a program designed to secure sponsorships from local organizations and businesses to provide reusable bags to low-income families. In anticipation of the ordinance, the City of San Diego has already distributed about 40,000 reusable shopping bags, focusing on low-income neighborhoods, food banks, schools, and libraries.

Groups supporting the ordinance included the Chamber of Commerce, California Grocers Association, Californians Against Waste, Environment California, Surfrider Foundation, 7th Generation Advisors, San Diego Coastkeeper, the League of Women Voters of San Diego, Sierra Club San Diego, Plastic Pollution Coalition, Equinox Project, the Ocean Beach Town Council, Center for Biological Diversity, Plasticbaglaws.org, Save Our Shores, and WildCoast.

Work Begins on Georgia Street Bridge Project *(Continued from page 1)*

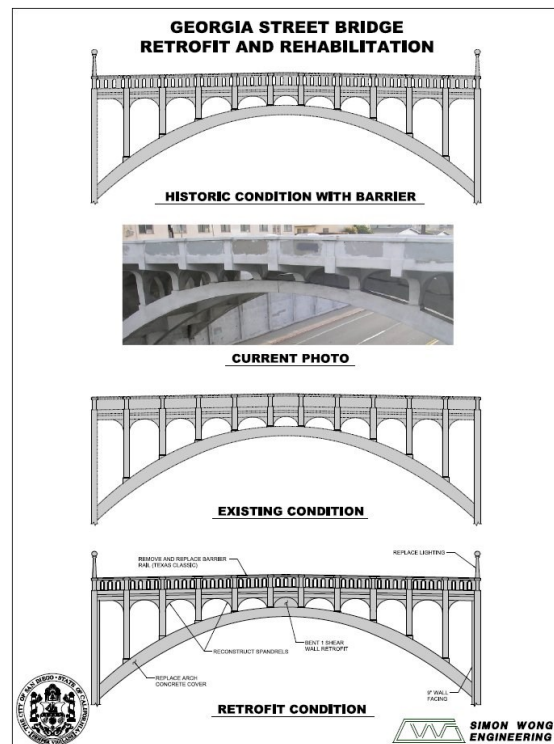
“Collaboration across various government agencies has allowed the City of San Diego to secure vital funding to preserve a treasured San Diego landmark.”

Originally built in 1914, the bridge was classified as structurally deficient by an assessment performed by CalTrans in 2011, and another in 2014. The project is being conducted by the City of San Diego and is budgeted at \$14 million, with \$2 million coming from local TransNet proceeds and the remaining \$12 million from Federal Highway Administration grants.

The scope of the project includes:

- Reconstruction of the bridge from the arch ribs up;
- Restoration of its original appearance by opening up the railing balustrades and replacing the light posts that were removed in the 1940s, as well as other lighting upgrades;
- New soil nails and ground anchors to reinforce the retaining walls;
- Arch and column improvements;
- Roadway lowering on University Avenue between Park Boulevard and Florida Street by about two and a half feet to accommodate large trucks traveling under the bridge;
- New curbs and gutters constructed on both sides of University Avenue;
- Sidewalk replacement on the south side of University Avenue featuring a minimum width of 5 feet extended and ADA compliant curb ramps.

The rehabilitation project is expected to be completed in summer of 2017.



Federal Funding Formula for Homelessness Programs to be Reevaluated



The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has begun the process to reevaluate the funding formula for federal dollars for homelessness programs thanks to the advocacy of Congressman Scott Peters and other local leaders including Councilmember Gloria. San Diego has historically placed in the top five nationwide in homeless population but averages between 18th-24th in level of federal funding received.

“HUD’s commitment to reevaluate the decades old formula for distribution of federal funding for homelessness is a critical step for the City of San Diego in our fight to end homelessness by making vital funding available to provide the housing and services necessary to reach our goal,” said Councilmember Todd Gloria, Chair of the Regional Continuum of Care Council, which directs federal funding for the region’s homeless programs. “I commend Congressman Scott

Peters for his extraordinary advocacy in making sure San Diego gets its fair share of federal funds for homelessness programs and appreciate Secretary Julian Castro’s leadership.”

HUD is considering several options to replace the Continuum of Care formula that determines how federal homelessness funding is allocated. The public comment period was opened on July 21 and HUD will receive input for 60 days from service organizations, housing providers, and local leaders so they can weigh in on the potential replacements for the existing, outdated formula that has severely disadvantaged cities like San Diego in their work to end homelessness. The four replacement options take into account a number of indicators that better determine a city’s need for resources such as homeless population, poverty, and the availability and affordability of housing. HUD has also developed an interactive and comparative tool in order for stakeholders and the general public to analyze how each option affects a community’s future funding.

Tracking Todd



1. Todd shadows one of our City's police dispatchers, getting a first-hand look into the life and death decisions these professionals make many times daily.
2. Todd welcomes the Aaron Price Fellows to City Hall for an immersive discussion on City politics and local issues.
3. Todd addresses residents and small business owners at the annual Little Italy State of the Neighborhood reception.
4. Todd shows his support for our nation's service men and women at Stand Down, an annual event held by Veterans Village of San Diego in concert with other service providers and volunteers to provide services and assistance to homeless veterans each year.
5. Todd gets in the spirit, dressed up as Mr. Spock from Star Trek, as he joins representatives from the City and San Diego Comic-Con International to open up Comic-Con to the 160,000 attendees excited for the 2016 convention and its outside events.



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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