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1. Chatting about this year's budget challenges and the importance of protecting arts and neighborhood services
2. Wonderful visit with everyone at the 19th annual Mission Hills Garden Walk.
3. Proudly standing with LGBT leaders from across the San Diego region at the Ninth Annual Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast.
4. Fun morning serving as Grand Marshall of the Wagon Parade at the Fiesta Botanica in Balboa Park.

Councilmember Ward serves on the following:

Chair, Council Select Committee on Homelessness

Vice-Chair, Infrastructure Committee

Member, Public Safety & Livable Neighborhoods Committee

Member, SANDAG Public Safety Committee

Member, Environment Committee

Member, Rules Committee

Liaison, Civic San Diego

Vice-Chair, Regional Task Force on the Homeless San Diego



NEWS FROM COUNCILMEMBER CHRIS WARD

Dear Neighbors:

Throughout May and now into June, the City Council has been carefully examining the budget for next Fiscal Year and working diligently in a tight budget year to maintain neighborhood services.

This year there have been two key areas of focus. First was a proposal by the Mayor to cut more than one third of the city's funding for arts and culture programs. I've worked hard with my colleagues to find ways to restore those cuts, because the arts are not only an important driver of jobs and tourism for San Diego, they're how we define each day what makes our city and the people in it special. I'm pleased by the progress we've made so far, and hope to see the appropriate funding achieved for our arts programs.



We also continue to wrestle with recruitment and retention challenges at the police department. There remain more than 200 budgeted, vacant positions in the department, and we need solutions to ensure we meet minimum staffing levels. The mayor included \$250,000 in his updated May budget, but I'm continuing to fight for much more. Working with our police officers, I have proposed several ways to improve recruitment and retention, and there's enthusiasm on the council to explore new strategies to address our public safety challenges. This will not be a one-time or overnight fix, which is why it's important that we continue working on ways to improve recruitment, retention, and community involvement in this process throughout the year.

Our new budget year begins on July 1, I hope you'll be in touch with me and my office to provide your thoughts on these important decisions, and in the ongoing conversations about our budget priorities all year. You can reach out to me by calling my office at (619) 236-6633 or by email at ChristopherWard@sandiego.gov.

I appreciate the opportunity you continue to provide me to serve the diverse and dynamic communities of District Three. Thank you for all you do to work with me in ensuring our shared success.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Ward".

DISTRICT 3

Vol. 1, Issue 5: June 2017

Balboa Park Working Group

Our office held our first major convening of Balboa Park leaders and public supporters on Tuesday May 30th at the Museum of Art's Copley Auditorium. Hundreds of local San Diegans joined us for a conversation about our critical infrastructure needs, long-outdated park master plan, and many of the buildings and other features they'd like to add.

It was a great discussion of the history of the park and its planning, the challenges we know are ahead for us, and the opportunities to make our park even better.

Thank you to everyone who attended and help make this first discussion a big success, especially those who helped with presentations and provided their input on the future of Balboa Park.

We're looking forward to an ongoing conversation that will help prioritize our needs and wants in the park and help identify the funding we need. Our next meeting will be on July 25. If you want to be involved, please contact my office at (619) 236-6633 for additional information.



Homelessness Update

Select Committee on Homelessness:

Very exciting news when the City Council voted in May to officially form a Council Select Committee on Homelessness, and that Councilmember Ward will serve as chair of the committee.

The committee's first meeting will be on June 21st at 2pm at City Hall, at which time we'll establish our work plan and identify our goals. This is an excellent opportunity to combine work at the Regional Task Force on the Homeless, in the Mayor's office, and now at City Council into one stronger, better coordinated plan across San Diego. Please feel free to join us for the first meeting as we get up and running.

It was encouraging to see some progress with the opening of 205 affordable, permanent supportive units downtown at the new Atmosphere building. We still have a long way to go, but we're continuing to build momentum and explore additional opportunities.

One example is AB 932 by Assemblymember Phil Ting, which is currently being considered in the state legislature. Working with Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher we were able to include San Diego in this proposed legislation that would streamline the process for bringing more supportive homeless housing online faster for lasting solutions here.



Sign up for our e-news! Visit <http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd3/>

In the Community

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Councilmember Ward Community Meetings:

We had great turnout for our first office hours event in Golden Hill last month, and are looking forward to June's two opportunities to hear from you at Councilmember office hours in Normal Heights and Cocktails with your Councilmember in Mission Hills this month:

- Normal Heights Office Hours: June 14, 4pm-6pm, Adams Recreation Center
- Mission Hills Cocktails with your Councilmember: June 27, 5pm-6:30pm, The Patio on Goldfinch

For more information on either event, contact Brett Weise at bweise@sandiego.gov or (619) 236-6633.

At work in your neighborhoods:

- Overgrown bushes trimmed for safe biking on Pershing Drive
- New curb painting and signage for more efficient parking in Mission Hills
- Lights repaired for better safety and extended use in Pantoja Park
- Weed abatement along Hamilton Street in North Park
- Large sinkhole repaired on B Street in Golden Hill
- Traffic calming study completed on Essex Street from Vermont Street to Richmond Street in Hillcrest
- Graffiti cleanup on A Street through Golden Hill
- Pedestrian flashers approved for intersection of 30th Street and Laurel Street in South Park



Your City at Work

San Diego District 3 / Mid-Year Street Repairs (2017)



STREETS

Nearly 4 miles of streets were repaired or sealed.



POTHOLES

1,092 potholes were repaired.



TREES

6,901 trees were trimmed.



GRAFFITI

30,572 square feet of graffiti was abated.



STREETLIGHTS

690 streetlights were repaired.



SIDEWALKS

20,642 square feet of sidewalks were either repaired or replaced.