



## News from Council President Todd Gloria

### District Three

# DIALOGUE



City of San Diego

January 2013 Volume 5, Issue 1

**Council President  
Todd Gloria proudly  
represents**

Balboa Park  
Bankers Hill/Park West  
Downtown  
Golden Hill  
Hillcrest  
Mission Hills  
Normal Heights  
North Park  
Old Town  
South Park  
University Heights

## A New Year's Message

*By Council President Todd Gloria*

First, let me wish you all a very Happy New Year! I hope you have enjoyed a wonderful holiday season with family and loved ones.

### We made history in 2012!

Here in the City of San Diego, 2012 was an historic year on many levels. Through collaboration with our workers, the business community, the nonprofit sector and most importantly, you, the public we serve, the Mayor and City Council have made significant strides toward long-term financial stability. Our City government has been consumed with managing this City's finances for the last decade. After some troubling times for San Diego,

we can see the light at the end of the tunnel that results from balancing our budget, building our reserves, regaining our credit rating and beginning to restore neighborhood services.

Maintaining this positive budgetary outlook will not be easy. We will continue to do our part to exercise fiscal discipline and to make smart decisions with the taxpayers' money. However, external pressures like the fiscal cliff, redevelopment dissolution and voter initiatives may slow our plans to restore more services. We will address each of these challenges head on using the reform tools that have helped us get this far. Auditing,

*Continued on page 2.*

## Todd Gloria Elected Council President



Councilmember Todd Gloria was elected President of the San Diego City Council on December 3 with the unanimous support of his colleagues. The Council President

presides over City Council meetings, sets the Council's docket, and recommends membership for Council Committees and representation for external organizations.

"I am incredibly honored to have the support of my colleagues today. It is an honor to know that these eight people – who are leaders, who love their communities, and who love San Diego – are trusting me to be the Council President," said Gloria.

Council President Gloria immediately acknowledged his predecessor, Tony Young, who held the position for the last two years.

"I have big shoes to fill. Mr. Young elevated the role of Council President greatly, and the entire City has benefited," said Gloria.

Council President Gloria spoke briefly about his goals and stated his vision to further strengthen the City Council as a legislative body; use his experience as the Budget and Finance Committee Chair to guide the Council in making fiscally responsible decisions; and work productively with Mayor Filner and the two new councilmembers to ensure a smooth transition and ensure the needs of all San Diegans are met.

He was nominated by Councilmember Kevin Faulconer. Several members of the public spoke at the hearing in support of Gloria for the position.

The City Council elects a Council President annually.

At special City Council meeting later in December, assignments to City Council committees and external organizations were confirmed. Read more on page 4.

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## 2013 New Year's Message *Continued from page 1*

efficiencies, managed competition and increased use of technology are all a part of the solution. We also know the best solutions will happen when we invite the public and our employees into the process at every step. With your help, we can ensure the best outcome for San Diego.

### **Now is the time to build strong neighborhoods.**



As we continue on the path to a strong and secure financial footing, now is the time to build strong neighborhoods. With the help of our new Mayor, we will address the needs of our neighborhoods with the same vigor that we tackled our budget problems. It is estimated that nearly \$1 billion is needed to repair our roads, water and sewer pipes and public facilities like fire stations and parks. It is clear that we can no longer afford to ignore this problem.

I am excited that we now have a Council committee that is dedicated solely to improving our neighborhoods. At my direction the Council created a standing committee on neighborhood infrastructure. I have high expectations for this committee and the results they can achieve working together with you, the people who understand the needs of our neighborhoods. I expect the Committee will act to streamline repair efforts to speed up the work, stretch our existing resources farther and create jobs. The Committee will engage neighborhoods to prioritize the repair projects you want through a new multi-year capital improvement plan. At the end of this process I believe we will have a plan to permanently maintain our neighborhoods, and none of the work I do as your Council President could get me more excited! Decades of neglect will not be undone in one year, but substantial progress will be made in 2013.

You will see tangible proof of this progress in several key projects. This year will feature the completion of the City's year-round homeless services center and the new Central Library in East Village. Both projects are the result of collaborative efforts with other public agencies, nonprofit organizations and philanthropy. The Council will vote to start construction of the much-needed permanent Mission Valley Fire Station, replace our outdated computer-aided dispatch system to reduce emergency response times, and finish 232 miles of road repairs this fiscal year.



Rebuilding our neighborhoods and maintaining the financial health of the City is dependent on our ability to grow our economy and

preserve our quality of life. The Council will focus on both objectives.

### **We will protect our defense, scientific and research sector jobs.**

Working with regional leaders, San Diego will defend our military bases and protect the defense, scientific and research sector jobs that are connected to them. We will work through the regulatory process to see our Convention Center expanded and prepare for the 2015 Balboa Park centennial to boost our tourism industry. We will stimulate business and spur job growth through the use of our Enterprise Zone and partner with Civic San Diego to direct investment into former redevelopment areas that still need revitalization. Finally, the Council will adopt a comprehensive economic development strategy to grow the diverse technology clusters that are helping to strengthen our economy.

### **Quality of life issues will not take a back seat to other efforts.**

Protecting our natural resources is good for us on so many levels, from improving our quality of life to retaining jobs and businesses. In collaboration with the State, the Council dramatically expanded San Diego's inventory of open space in 2012. We will continue that effort in 2013 and expand our water supply through various methods including water reuse. We will support our Mayor's call to reduce our carbon footprint by making the City a leader in renewable energy and active transportation like biking and walking.



Ten thousand citizens in San Diego County are homeless. Many of them are veterans. This is a civic disgrace that comes at a high cost to taxpayers. We can do better than this. I expect the collaborative efforts seeking to end homelessness and expand affordable housing will continue with the strong support of the City.

San Diegans will see their City working hard on their behalf in 2013. They will see a City Council building on our recent successes to ensure the fiscal health of our City and the well-being of our neighborhoods. As your Council President, San Diegans can count on me to keep the Council focused on our community's priorities, operating in a bipartisan fashion, and willing to collaborate with anyone interested in moving our city forward.

The spirit of collaboration in order to achieve progress will continue to guide us in the New Year. I wish every San Diegan great success in 2013 and ask that they join their neighbors in the work of building America's Finest City.

## Community Connection: The Todd Squad is Working for You 2012 Highlights



Renovations were kicked off on **Connections Housing**, the year round homeless services and housing facility, which will open in early 2013.

Changes to the City's **urban agriculture** rules made it easier to keep chickens, bees, and goats in residential neighborhoods and strengthened San Diegans' connections to their food sources.

The City Council approve a Conditional Use Permit for the **Veterans Administration Aspire Center**, allowing the project, which will assist veterans, to move forward.

Funding was identified for the **McKinley Elementary Joint Use** capital improvement project. Planning and community outreach is now underway.

The Council approved memoranda of understanding with City employees to greatly **reform the retiree healthcare system** and save millions of dollars.

The core of Balboa Park will be remade via the **Plaza de Panama** project, which was approved by the City Council in July and increases pedestrian space by about 6.3 acres.

To ensure **effective and transparent budgeting**, Councilmember Gloria led the efforts to create and adopt performance measures and the Statement of Budgetary Principles for Fiscal Year 2013.

In November, the City Council took action and dedicated over 6,500 acres of City land as **open space**, which gives these areas an added layer of protection against the pressures of encroachment since Dedicated Open Spaces require a 2/3 vote of the electorate in order to be used for any other purpose. This was made possible by legislation by Senator Christine Kehoe which was signed into law in September by Governor Jerry Brown. Councilmember Gloria testified on behalf of the City on March 27 when the bill, SB 1169, was being heard by the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Culture.

San Diego became home to the first ever **Harvey Milk Street** when Blaine Avenue was renamed in April.

**Public participation** in the City's budget development process was enhanced.



The **Abandoned Properties Ordinance**, which Councilmember Gloria championed, was approved. The new law expands the definition of what constitutes an abandoned property and imposes more stringent maintenance requirements while making it easier for police and code inspectors to respond to nuisance properties.

The first three **bike corrals** ever in San Diego were installed in District Three, one of which is pictured at the left.



Many **sharrows** and other bike-friendly markings were added to City streets.

A maintenance agreement was executed with the South Park Business Group to maintain some former assets of the Greater Golden Hill Maintenance Assessment District, including **decorative planters and trash cans**.

**Utility undergrounding** issues were brought forward to the Land Use and Housing Committee, and the first ever citywide utility undergrounding working groups convened.

Chains and bollards protecting a **clock on Grape Street** were repaired.

Ground was broken for a **new joint use field** at Roosevelt Middle School.

*Continued on page 4.*

### Uptown Bike Corridor Project Community Advisory Group Meeting #2

Wednesday, February 6

6:00—8:30 p.m.

Balboa Park Club — Santa Fe Room  
2144 Pan American Road West

Council President Todd Gloria is working with SANDAG on adding bicycle infrastructure to District Three neighborhoods. The public is invited to attend. The purpose of meeting #2 is to review existing conditions and explore design ideas, based on opportunities identified in the first meeting and in the existing conditions analysis.

To learn more about the project, please visit [www.keepsandiegomoving.com/UptownBike](http://www.keepsandiegomoving.com/UptownBike). The presentation from the first meeting is posted on the project page.



## Council President Creates Infrastructure Committee

The City Council approved Council President Todd Gloria's 2013 proposed assignments to Council Committees in December. Council President Gloria proposed an historic appointment, bipartisan leadership, and the introduction of a new Infrastructure Committee.

"I am proposing creation of the Infrastructure Committee to bring necessary focus to the condition of the City's streets, sidewalks, and structures," said Council President Gloria. "I have heard the call of San Diegans that they are tired of driving over potholes and tripping over sidewalks. This Committee will be able to develop comprehensive solutions to a Citywide challenge."

The Committee on Infrastructure will be chaired by Councilmember Mark Kersey, who has highlighted the condition of the City's infrastructure as a priority. The Committee will focus on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), creation of a five-year CIP, additional streamlining opportunities, infrastructure finance, and community CIP hearings, among other related topics. Councilmember Kersey will be joined on the Committee by Councilmember Sherri Lightner as Vice Chair and Councilmembers Marti Emerald and Scott Sherman.

Council President Gloria made history by proposing Councilmember Lightner as San Diego's first female Council President Pro Tem.

She now chairs the Rules and Economic Development Committee, which combines the jurisdictions of the former Rules, Open Government and Intergovernmental Relations Committee and the Economic Development and Strategies Committee.

In addition to filling in for the Council President as necessary, the Council President Pro Tem has a new responsibility of reviewing the Council Committee structure, which has not been reexamined in decades. Council President Gloria requested from her a report in six months on how the Committees are functioning, and Committee assignments will be reexamined at that time, coinciding with the likely election of a new councilmember in District Four, which became vacant in January when Councilmember Tony Young took over the local chapter of the American Red Cross.

Committees are closely balanced between Democrat and Republican members, which Council President Gloria believes is both appropriate and productive.

"I respect the viewpoints and ideas of each of my colleagues, and have structured the membership of Committees to encourage healthy dialog and balanced decisions," said Council President Gloria. "I am confident that 2013 will be a positive and productive year for San Diego."

## Community Connection: The Todd Squad is Working for You *2012 Highlights — Continued*

To improve transparency and public participation, reforms to the City's **Capital Improvement Projects (CIP)** program were adopted and implemented. A new CIP website was launched.

Following State action, **redevelopment** activities wound down, and Civic San Diego was formed to manage public improvement and public-private partnership projects of the City's former Redevelopment Agency.



The **Pride Flag Monument** was approved and constructed in Hillcrest and is pictured above.

Ground was broken on the first phase of the **North Embarcadero Visionary Plan**, pictured right.

The **Tourism Marketing District** was renewed.

The community celebrated the centennial of the **Spruce Street Bridge**

Funding for the **Waterman Check In Homeless Storage Center** was secured.

Long awaited **new streetlights** were installed and turned on in Talmadge.

**Angled parking** and other neighborhood parking enhancements were installed throughout District Three.



*Continued on page 5.*

## Community Connection: The Todd Squad is Working for You 2012 Highlights — Continued

The **Normal Heights Elementary School Joint Use Field** was opened.

The **Interim Height Ordinance Extension** approved by the City Council protects against over-intensification in Uptown until density issues can be resolved in the context of the Uptown Community Plan update.

The **Affordable Housing Parking Study** recommendations passed by Council will improve the cost effectiveness of developing affordable housing by more accurately calculating the number of needed parking spaces.

In November, the City Council unanimously supported Councilmember Gloria's motion to approve the new **Copley-Price YMCA** project in Mid-City. The 53,400 square foot recreation facility will be sited on property bound by 43rd Street, El Cajon Boulevard, Meade Avenue, and Fairmount Avenue. Construction is expected to begin in Spring 2013.

**Jefferson Elementary School's Joint Use Field** was unveiled.

A five year blueprint to implement **Penny for the Arts** was passed by the City Council.

The City of San Diego earned a perfect score on The Human Rights Campaign's (HRC) Municipal Equality Index. **The Municipal Equality Index** scored 137 cities using 47 criteria in categories including non-discrimination laws, relationship recognition, the municipality's employment practices, inclusiveness of city services, law enforcement, and municipal leadership. San Diego was one of only 11 cities that earned a perfect score.

The City Council approved the **Convention Center Phase 3 Expansion**, including the creation of a financing district and approval of a financing plan.

**City Heights Square** was dedicated.

**Brush clearing** was performed at Trolley Barn Park and Ward Canyon Park.

The creation of a **new residential maintenance assessment district** was initiated in Kensington to fund new streetlights.

Councilmember Gloria demonstrated his personal dedication to strengthening public safety by participating in the **Ocean Beach Pier Jump** in July, benefiting the San Diego Junior Lifeguard Foundation, and the **9/11 Memorial Stair Climb** in September, benefiting the San Diego Fireman's Relief Association.

The barricade at the south end of **Roseview Place** was repaired.

On December 6, San Diego Unified School District Board Member Richard Barrera and Council President Gloria joined students, school staff, other leaders and community members at the official dedication of the newly upgraded joint-use facilities at **North Park Community Park**



**Community Park** adjacent to ALBA Community School on Oregon Street. The improvements include a new basketball court, new 30-foot light poles at the resurfaced joint-use playing field, new matting at the horizontal bars, newly repaired concrete sidewalk areas, new signage, and new fencing. Pictured above.

**Library hours** were expanded, thanks to improved economic conditions and City fiscal reforms.

### Upcoming Events

#### State of the City

Tuesday, January 15

6:00 p.m.

Balboa Theatre, 868 Fourth Ave.

#### Martin Luther King Jr. Human Dignity Breakfast

Friday, January 18

7:00 a.m.

Town and Country Resort

#### Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service

Monday, January 21

10:00 a.m.

Parkside Park, at Parkside Ave. & Parkside Dr. in Paradise Hills

#### Council President Gloria to Participate in the Little Italy Residents' Association Meeting

Wednesday, January 23

6:30 p.m.

Firehouse Museum, 1572 Columbia St.

#### Council President Gloria to Participate in the Hillcrest Business Association Meeting

Wednesday, January 30

5:30 p.m.

D Bar, 3900 University Ave.



## Tracking Todd



Top left: Todd was sworn in for his second term on Dec. 3, 2012 by Judge David Rubin. Top right: City Heights neighbors in need benefited from the annual turkey giveaway by the San Diego City Firefighters, Local 145 at Station 17 on Dec. 15, 2012. Middle left: Todd helps Santa Claus cut the ribbon at The Golden Paw, a new business in Hillcrest, on Dec. 1, 2012. Bottom right: Councilmember David Alvarez, Bob McElroy of the Alpha Project, and Todd light the Christmas tree at the winter homeless shelter on Dec. 11, 2012. Bottom left: Todd and Lance Bass celebrate the successful performance of "8" on Nov. 19, 2012.

### Council President Todd Gloria serves on the following:

Chair, Budget and Finance Committee  
Land Use and Housing Committee  
San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau

Metropolitan Transit System Board  
San Diego Association of Governments  
San Diego River Conservancy

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