



November 2015
Volume 7 Issue II

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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City Council Unanimously Approves Referendum Reforms

Councilmember Todd Gloria announced on October 6 the City Council's bipartisan approval of his referendum process reforms. The City Council voted unanimously to amend the City's Election Campaign Control Ordinance to make required disclosures for referenda and initiatives consistent with current rules for traditional campaigns.

"The City Council took a step toward returning the referendum to the people by increasing transparency and providing more timely disclosure of campaign funders," said Councilmember Gloria.

The approved amendments include the filing of additional campaign statements with the City Clerk during the signature gathering period to increase transparency and provide more timely information on campaign funders.

Specific changes approved include the following:

1. Require committees formed to support or oppose an initiative or referendum to file a Form 497 within 10 days after petition circulation begins, to disclose contributions of \$100 or more received since January 1 or since the most recent campaign comprehensive statement;
2. Require committees formed to support or oppose an initiative or referendum to file Form 497 within 24 hours during the signature-gathering phase to disclose contributions of \$1,000 or more; and
3. Require committees that make independent expenditures to support or oppose an initiative or referendum to file Forms 496 within 24 hours during the signature gathering phase to disclose expenditures and funding sources.

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November 17 Deadline to Weigh In On Water Rates

San Diegans have until November 17 to weigh in on the proposed water rate increases.

After working hard to cut water use by 26% in recent months, San Diegans are now facing a water rate increase of almost 40% over the next several years. The good news is, ratepayers can weigh in on this proposal.

Prop 218 requires written notification to ratepayers of any proposed changes and gives them the right to oppose adjustments. San Diegans received mailed notices from the City the last week in September containing details about the water rate increases proposed by the Mayor. It may look like junk mail, but it contains an opposition form on the back. If a majority of San Diego ratepayers mail back the form, the City Council must reject the proposed increase, and the Mayor will need to work on a different proposal.

Since San Diegans have so successfully cut their water usage, the Public Utilities Department is short of its revenue projections, which is one of the reasons to increase rates. Councilmember Todd Gloria is not yet convinced this level of rate hikes is necessary, and believes the City could do more to incentivize conservation. He encourages all San Diegans to read through the available material and provide feedback as desired before the November 17 City Council hearing on the topic. Questions? Contact the District Three office at 619-236-6633 or toddgloria@sandiego.gov.

Budget Committee Considers Increasing Stability Reserve November 9

On October 7, 2015, the Budget and Government Efficiency (Budget) Committee reviewed a report from the Financial Management Department requesting approval of a proposed Pension Payment Stabilization Reserve Policy. Despite the Budget Committee's concerns with the Mayor's proposal, it agreed to continue the dialogue on the City's reserves and directed staff to research increasing the General Fund Stability Reserve.

The City has paid its pension bill in full and on time for eleven years in a row, and has made substantial contributions directed to eliminating the pension debt. Over the same period of time, the City, its employee unions and the voters have enacted various reforms to reduce retirement benefit costs. The Mayor's proposal gives the impression that the City's pension crisis has returned, and has potential to harm San Diego's reputation and undermine the progress made in reforming our pension system.

However, comments provided by rating agencies and the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) warrant consideration of increasing the City's General Fund reserves during this period of fiscal health: recent Ratings Update Reports for San Diego indicate increasing our reserves would be viewed favorably- all other factors remaining equal; in identifying what could cause our rating to go up, Moody's noted "significant growth in the city reserve position"; the 2009 GFOA policy statement regarding cities' reserve levels calls for maintaining a minimum reserve equal to two months of operating expenditures or operating revenue which equates to an approximate 16.7% reserve for the City of San Diego; and Standard & Poor's considers reserves of 8-15% to be "strong" and any amount over 15% to be "very strong".

As requested by the Budget Committee in its adopted motion, the Independent Budget Analyst has researched and developed an

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Annual Budget Development Process Begins

San Diegans have enjoyed far greater impact on the City of San Diego's budget in the five years that Councilmember Todd Gloria has chaired the Budget and Government Efficiency Committee. The annual budget development process will begin with the release of the FY 2017-2021 Five-Year Financial Outlook and FY 2016 First Quarter Budget Monitoring Report on November 13.

The full budget development calendar is available online: <http://www.sandiego.gov/iba/pdf/fy2017keydates.pdf>.

What are your budget priorities? Make sure to share your thoughts soon so they can be reflected in Councilmember budget priority memos, which are due January 15.

More Homelessness Funds Could Result from Federal Action

Councilmember Todd Gloria joined Congressman Scott Peters and other officials in welcoming Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Julian Castro to San Diego on October 19 to discuss ongoing local efforts to address homelessness.

Secretary Castro announced that HUD will open a comment period in Spring 2016 on revising the current formula for how federal homelessness funds are allocated. In 2014, despite having the fifth largest homeless population in the country, San Diego received the 23rd most funding.

"Opening the public comment period is a critical official step toward more funding for San Diego," said Councilmember Gloria, who chairs the Regional Continuum of Care Council. "San Diego has demonstrated tremendous progress addressing homelessness using our limited resources, and we can increase that impact with more funds."

In 2012, HUD proposed new rules on homelessness funding and opened a public comment period. In 2013, HUD notified Congress that it intended to reopen the comment period as it worked to develop an updated formula for federal homelessness funds. Until Secretary Castro's commitment, HUD had not taken any action to honor that 2013 promise.

Secretary Castro made his announcement at the conclusion of a tour of Hotel Churchill, an affordable housing facility under construction for homeless individuals in Downtown, as pictured above.



Community Connection: The Todd Squad is Working for You

Strengthening Public Safety

- Brush was cleared from the 1800 block of Pentuckett Avenue.
- At the request of an employee of the Hillcrest Family Health Center, Traffic Engineering staff studied the safety of the intersection of Fourth Avenue and Lewis Street and determined it qualifies for crosswalks. The crosswalks should be installed early in 2016.
- Traffic Engineering staff examined the intersection of Fourth Avenue and Spruce Street in response to neighbors concerned about a hit-and-run incident. Studies concluded that due to the close proximity to a bus stop and Balboa Park, and given the accident history and number of pedestrians in the area, an all-way stop and crosswalks on the north and south legs of the intersection are recommended. A review process is progressing. Should no opposition arise, work orders will be issued.
- Continental crosswalks were approved for two intersections of San Diego Avenue, at Twiggs Street and at Conde. Both should be installed by the end of the year.

Infrastructure Investment

- Due to erosion of the hillside at Lewis Street Mini Park, City staff is installing posts and a cable as a visual barrier to deter visitors from getting too close to the edge. The barrier's appearance reflects the input of neighbors.
- Two parking spaces were created through the removal of excess red curb at 30th Street and Redwood.

- Road repairs were completed in alleys adjacent to the 3700 block of 31st Street and the 4500 block of Arizona Street.

Community Character

- The facility at the intersection of Presidio Drive and Jackson Street was repainted, and debris was removed from the area.
- Parking requirements were clarified for a senior housing facility to allow meal service to continue.
- Graffiti was removed from two locations in the 3000 block of University Avenue and a location in the 2000 block of El Cajon Boulevard.
- Graffiti was also removed from a parking meter in the 1400 block of University Avenue, as pictured.



New Dog Park Opening Soon!

Ward Canyon Interim Dog Park is moving forward and should open by the end of the year.

The improvements are being made on the southeastern portion of Ward Canyon Park, which is located in Normal Heights. The dog park will include two separate fenced areas, one for larger dogs and one for smaller dogs. This will fulfill a longstanding need of dog owners in Mid-City neighborhoods, as the two closest dog parks now are at Morley Field in Balboa Park and Grape Street Park in South Park.

Councilmember Todd Gloria successfully secured funds in this year's City budget for the project in response to constituent requests.

"I've made the importance of these improvements clear, and City staff seem to share my excitement to complete this project," said Councilmember Gloria.

The dog park will feature dog-friendly mulch and decomposed granite at entrances, at least two dog bag dispensers and trash cans, benches, and a shade pergola in each pen. There is no water service onsite, so no water fountains for humans or dogs are being installed. Per neighbors' requests and budget constraints, no lighting will be added at this time.

In addition to the basic park improvements, City staff are accommodating several requests made by nearby neighbors including the setback of the park's fence, park amenities, and the size of the two sections.

Stay tuned for news about the park's opening!

Regional Plan Invests \$2.3 Billion in Transit by 2020

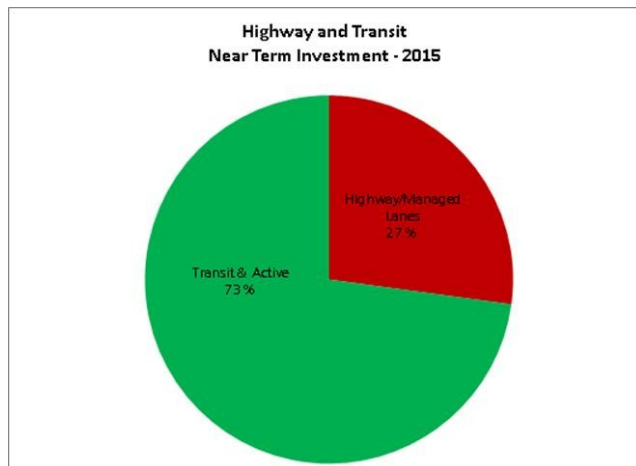
Transit received a big funding boost on October 9 when the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) Board of Directors unanimously approved San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan. Councilmember Todd Gloria serves as one of the City of San Diego's two representatives on the SANDAG Board of Directors and is Chair of the SANDAG Transportation Committee. SANDAG is required by law to update its Regional Transportation Plan every four years, and this document is the latest update.

"The plan programs an unprecedented level of funding to transit and active transportation and results in greenhouse gas emission reductions that exceed State requirements. Seventy-five percent of transportation funding in the next five years will go to transit, up from 50% in the last five years," said Councilmember Gloria.

San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan contains the following investments in San Diego's regional transportation network:

- In the first five years, San Diego's Regional Plan dedicates three out of every four dollars to transit. This \$2.3 billion investment will allow San Diegans to benefit from Mid-City Centerline Stations, the Mid-Coast Trolley Extension between Old Town and University City, the South Bay Bus Rapid Transit line from Otay Mesa to Downtown, and the double tracking of sections of the LOSSAN Coastal Rail corridor.
- \$100 billion dollars is dedicated to investment in transit, including five new Trolley lines, 32 new Rapid lines, and significant increases in transit frequencies.
- Council District Three neighborhoods will benefit from three additional *Rapid* lines, a streetcar operating in a loop between Hillcrest and Downtown, and millions of dollars in active transportation projects to improve biking and pedestrian facilities.
- The Regional Plan not only meets but exceeds greenhouse gas reduction targets set out in SB 375 for cars and light duty trucks. The Regional Plan's 15% reduction would exceed the 7% target set by 2020 and by 2035 the Regional Plan would have a 21% reduction, exceeding the 13% target set. Overall greenhouse gas reductions are reduced in this plan.

"The increased funding commitments dedicated to transit and active transportation in the 2015 plan over SANDAG's previous plans show clear progress which will provide a solid foundation for making even more change moving forward. This progress gives me great confidence that our region will continue to advance and will allow future decision makers to take even more ambitious steps in the 2020 plan," said Councilmember Gloria. "If we want to continue to move the needle further toward preserving our environment and see a change in mode share, more work is necessary, such as passing climate plans in other cities throughout our region, passing a quality of life measure to accelerate transit projects, and advocating for transportation bills at the state and federal levels that give more funding to transit."



Several Community Projects Closer to Funding

As part of the annual budget development process, Councilmember Todd Gloria recently prioritized projects in District Three neighborhoods that are eligible for Development Impact Fee (DIF) funds. These projects will be presented to the Capital Improvement Program Review and Advisory Committee (CIPRAC) for its consideration and recommendation. CIPRAC will evaluate operating and maintenance costs associated with the proposed projects and submit its recommendations as part of the proposed fiscal year 2017 budget.

A list of recommended projects to receive DIF funding for the communities in Council District Three includes:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Curb ramp at Granada Street and Date Street | \$25,000 |
| • Various curb ramps in North Park | \$205,000 |
| • North Park Mini-Park | \$375,000 |
| • North Park Mini-Park | \$240,918 (Special Park Fund) |
| • Curb ramp at McKee Street and San Diego Avenue | \$80,000 |
| • Olive Street Park | \$570,000 |
| • Fire Station #5 | \$500,000 |

For the purpose of eligibility determination, projects proposed for allocation of funds must be identified in a community's public facilities financing plan. Additionally, with Council approval of Council Policy 800-14, DIF-financed projects should demonstrate consistency with CIP implementation as outlined in the Policy.

Balboa Park is Named a Great Public Space



San Diego's historic Balboa Park was recognized in October by the American Planning Association (APA) as one of six Great Public Spaces on the organization's annual Great Places in America list.

Councilmember Todd Gloria received the award from APA Immediate Past President William Anderson on the City's behalf at a ceremony held near the Balboa Park Botanical Garden. (See picture left.)

APA's Great Places in America program recognizes streets, neighborhoods, and public spaces in the United States demonstrating exceptional character, quality, and planning—attributes that enrich communities, facilitate economic growth, and inspire others around the country. The one hundred year old park is representative of APA's Great Spaces that are unique and exemplary in their amenities and infrastructure, cultural identity, and use of sustainable and innovative practices.

"For San Diegans, it's never been doubted that Balboa Park is one of America's best public spaces," said Councilmember Todd Gloria. "This official recognition from the American Planning

Association validates the investments we've made to ensure the park remains our crown jewel for the next 100 years."

Since launching the Great Places in America program in 2007, APA has recognized 245 neighborhoods, streets, and public spaces around the country. Places are selected annually and represent the gold standard in terms of having a true sense of place, cultural and historical interest, community involvement, and a vision for the future.

The recognition came as San Diegans and visitors converged on Balboa Park for Maker Faire. Councilmember Gloria helped kick off the event, which was one of the highlights of the Centennial Celebration of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition. (See picture right.)

Don't forget to round out the Centennial year by joining hundreds of thousands of your closest friends at December Nights. The popular annual holiday kickoff is scheduled for December 4 and 5. Learn more and plan your visit: www.balboapark.org/decembernights.



Passport to Success: City Clerk Continues Popular Passport Assistance

The Office of the City Clerk opened its Passport Facility on July 1, 2013 to address the community's need for an easily accessible location for passport assistance. In the past two years, the need for the service has grown substantially and demonstrate the benefit of this program.

The City Clerk recently shared comparisons of the first quarter revenues from the past three years.

1st Qtr FY 2014 (July - September 2013): Total Gross Revenue: \$8,565

1st Qtr FY 2015 (July – September 2014): Total Gross Revenue: \$16,015

1st Qtr FY 2016 (July – September 2015): Total Gross Revenue: \$26,150

The Passport Services Office is located in the lobby of the City Administration Building, 202 C Street, and is open by appointment only, Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (excluding holidays). Special hours may be scheduled periodically. The last applicant of the day will be scheduled 30 minutes before the Passport Services Office closes. You can schedule an appointment by calling the City Clerk's Passport Services Line at 619-533-4000 (TTY/TDD 619-236-7012) or using the "Book Now" button at <http://www.sandiego.gov/city-clerk/inforecords/passport.shtml>.

Upcoming Events

The holidays are quickly approaching, and that means celebrations and events of all kinds. Enjoy all that Council District Three offers, and don't forget to shop local for all of your holiday needs!

Pac Arts Asian Film Festival

November 5-14

Councilmember Gloria will present a proclamation to Ken Jeong on November 7. More info: <http://festival.sdaff.org/2015/>.

Small Business Saturday

November 28

Hosted by North Park Main Street, <http://northparkmainstreet.com/>

Luminaria in South Park

November 29

<http://www.southparkscene.com/luminaria.html>

December Nights

December 4-5

<http://www.balboapark.org/DecemberNights>

North Park Toyland Parade

December 5

<http://www.vhcorp.org/2014-north-park-toyland-parade/>

Holiday Walkabout in South Park

December 5

<http://www.southparkscene.com/walkabout.html>

SoNo Chili Cook Off

December 6

<http://sonofestchilicookoff.com/>

City Funds Local Projects

Through the Community Projects, Programs, and Services fund, allocations were recently approved for the following Council District Three organizations and efforts.

- \$15,000 to Alpha Project for the Homeless to continue a partnership with the Hillcrest Business Association for homeless outreach.
- \$5,000 transferred to the Park and Recreation Department to partner with the Committee of 100's restoration of the historic Cabrillo Bridge lights.
- \$8,506 was also transferred to the Park and Recreation Department to restore the cemetery markers and other wood elements in El Campo Santo Cemetery in Old Town.
- Park and Recreation will also use an allocation of \$5,000 to fund the portable pool at Adams Avenue Recreation Center next summer.
- \$5,000 was provided to the San Diego Veterans Day Parade .

Stability Reserve *(continued from page 2)*

alternative for committee consideration which would increase the City's Stability Reserve. After reviewing this alternative, Councilmembers Todd Gloria and David Alvarez are recommending the Budget Committee approve this concept and direct staff to draft the respective amendments to the City Council Reserve Policy.

"We believe this is a more prudent proposal that balances the many needs of the City while continuing to pay all of our pension costs," the councilmembers stated in a memo. "Additionally, the proposal utilizes the City Council's existing strong reserve policy as designed to mitigate financial and service delivery risk due to unanticipated critical expenditures. It is important to note that the Stabilization Reserve is currently available for unanticipated pension Actuarially Determined Contribution cost increases."

The alternative proposal includes the following key components, and would:

- Increase the City's General Fund Reserve from 14% to 16% with an 8% Emergency Reserve and an 8% Stability Reserve for a total reserve of \$181.4 million (a stronger reserve than the Mayor's proposal);
- Based on latest fund balance estimates, transfer \$22.7 million of excess equity to the General Fund Reserve, leaving \$7.9 million in fund balance for operational fluctuations;
- Include language in the Reserve Policy to clarify that unanticipated changes in annual ADC payments are an eligible use of the Stability Reserve in order to avoid service reductions; and
- Strengthen the replenishment language in City Council Reserve Policy for the Mayor to prepare a plan for replenishment of the fund within one year from reserve action (current language states that he will do so "as promptly as conditions warrant").

The councilmembers requested a full analysis of the alternate concept by both the IBA and the Mayor's Office. This proposal will be docketed at a Special Budget Committee Meeting on November 9, 2015 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. for consideration and possible action. Members of the public are encouraged to attend.

Comment Period Extended On Community Plan Updates

Do you have thoughts about how your neighborhood should grow? To ensure the community plan updates for North Park, Uptown, and Golden Hill truly reflect the vision of San Diegans, the City of San Diego has extended the deadlines for public input to December 1, 2015.

In addition, neighborhood planning groups will submit their comments by December 16, 2015. City planners are committed to making sure all questions and requests for information are responded to as efficiently as possible, so please provide your honest and constructive feedback to planning@sandiego.gov. The three draft community plan updates can be found online: <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/cpu/index.shtml>.

Councilmember Gloria has been involved in the community plan update process since it began for these neighborhoods six years ago. "I'm grateful that the public comment period has been extended and appreciate the feedback neighbors continue to provide in this critical planning process," he said.

A View from the Top



Councilmember Gloria and the Todd Squad visited the Museum of Man and took advantage of the newly reopened California Tower. The history of the site is as interesting as the views are spectacular. Book your tour: <http://www.museumofman.org/tickets>.

Referendum Reform *(continued from page 1)*

These filings mirror the heightened disclosures required by state law for campaign committees in the timeframe directly preceding a traditional election.

Currently, local ballot measure committees are required to file comprehensive campaign disclosure statements, also known as Form 460, on a quarterly basis. As such, during the 30-day referendum period, the public typically has no access to meaningful information regarding the individuals or entities that are spending money to support or oppose the petition.

"In recent years, well-funded corporate special interests intent on buying the results they could not achieve through the public legislative process have used deceptive referenda to block progress and subvert the decision of the City Council on the Barrio Logan Community Plan Update, the affordable housing linkage fee, and the minimum wage increase. By making fundraising and expenditure reporting requirements consistent with traditional campaign disclosures, the public will be better informed about the true intent of the measure before they sign a petition," said Councilmember Gloria.

Last summer, powerful organizations representing national hoteliers and fast food franchises masqueraded as the "Small Business Coalition" to fight the minimum wage increase approved by the City Council. They deceived enough San Diegans to sign a petition that the measure's implementation was put on hold and will appear on the June 2016 ballot. Several hundred San Diegans withdrew their signatures upon learning the true nature of the petition was to oppose the minimum wage increase. Had the Small Business Coalition been required to disclose its funders during the signature gathering period instead of months later, many San Diegans might not have signed the petitions.

On May 14, 2015, Councilmember Gloria brought forward a proposal to the City Council Charter Review Committee to amend the City's campaign laws to require more timely disclosure of contributions and expenditures associated with referendary and initiative petitions. The Charter Committee unanimously directed the Ethics Commission to consider these proposed amendments and return to Council with the draft changes to the City's campaign laws.

Councilmember Gloria is working on additional reforms to the referendum process, which are expected to be considered by the City Council this month.

Tracking Todd



1. Todd and the Todd Squad kick off AIDS Walk San Diego.
2. Todd helps raise funds for the San Diego Library with fellow Dr. Seuss fans.
3. Todd gets a tour of Hewlett-Packard.
4. A neighbor chats with Todd at the Adams Avenue Street Fair.
5. Todd joins Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins and others to support the Trevor Project.



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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