

# YOUR SAN DIEGO

News From Interim Mayor Todd Gloria



January 2014  
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Interim Mayor  
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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## Update from the Mayor's Office by Interim Mayor Todd Gloria

Dear Friends,

As we begin 2014 with resolutions, renewal, and hope for great things in the months ahead, I am happy to report the City's forecast looks bright.

Late last year, I released the City's Five-Year Financial Outlook. The financial forecast for Fiscal Years 2015 through 2019 includes critical information as the City Council and members of the public begin to formulate priorities for the FY 2015 budget, which will be considered in Spring 2014. The Outlook projects a one year baseline budget deficit of approximately \$19 million for FY 15, followed by surpluses through FY 19. I fully expect we will be able to overcome the projected FY 15 deficit without sacrificing needed services, thanks in part to higher than anticipated property tax revenues. With smart decision making, the City of San Diego will have a balanced budget for Fiscal Year 2015. This is good news.

That being said, as Interim Mayor and Council President, my primary focus in 2014 will be on our City's infrastructure. The City currently has a backlog of deferred capital projects with a price tag of at least \$898 million. These capital projects include sidewalks, streets, streetlights, fire stations, storm drains, parks, and libraries. This month, my Council colleagues and I will be voting on a \$120 million infrastructure bond that includes over \$43 million earmarked for street resurfacing. The passage of this proposed bond at Council would be a step in the right direction. However, to be America's Finest City and remain economically competitive, we must continue to work together to develop solutions on how we will pay for the remaining infrastructure upgrades.

Councilmember Mark Kersey, Chair of the City Council's Infrastructure Committee, has done an excellent job leading this charge. Last year, he kicked off a series of community workshops to solicit input from residents on what kinds of improvements they would like to see in their neighborhoods. I look forward to continuing to work with and support Councilmember Kersey in this role. If you tweet, you can follow the City's infrastructure conversation on Twitter – #RebuildSD.

While we start 2014 with good news about the City's financial outlook, I am up to the challenge of addressing our infrastructure needs, and welcome your input on what infrastructure improvements make sense for San Diego. Please email me at [toddgloria@sandiego.gov](mailto:toddgloria@sandiego.gov).

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## Second Term as Council President



Interim Mayor Gloria was re-elected President of the San Diego City Council last month with the unanimous support of his colleagues. The Council President presides over City Council meetings, sets the Council's docket, recommends membership for Council Committees and representation for external organizations, and assumes the role of interim mayor when the City is without an elected mayor. "Having the confidence of my fellow councilmembers and the support of so many San Diegans is humbling, and I am proud to continue leading the City," said Interim Mayor Gloria. "Together, we have made tremendous progress in the past three months, and more hard work is ahead." He was first elected Council President on December 3, 2012, and took over as the interim mayor on August 30, 2013. When a new mayor is sworn in after the February election, he will remain Council President and the representative for District Three.

## Improved Credit Rating

Late last month, the City of San Diego received additional good news about its financial condition. Standard & Poor's Rating Services, one of Wall Street's most prominent municipal rating agencies, raised San Diego's issuer credit rating to AA from AA-. The agency raised the City's lease-revenue-bonds rating to AA- from A+ and also confirmed its outlook of "stable" for San Diego. "This is huge and tremendous news for San Diego," Interim Mayor Gloria said. "I want to applaud all the people who helped us get where we are today. I want to thank the City Council for its fiscal discipline, all the employee groups who helped the City with its financial reforms, and the countless City staffers whose efforts in this area have been tireless." The ratings upgrade means, among other things, that the City potentially can save money when it sells bonds to pay for hundreds of future infrastructure projects ranging from street repairs to water-main replacements. "We have a strong financial management team in place, the local economy is improving and we have a healthy general fund reserve," Gloria said. "Our City has come a long way."

## Cabrillo Bridge Closure



Beginning January 2, 2014, San Diego's iconic Cabrillo Bridge will shift to pedestrian use only as a much needed upgrade gets underway. The bridge, linking Laurel Street to Balboa Park, is receiving a seismic retrofit and rehabilitation including a new road surface and lighting as part of a project being undertaken by the California Department of Transportation on behalf of the City of San Diego. The work is scheduled to finish on April 30, 2014. As crews work to improve the upper deck and road surface, visitors to Balboa Park will be able to enjoy a car-free walk all the way from Balboa Drive to Park Boulevard. Because access will

be limited to sidewalk space, bicyclists will have to dismount as they cross the bridge. Each of the museums and other institutions near the bridge will be open as usual throughout the project. This important effort will extend the lifespan of Cabrillo Bridge and will improve the function and appearance of the structure in advance of the Balboa Park Centennial Celebration in 2015.



# Community Connection: The Todd Squad is Working for You

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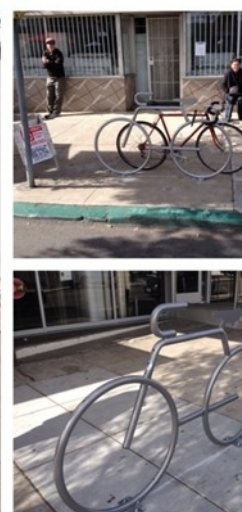
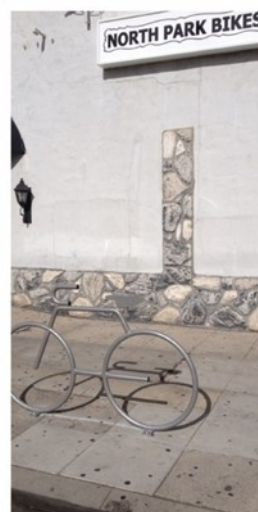
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## Infrastructure Investments

- An alley was repaired east of the 4500 block of Ohio Street and west of Illinois Street.
- An abandoned vehicle was removed from the 3000 block of El Cajon Boulevard.
- A storm drain was repaired at 28th Street and University in North Park.
- A sidewalk trip hazard was repaired at Juan Street and Wallace Street.
- A pothole was repaired at the corner of Myrtle and 29th Street.

## Community Character

The City helped North Park Main Street install five new bike racks in North Park. The racks pictured left are located at North Park Bikes, Hess Brewing, and Subterranean Coffee Boutique.



## Update from the Mayor's Office *continued from page 1*

Finally, I invite you to join me at the State of the City Address on January 15 at 6:00 p.m. at the Balboa Theatre Downtown. Come and learn about the progress we've made so far, and what we can accomplish together in this new year.

I hope your 2014 is filled with great health and good fortune. As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Respectfully,



Todd Gloria  
Interim Mayor

## Expanding San Diego's Bicycling Network



Last month the City Council unanimously approved the San Diego Bicycle Master Plan Update. This update is a set of goals and guidelines that aims to make cycling a regular means of transportation for residents. The plan recommends adding 595 miles of bikeways around the City and identifies 40 high-priority bike projects located in Downtown, the College Area, Mission Valley and Mid-City neighborhoods. "San Diego is in the process of becoming a world-class bike city. I feel so positive about the strides we are making as a City to promote biking as a true transportation alternative," said Interim Mayor Gloria.

On a related note, if you would like a bike rack placed in front of your business, you can request one from the City's Transportation and Storm Water Department. Simply send an email to [trafficops@sandiego.gov](mailto:trafficops@sandiego.gov) and include the following information: the name of your business; a contact name; your email address; the street address of the proposed rack location; the number of racks being requested; and any additional information on the rack location that may be useful for evaluation by City staff.

## Zero Waste

Last month, the City Council approved the Zero Waste Objective proposed by the City's Environmental Services Department. This Zero Waste Objective for the City has an initial goal of diverting 75% of waste generated in the City from landfill disposal by 2020, and a goal of zero waste by 2040. "I'm proud of the Council's unanimous vote to adopt a Zero Waste Objective. When fully implemented, we will recycle all waste in the City. This is a part of our ongoing efforts to make San Diego a national model for sustainability," Interim Mayor Gloria said.

## Tijuana Innovadora

Last month, Interim Mayor Gloria joined the newly-formed San Diego advisory council of Tijuana Innovadora to help plan for a third mega-expo taking place in Tijuana this October. Tijuana Innovadora's first civic expo was held in 2010 and included high-profile leaders speaking on the maquiladora industry. The second Tijuana Innovadora event in 2012 covered topics of alternative energy, cinematography, urban planning, and digital technology. This year's offering will highlight the San Diego-Tijuana border region as an example of bilateral collaboration. "We are two cities, but we are one region. Our destinies are inextricably linked. Promoting innovation in Mexico is good for San Diego," Interim Mayor Gloria said.

## Library Update



Since the opening of the San Diego Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common last September, the City has partnered with Mental Health Systems to provide resources to homeless library patrons. These resources include peer counseling, case management, mental health education, crisis intervention, outreach and engagement and linkage to other community resources. The *New Chapter Support Center* is located inside the Library to ensure a safe and accessible experience for all patrons.

In additional library news, beginning this month, visitors to the San Diego Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common will enjoy two free hours of parking instead of one. “The new library is pretty awesome and we should be encouraging people to stick around and check out all it has to offer. I’m pleased we were able to provide an additional hour of free parking. We will continue to monitor usage and as always welcome your feedback on how we can improve your library experience,” said Interim Mayor Gloria.

## National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month

January is *National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month* and the City of San Diego’s Human Relations Commission will be launching a human trafficking awareness campaign. According to the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, human trafficking is the world's fastest growing criminal enterprise and is an estimated \$32 billion-a-year global industry. The Human Relations Commission’s campaign is focused on California Senate Bill 1193 which mandates required businesses visibly place a human trafficking resource poster on their premises. The posters include phone numbers for the National Human Trafficking Resource Center (1-888-373-7888) and the California Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (1-888-539-2373) for victims and the public to call and receive help or report suspicious activity. “The Emancipation Proclamation became law over 150 years ago yet we must continue to combat modern day forms of slavery. I commend the Human Relations Commission’s efforts in the fight against forced work labor and sex trafficking,” said Interim Mayor Gloria.

## Free Tram Service in Balboa Park



A fleet of new high-capacity passenger trams began service in Balboa Park last month. The trams carry passengers from the large parking lots near Inspiration Point (east of Park Boulevard at Presidents Way) on a loop route leading to the convenient drop-off station in the Plaza de Panama immediately adjacent to the Mingei International Museum and near the San Diego Museum of Art. The new tram service is free to all riders. The City will be operating as many as three trams during peak hours in the park and expects to meet passengers at tram stops every 10 to 12 minutes. Trams will run from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

with the last departure from Inspiration Point at 5:45 pm.



# Tracking Todd



1. Enjoying the view at the 50th Annual North Park Toyland Parade. 2. With Junipero Serra High School's ASB & 12th grade government class. 3. Participating in Small Business Saturday at Pigment in North Park. 4. Thanks to The Boulevard, El Cajon Boulevard's Business Improvement Association, 31 new bike racks were installed along El Cajon Boulevard in 2013. 5. Supporting fast food workers at a rally for a living wage. 6. Participating in the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce's Legislative Lounge event. 7. With the Vice President of the San Diego Unified School Board Kevin Beiser, Congressman Scott Peters, and Assembly Majority Leader Toni Atkins at AIPAC's Annual Dinner. 8. With County Supervisors Roberts and Cox declaring the City and County's partnership in the Live Well San Diego initiative to improve the safety, health, and well-being for all San Diegans. 9. Visiting with San Diegans at Project Homeless Connect. 10. Attending the Smart Border Coalition Luncheon in Tijuana. 11. At a benefit in support of victims of Typhoon Haiyan.