



July 2013  
Volume 5, Issue 7

Council President  
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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#### Contact Todd

202 C Street, MS 10A  
San Diego, CA 92101  
Phone 619-236-6633  
Fax 619-595-1481  
toddgloria@sandiego.gov  
www.sandiego.gov/cd3

## Our Work Results in Pride and Progress *By Council President Todd Gloria*

I woke up on June 26 knowing that the U.S. Supreme Court would make an announcement of great importance to me and to our nation that day.

At 7:03 a.m., as I sat in the waiting room at Fox 5's studio, I learned that the Court found the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) unconstitutional. I admit some tears were shed. As hard as so many of us have worked and as much progress as I've seen in my lifetime, I was overwhelmed to accept this tremendous step forward to full equality.

The Court's separate decision that resulted in marriage equality again being the law of the land in California demonstrated even further proof of progress.

June 26 was an especially proud day to be an American. When civil rights are secured for more people, our country is stronger. I am grateful to

every person who loved and lived proudly and who worked hard and sacrificed to make this justice a reality.

While this is worthy of celebration, much more work remains. DOMA impacted some City regulations, so I have asked the City Council's Rules Committee to examine all of the City's policies to make sure they are consistent with post-DOMA federal regulations and that our employees are afforded proper benefits.

As we address this issue locally, we must continue to tell our stories and support the efforts throughout the country so we can experience full equality in our lifetimes.

Equality and justice are worth fighting for, and I'm grateful to know progress is possible.

## City Council Approves Balanced Budget *Budget Reflects Community Priorities*

The City Council approved a balanced budget on June 10 that reflected the needs and priorities of San Diegans.

"I was pleased to see many of the Council's priorities incorporated in the final budget, which focused on maintaining fiscal discipline and on restoring needed neighborhood services," said Council President Todd Gloria, who also serves as Chair of the Budget and Finance Committee.

Specifically, the budget included items important to Council President Gloria, including funding for a police officer retention program and for a sidewalk conditions and needs assessment.

"The budget demonstrates the Council's ongoing

support for funding our core services first. San Diegans want to feel safe in their neighborhoods and to see their infrastructure maintained. These priorities are reflected in this report and show that the City Council is listening," said Council President Gloria.

Unfortunately, some of the critical items the City Council approved in the budget will not move forward at this time. The budget anticipated that the City's Annual Retired Contribution (ARC) to the San Diego City Employees Retirement System (SDCERS) would be lowered by about \$20 million because of the City Council's approval of five-year labor agreements with City

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## July 11: Cocktails with the Council President in Normal Heights



Council President Gloria chats with neighbors at his June 15 coffee at Pizzicato in Bankers Hill.

Council President Todd Gloria understands that ongoing dialogue with neighbors is essential to being an effective representative. In addition to his use of newsletters and social media to communicate, he regularly holds casual community meetings on weekends and in evenings to provide updates on City issues and to take comments and questions from members of the public. The next opportunity is July 11 in Normal Heights.

**Cocktails with your Council President**  
**Thursday, July 11, 5:30—7:00 p.m.**  
**Sycamore Den\***  
**3391 Adams Avenue**  
**Normal Heights**

\*Please note that Sycamore Den is a 21 and up venue. Stop by Todd's booth at the Pride Festival on July 13 if that better suits your needs.

## Council President Funds Improvements to Homeless Facility

Council President Todd Gloria contributed \$13,549 to upgrade the Neil Good Day Center, and visited the facilities to see the completed improvements on June 12. The upgrades consisted of installation of synthetic landscape grass and clean up of the entire outdoor space.

"The Neil Good Day Center was in need of physical improvements to support its mission of providing a safe place for our homeless neighbors to spend the day off the streets, shower, do laundry, and obtain necessary services," said Council President Gloria. "This center is a critical piece of our system to solve homelessness, and I'm proud of the contribution I was able to make through savings in my office budget."

The Neil Good Day Center, located on 17th Street east of Downtown San Diego, is operated by the Alpha Project and provides case management, medical and counseling services, legal assistance, veterans services, laundry, showers, free storage, a computer lab and other supportive assistance to our homeless neighbors, many of whom spend their days in the fenced outside areas of the center. Over 7,500 clients are registered members of the Neil Good Day Center.

Before the improvements, the outside area was covered in dense dirt and heavy concrete, which made for a severely uncomfortable situation for the

"The clients have a new source of pride for the Neil Good Day Center and know that the City of San Diego is investing in their wellbeing and success," said Council President Gloria.

Each year, Councilmembers can use unspent office budget funds for worthy City and community needs. Council President Gloria has also recently contributed funds for improvements at Fire Station 3 in Little Italy, for the Starlight Bowl, and the North Park Community Association's Citizens Patrol.

In related news:

- The City Council recently approved the actions necessary to extend the Single Adult Winter Shelter Program and the Veterans' Winter Shelter Program to year-round.
- Council President Gloria's work to create affordable housing garnered him the San Diego Housing Federation's John Craven Memorial Award in June.



# Community Connection: The Todd Squad is Working for You

## Strengthening Public Safety

- The sidewalk in the 1400 block of Fern Street was re-ramped to mitigate a tripping hazard. Further evaluation for permanent repairs will occur.
- A tripping hazard created by a missing tree grate on 14th Street was repaired.
- Graffiti was cleaned up from a church and utility box on Congress Street and from the Palm Street pedestrian bridge.
- Traffic calming options for Bankers Hill are being evaluated by City staff after 27 traffic related requests were submitted by neighbors.
- Signs for Old Town Academy were moved to increase visibility and enhance safety for students.

## Infrastructure Investments

- Potholes were repaired on Conde Street and on Upas Street near 33rd. Multiple potholes were repaired on Harbor Drive.
- The refurbishing of the Vermont Street Bridge began with sandblasting on July 10. The painting is expected to be complete by July 18.
- Curbs were repainted in front of Hotel Vivant per the request of the Little Italy Association.
- A water main was repaired on Madison Avenue after it broke.
- A water access hole was repaired in the 500 block of Fifth Avenue.
- A dangerous asphalt trench patch was repaired outside of the Veterans Museum and Memorial Center in Balboa Park. The Council President is thankful to City staff member John Helminski for the quick work. Check out the pictures below.



BEFORE



AFTER

## Community Character

- A dead animal was removed from Trolley Barn Park.
- Missed trash collection in the 900 block of Johnson Avenue was addressed the same day it was reported by neighbors to the Council District Three office. The area supervisor indicated he will closely monitor this route to ensure service is provided.
- Missed recycling collection near Nutmeg Street and Dale Street was addressed.

- Two neglected news racks were removed from Mountain View Drive. Other racks in poor condition in the 3100 block of Adams Avenue and on Adams near Wilson Avenue were replaced. More news racks in Normal Heights and Old Town were maintained for sticker and graffiti removal.
- An abandoned property was reported in the 2500 block of Montclair Street. Neighborhood Code Compliance staff is coordinating its cleanup.
- A tree was trimmed in the 2600 block of San Marcos Avenue.
- Ten utility boxes in Hillcrest are being painted with fruit and vegetable motifs as part of the Hillcrest Business Association's pilot project.

## Balanced Budget Approved

*(Continued from page 1)*

employees. The SDCERS Board voted not to change the ARC on June 28.

After working with the Independent Budget Analyst, Council President Gloria understands that the following is likely for the Council additions to the budget:

- \$2 million for police retention: funding sustained through a one-time source.
- Sidewalk assessment: funding sustained through a one-time source.
- Compensation increases agreed to as part of long term labor contracts: approximately \$10 million needs to come from reserves.
- Increased library hours: funding currently unavailable to add three weekly operating hours at the Central Library and four weekly operating hours at all branch libraries. Library hours will remain unchanged at 44 per week at branches and 49 per week at the Central Library.
- Increased recruits in future police academies: funding currently unavailable to add two recruits each academy. Academies will include 34 recruits instead of the 36 recruits desired by the City Council.
- Improvements to the Mission Trails Regional Park campground and visitors' center: funding currently unavailable.

"This year's budget is a great improvement over those in previous years and demonstrates the benefit of the reforms we've implemented with the help of our employees," said Council President Gloria. "The ARC for future years will reflect the five year labor agreement and is expected to be lower, and I assure San Diegans that this City Council will continue to exercise fiscal discipline."



# Tracking Todd



1. Kicking off Concerts in the Park in Mission Hills with a contribution on June 21. 2. Honoring Admiral Dixon Smith on June 25. 3. Celebrating the Lynhurst Building's 100th birthday on June 29. 4. Dedicating a new enhanced crosswalk at Park and Essex on June 27. 5. Announcing the full funding of the CenterLine transit project with City Heights neighbor Maria Cortez on June 5. 6. Enjoying the House of Philippines on June 9.



## Council President Todd Gloria serves on the following:

Chair, Budget and Finance Committee  
 Land Use and Housing Committee  
 San Diego Association of Governments Board (SANDAG)

Chair, SANDAG Transportation Committee  
 Metropolitan Transit System Board  
 San Diego River Conservancy

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