



May 2014  
Volume 6 Issue 5

Council President  
Todd Gloria proudly  
represents

Balboa Park

Bankers Hill/Park West

Downtown

Golden Hill

Hillcrest

Midletown

Mission Hills

Normal Heights

North Park

Old Town

South Park

University Heights

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## San Diego, What Do You Think of the City Budget?

By Council President Todd Gloria

The City Council is reviewing the Mayor's proposed Fiscal Year 2015 budget this month, and your input will help ensure the budget we approve is right for all of our neighborhoods.

This proposed budget focuses on neighborhood services and infrastructure, which as many of you know are some of my top priorities. What I'm most excited about is that this budget includes funding to better address homelessness. With this, San Diego will more effectively use our limited resources to help meet my goal of ending homelessness Downtown by the end of 2016.

It was not that long ago that a previous mayor unveiled a budget that wasn't so positive. We cannot forget the employee and citizen sacrifices and great fiscal restraint that had led us to where we are today.

As the Council President and Chair of the Budget and Government Efficiency Committee, I look forward to looking more in depth at the proposed budget through upcoming hearings. The City Council will be sitting as the Budget Review Committee starting on May 5 and continuing through May 9. These hearings are great opportunities for our neighbors to learn more about their favorite departments and weigh in with concerns and priorities so we can make sure they are addressed in the budget review and approval process.

The full budget review calendar appears as an insert and I look forward to your questions and input.

## City Council Helps San Diego Homeowners Go Green

The City Council approved two new avenues for San Diego homeowners to secure financing for energy efficiency upgrades to their properties on April 8. Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) programs are financing tools that can make energy efficiency renovations increasingly affordable for homeowners by allowing them to pay for them over a defined period of time through an assessment on their property tax bill. Council President Todd Gloria advocated for the PACE programs as a means to increase energy and water efficiency renovations throughout San Diego. The City Council approved the item unanimously.

"These PACE programs will result in more homes being retrofitted for energy and water efficiency upgrades," said Council President Gloria. "San Diegans will have a new option to finance renovations to their homes, so they make sense fiscally and environmentally."

The City Council approved two resolutions, one with Western Riverside Coalition of Governments to offer its Home Energy Renovation Opportunity (HERO) PACE program, and one with the California Enterprise Development Authority to offer the Figtree PACE program.

Both Figtree and HERO programs are assessment districts formed pursuant to state law. Figtree was approved by the City Council for commercial properties and for residential properties with no mortgage liens in October 2012. HERO is not currently authorized to operate in the City. Figtree is a San Diego-

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# Progress Toward Increasing San Diego's Minimum Wage and Providing Earned Sick Leave

Council President Todd Gloria announced additional progress toward securing an increased minimum wage and earned sick leave for San Diego workers on April 30. The City Council's Economic Development and Intergovernmental Relations (ED & IR) Committee reviewed Council President Gloria's proposal to allow workers to earn five sick days per year and set a minimum wage of \$13.09 per hour, which would be implemented over a three year period starting in July 2015.

The ED & IR Committee took action to direct the City Attorney's Office to work with the Council President's Office to investigate the possibility of considering the measure as an ordinance versus a ballot proposition and bring the measure back with final language for its meeting on June 11, 2014. If approved by the ED & IR Committee, the proposal could then be forwarded to the City Council for placement on the November 4, 2014 ballot or for approval.

"San Diego can strengthen our economy and strengthen our workforce by raising the minimum wage and providing access to earned sick leave for workers, and we're making real progress," said Council President Gloria. "The feedback and discussion at the hearing demonstrate significant support, and I appreciate the ongoing productive conversations we are having with stakeholders to develop the best measure for San Diego."

The current minimum wage in California is \$8.00, which will increase to \$9.00 on July 1, 2014 and to \$10.00 in January 1, 2016. If the proposed measure is approved, San Diego's minimum wage would be \$11.09 in July 2015, \$12.09 in July 2016, and reach \$13.09 in July 2017. It would then be indexed to account for future inflation starting January 1, 2018.

Preliminary analysis by the Center on Policy Initiatives (CPI) and the Insight Center for Community Economic Development shows that when fully implemented, the measure would expand access to earned sick days to over 260,000 San Diegans, increase the wages of roughly 200,000 San Diegans, raise the annual earnings of impacted workers an average of approximately \$2,800, and put a total of approximately \$580 million into the pockets of San Diego's lowest income working families, who will turn around and spend most of that money at local stores and businesses.

The ED & IR Committee discussed the concept of these workforce strengthening measures at its meeting of March 24, 2014 and asked Council President Gloria to work with the City Attorney to develop the draft ordinance.

## Upcoming Events at the San Diego Library

**Downtown Verse Poetry & Spoken Word Program** promotes recovery in mental disorders, May 7, 2014, 6:30 p.m., San Diego Central Library @ Joan ^ Irwin Jacobs Common, 330 Park Boulevard.

Downtown Verse is a program of the library, DBSA San Diego and NAMI San Diego featuring area poets and spoken word artists on an occasional basis, offering the community an accessible and exciting venue for expressive performance. The program will be of interest to the general public as well as those touched by mental illness and their families, providing an opportunity to show the important role expressive arts can play in recovery.

**Bike Fiesta** in celebration of National Bike Month, May 10, 2014, 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m. in the Garden Courtyard of the San Diego Central Library @ Joan ^ Irwin Jacobs Common, 330 Park Boulevard.

Bicycle enthusiasts young and old, beginning and experienced, are invited to this fun informational fair dedicated to educating the community on all things biking. Co-sponsored by the San Diego County Bicycle Coalition and iCommute, Bike Fiesta will feature workshops, repair tips, maintenance checks, law and safety information, helmet fittings, biking book displays, and more.

**eReader Clinics:** Learn how to download library eBooks to your eReader or computer.

May 8, 3:00 p.m. Mira Mesa Branch, 8405 New Salem St.

May 15, 1:00 p.m. N. Clairemont Branch, 4616 Clairemont Dr.

May 27, 6:00 p.m. Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch, 9005 Aero Dr.

May 10, 1:00 p.m. Tierrasanta Branch, 4985 La Cuenta Dr.

May 23, 3:00 p.m. N. University Branch, 8820 Judicial Dr.

May 28, 5:00 p.m. Central Library, 330 Park Blvd.

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

### Strengthening Public Safety

- At the request of a community member, stop signs will soon be installed at the intersection of W. Juniper St., Curlew St., and Union St.
- Stop pavement markings were repainted at Lincoln at Ohio
- “Keep Right” signage was installed on the median on El Cajon Blvd. and 805 SB off ramp.
- Trip hazards were removed from southwest corner of Utah and El Cajon and from the sidewalk on the west side of 32nd St. at Nutmeg St.
- A crosswalk was installed at 14th St. and F St.
- Work has begun on traffic signal modification on Ash Street. This project will provide new traffic lights and pedestrian countdown timers. Construction should be complete May 2014.

### Infrastructure Investment

- A pothole was filled at the intersection of Park Blvd. and Upas St. near the Blind Community Center of San Diego.

- Red curb was repainted in advance of the clean up at the Lily Pond in University Heights.
- Dirt alleys near the 2100 and 3300 blocks of Dwight St. were graded and compacted
- Curb at 2200 Felton St. was rebuilt.

### Constituent Support

- Helped a small business owner work with construction crews on the 25th St Renaissance Project to create pedestrian access to his business.

### Community Character

- SDPD’s Homeless Outreach Team and the Environmental Services Department addressed multiple homeless encampments in Mission Hills and many locations in Downtown and East Village.
- Trees were trimmed in the 3800 block of Adams Ave.
- Overflowing refuse containers in the 500 block of 4th Ave. were addressed.

## Home Efficiency Financing Options *(Continued from page 1)*

based clean energy finance company providing PACE financing for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water conservation upgrades. Figtree’s Commercial PACE program allows owners to finance improvements and pay for them over a defined period of time through an assessment collected on their property tax bill.

The Western Riverside Council of Governments, a Joint Powers Authority, launched the HERO PACE program in January 2012, operated by the San Diego-based company, Renovate America. Several local agencies have adopted the HERO program, with 76 jurisdictions statewide having approved HERO programs. The HERO program has created over 1,000 new jobs and generated over \$200,000,000 in economic stimulus for the state.

During the hearing, the City Council discussed how the Federal Housing Financing Authority’s (FHFA) tightening of loan requirements may impact homeowners who secure PACE financing in the future. In 2010, the FHFA issued directives that resulted in the tightening of loan requirements and directed that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac not purchase mortgages on properties encumbered by PACE liens since the PACE liens take a first position. The proposed HERO program legal structure is the same as PACE and therefore poses the same potential problems for homeowners. These potential risks could include reduced ability to refinance, potential default of a mortgage, reduced ability to sell a property, and mandatory early lien pay-off.

In September of 2013, Governor Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 96 into law, authorizing the establishment of the PACE Loss Reserve Program to address FHFA’s concerns. The PACE Loss Reserve is to be used to make mortgage lenders whole for any direct losses incurred due to the existence of a PACE lien on a property during a foreclosure or forced sale.

Although FHFA concerns remain, given the establishment of the PACE Loss Reserve Program as well as the success of PACE programs such as HERO, the City Council moved forward with the establishment of a residential PACE program for City residents.

“Given the new state law establishing the PACE Loss Reserve Program I feel confident moving forward with authorizing these program, as long as property owners are aware of potential impacts to future financing alternatives so they can make informed decisions on how best to retrofit their homes,” said Council President Gloria.

The minimal fiscal impact to the City will be absorbed by existing staff. All costs related to energy efficiency, water conservation, and/or renewable energy projects will be borne by participating property owners.

## Recycling Rates Announced: How Does Your Neighborhood Stack Up?

On Earth Day, the City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department (ESD) compiled data from trash and recyclables collected from San Diego residents and established community recycling rates for the first time ever.

Although the overall recycling rate in the City of San Diego is at 68%, the new study showed much need for improvements at the neighborhood level, which currently has a dismal 24% across San Diego.

In 2012, a recycling goal of 75% by the year 2020 was approved at the state level. With increased outreach and education, the City believes the local recycling (diversion) rate can meet and exceed the state goal by 2020.

The neighborhoods of Council District Three did pretty well between January 1—March 15, 2014, and some are poised for some improvement. Council President Todd Gloria looks forward to sharing improvements quarterly.

Ranking in the excellent category were Adams North, Burlingame, Midtown, Mission Hills and Old Town. Ranking in the good category were Core-Columbia, Corridor, Cortez, East Village, Gaslamp, Golden Hill, Hillcrest, Little Italy, Normal Heights, North Park, and Park West.

Please note that the neighborhoods were grouped and named based on Environmental Services routes and records. Visit [www.recyclingworks.com](http://www.recyclingworks.com) for more details.

## Lake Hodges Reopens for Windsurfing

After more than ten years, Lake Hodges Reservoir has been reopened to the general public for windsurfing. Lake Hodges is the only city reservoir to allow windsurfing.

Councilman Mark Kersey, who represents the Rancho Bernardo area where Lake Hodges is located, worked closely with the City of San Diego Public Utilities Department and the windsurfing community to bring this recreational offering back to San Diego.

"I am pleased we're bringing windsurfing back to Lake Hodges for local enthusiasts and others to enjoy," said Councilman Kersey.

"The City of San Diego's reservoirs are key to our local water system, and I'm excited to add back this recreational amenity, too," said Council President Todd Gloria.

Windsurfing, or boardsailing as it is also known, has been allowed since April 2 during the regular recreation schedule on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays.

In addition to windsurfing, Lake Hodges continues to be available for fishing and other watercraft.

Windsurfing had previously been allowed from 1988 until 2003 but was stopped during the construction of a pump station. The construction of the pump station was supposed to be completed in 2008 but was delayed until 2010 at which time the City's fiscal issues prevented windsurfing from being reauthorized.

The City of San Diego coordinates closely with the State of California Department of Public Health to ensure that all activities which may impact the reservoir's water quality are thoroughly evaluated and that proper measures to protect the water quality are in place. In addition, the City must ensure all local, state and federal accessibility, environmental security and safety concerns are considered and met.

For safety and water quality protection purposes, certain new rules are in place for windsurfing activities that did not apply when it was previously allowed including required use of personal floatation devices, inspection of quagga mussels and signing a personal liability waiver.

Complete rules and regulations for recreational use of the reservoir are posted online at [www.sandiego.gov/water](http://www.sandiego.gov/water).



# Balboa Park News

## 2015 Centennial Update

Council President Todd Gloria continues to work with Mayor Kevin Faulconer and City staff on developing the full schedule and plan for the Centennial of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition. Long-time City Park and Recreation Department employee, Mike Ruiz, has been named Balboa Park 2015 District Director. He is now on the job as the City's point person for the Balboa Park centennial and will help ensure the occasion is appropriately recognized.



## Alcazar Parking Lot Now Reopen

Alcazar Lot was opened in early April after significant renovations including grading, repaving, and adding nine accessible parking spots. Picture left.

## Arbor Day

Friends of Balboa Park planted native California Scrub Oaks in the Zorro Garden area to commemorate Arbor Day. Jean Palmer, great granddaughter of Arbor Day founder J. Sterling Morton was there. Picture right.



## Cabrillo Bridge Retrofit Project Construction Update

According to Caltrans, restoration of the bridge deck is progressing at a steady pace, with the contractor now working double shifts six days a week. The following critical tasks and timelines must be completed before the deck will be opened to traffic.

Install Deck Reinforcement: 3 working days

Concrete Deck Pour: 3 working days

Concrete Cure: 10-28 days

Drainage System (Concurrent with Concrete Cure): 10 working days

Paving and Striping: 14 working days



## Sculptures Renovated

From 2011-2014, the Committee of One Hundred had 18 sculptures restored, gave them new bases, and added interpretive signage in English and Spanish. The renovated Panama-California Sculpture Court now serves as museum display, telling the story of a temporary exposition building and its rebirth. It is open to the public without charge whenever the Casa del Prado is open. Picture left.

## Lyceum Theatre Renovations Approved

The City Council approved a project to renovate the Lyceum Theatre. The project will consist of the renovation of two lobbies and four restrooms, the replacement of mechanical and electrical systems, lighting, the back stage monitoring system and installation of new carpet.

All aspects of the project address fixtures and equipment that have been in place since the facility opened in 1986.



# Tracking Todd



1. Todd helps announce World Cup North Park.
2. Todd speaks at the Rotaract gala at USD.
3. Mexican American Business Professionals Association gives Todd an Amigo award.
4. Todd honors Ruth Heifetz, recipient of Environmental Health Coalition's Spirit of Justice Award.
5. Recognizing Dining Out for Life Day.
6. At the annual Easter event at Trolley Barn Park.
7. Cutting the ribbon on improvements at Roosevelt Middle School.



Council President Todd Gloria serves on the following:

Chair, Budget and Government Efficiency Committee

Member, San Diego Association of Governments Board (SANDAG)

Chair, SANDAG Transportation Committee

Member, SANDAG Executive Committee

Member, Metropolitan Transit System Board

Liaison, Civic San Diego

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