

YOUR SAN DIEGO

News From Interim Mayor Todd Gloria



November 2013
Volume 5, Issue 11

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,

November is synonymous with Thanksgiving Day. I look forward to sharing a special holiday meal with family and friends and giving thanks for all my blessings. With Thanksgiving as November's main event, it's easy to lose sight of other things I'm thankful for besides food on the fourth Thursday of the month. Here are some other things for which I am truly grateful.



Our veterans whose service and sacrifice is unparalleled. Pictured here is my great grandmother, Dolly Avery, standing between her sons, my great uncle Forest on the left and my grandfather Charles on the right. Both men served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces. My grandfather arrived in San Diego from Oklahoma in 1943. His move from the Midwest made me a native San Diegan. I owe them and all our acting and retired service men and women my thanks for their dedication to our country. So many service members are overseas this Thanksgiving and don't get to pass the mashed potatoes or carve the turkey with their parents, spouses, children and siblings.

Our first responders, trash collectors, street crews and others making up the City's 10,000 person workforce who provide vital services we all rely on each day. Their efforts keep our City's engine running.

My Council colleagues who focus on improving their neighborhoods and look for ways to make San Diego's economy more robust. They are dedicated public servants who strive every day to make San Diego an even better place to live.

Those who are caregivers to our ill, our elderly and our homeless. By way of example, their service and big hearts remind us to practice patience and empathy toward all our neighbors.

For being born and raised in a city that has such a varied and vibrant cultural identity. This is the town where a Native American, Filipino, Puerto Rican, Dutch son of a maid and a gardener became the Interim Mayor of San Diego. This is the town where I have lumpia and tamales next to the turkey and stuffing on my Thanksgiving plate.

Finally, I am thankful for the ability to serve. I ask for your continued patience and participation as we draw closer to electing a new mayor for San Diego. Happy Thanksgiving to all.

Respectfully,

Todd Gloria
Interim Mayor

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\$120 Million Infrastructure Bond & Community Workshops

Late last month, Interim Mayor Gloria unveiled a list of proposed projects which could be completed with an anticipated \$120 million infrastructure bond that is expected to be considered by the City Council in January 2014. This bond is proposed to include \$43,460,000 for street resurfacing. Some of the other projects on the proposed list include design for the Skyline Library, San Ysidro Library, San Carlos Library, and Skyline Fire Station, design and land acquisition for the Home Avenue Fire Station, and replacement of Fire Station 22 in Point Loma, Fire Station 17 in City Heights, and Fire Station 5 in Hillcrest. "This infrastructure bond will help us improve our neighborhoods to levels San Diegans deserve. Repairing streets, storm drains and replacing failing aging facilities with bond funds is fiscally responsible and community focused," said Interim Mayor Gloria. More information on this infrastructure bond can be found at www.sandiego.gov/mayor/newsroom.



Also last month, Interim Mayor Gloria and Councilmember Mark Kersey kicked off the first in a series of infrastructure community workshops to be held in upcoming weeks throughout the City of San Diego. Councilmember Kersey chairs the Infrastructure Committee and is working to create the City's first ever 5-Year Infrastructure Plan. The purpose of these workshops is to inform and receive input from residents about what types of improvements you would like to see in your neighborhood.

Infrastructure is often only thought of in terms of streets and water pipes. But it actually includes myriad other things such as bikes facilities, bridges, libraries, police stations, streetlights, sidewalks, fire stations, wastewater systems and more. Attendance at these workshops is not just for engineers, planners and architects; all San Diegans are encouraged to participate and provide input on priorities for your neighborhood. In the event you are unable to attend the meeting scheduled in your specific district, you are welcome to attend another meeting and have input for your community count. Here is the schedule for remaining workshops for November and December:

- **Wednesday, November 6 at 6:00 p.m., District Six with Councilmember Lorie Zapf**
Pangea Bakery Café, 4689 Convoy St. #100, San Diego, CA 92111
- **Wednesday, November 13 at 6:00 p.m., District Two with Councilmember Kevin Faulconer**
Cadman Elementary School Auditorium, 4370 Kamloop Avenue, San Diego, CA 92117
- **November 20 or 21 at 6:00 p.m., District Nine with Councilmember Marti Emerald**
Workforce Career Center, 3rd Floor Conference Room, 3910 University Avenue, San Diego, CA 92105
- **Tuesday, December 3 at 6:00 p.m., District One with Councilmember Sherri Lightner**
Location to be determined.
- **Wednesday, December 11 at 6:00 p.m., District Eight with Councilmember David Alvarez**
Colonel Irving Salomon San Ysidro Community Activity Center, 179 Diza Road, San Diego, CA 92173

Please be sure to contact the appropriate Council office beforehand to confirm the date, time and place of the infrastructure workshop in the event some of the details have changed.

You can follow the conversation on Twitter #RebuildSD and provide additional input by emailing infrastructure@sandiego.gov.

Community Connection: The Todd Squad is Working for You

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Strengthening Public Safety

- Twenty-eight new parking spots were added in University Heights from Adams Avenue to Monroe Avenue thanks to Ernie Bonn and the University Heights Community Parking District.

Infrastructure Investments

- Potholes were filled and road patches were made on 33rd Street, south of North Park Way in North Park.
- A portion of the road was patched at the intersection of Congress Street and San Diego Avenue in Old Town.
- A road repair was made in the alley behind the 4700 block of Hawley Boulevard in Normal Heights.
- A damaged sidewalk over a water meter in a driveway in the Stockton community was repaired.

Community Character

- A couch was removed from an alley behind Hawley Boulevard in Normal Heights.
- Debris was removed and a donation bin was replaced at Adams Avenue and Bancroft Street in Normal Heights.
- Graffiti was removed on a wall on Adams Avenue in Normal Heights.
- A plaque at Fort Stockton in Old Town was replaced thanks to assistance from the Mormon Battalion and the City's Park and Recreation Department after the original plaque had been stolen.

Check out these terrific before and after pictures.



Proposed Water Rate Adjustment

On November 21 at 10:00 a.m., there will be a public hearing before the City Council to consider a proposed water rate increase. This is primarily the result of a cost increase passed along by the San Diego County Water Authority for the wholesale cost of water. Because local water sources are scarce, the City has to purchase about 85-90% of the water it supplies to its customers. During the past two years, City residents have not seen an increase in water rates because the City's Public Utilities Department, through efficiencies and cost-savings efforts, was able to temporarily offset rate increases. At this hearing, the San Diego City Council will consider the recommendation to increase water rates on January 1, 2014 and January 1, 2015. They will also consider a tiered rate structure that will result in many San Diegans paying less depending on usage. You are encouraged to attend and provide your input. The hearing will take place in the City Administration Building located at 202 C Street on the 12th floor. For more information, visit www.sandiego.gov/water/rates/increases.

Border Region Update



In keeping with his continued focus on developing stronger relationships with Mexico, Interim Mayor Gloria asked a team of City leaders to meet with their counterparts in Tijuana last month. A delegation including the Director of Bi-national Affairs, the Director of Legislative Affairs, the Planning Director, and representatives from the Public Utilities Department, Office of Homeland Security, and Environmental Services Department traveled to Tijuana. This meeting primarily focused on introductions and department overviews, with key discussion on storm water issues on both sides of the border as well as discussion for future opportunities on emergency preparedness and long term projects such as the San Ysidro port of entry expansion. "Tijuana Mayor Bustamante and I are committed to ensuring that the relationship between our

governments is as collaborative as possible," said Interim Mayor Gloria. The next roundtable meeting between Mexican and San Diego's department heads should take place in San Diego in February 2014.

Support for Veterans

Interim Mayor Gloria attended the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) luncheon last month and spoke to an audience of about 80 members. The AFCEA is an international organization founded in 1946 to improve the communications between the Armed Forces. At the luncheon, Interim Mayor Gloria spoke of the City's past support of the Veterans Village of San Diego and the City's \$3 million homeless services investment which includes projects like Connections Housing - the first year-round support station and homeless shelter in San Diego, the Downtown Adult Winter Shelter, and the Veterans Winter Shelter. Interim Mayor Gloria also spoke of the challenge in finding an additional \$1 million to keep two temporary homeless shelters open year round. "We owe our veterans more than thanks for their service to our country. We owe them the resources and support they need when they transition back to a civilian life," Interim Mayor Gloria said.

Community Bulletin Board

Honor A Hero, Hire A Vet

The State of California's Employment Development Department is hosting its 7th Annual "Honor A Hero, Hire A Vet" Job and Resource Fair on Thursday, November 7 at 9:00 a.m. This year's event will take place at the Valley View Casino Center located at 3500 Sports Arena Boulevard. The event's primary focus is those who are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces and those Veterans who have previously served.

Balboa Park December Nights: December 6 and 7, 2013

Be sure to mark your calendar for the 35th annual Balboa Park December Nights taking place on Friday, December 6 from 3:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. and on Saturday, December 7 from 12:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. San Diego's largest, free community festival is expected to draw 350,000 visitors to the Park with participating museums opening their doors free of charge from 5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. on both evenings. Interim Mayor Gloria hopes you and your family will be able to attend this multi-cultural winter celebration.

North Park Citizens Patrol Call For Volunteers

The North Park Citizens Patrol (NPCP) is looking for people interested in joining their volunteer team for purposes of

patrolling and raising crime prevention awareness in North Park neighborhoods. The NPCP falls under the umbrella of the North Park Community Association, a 501c3 nonprofit, all volunteer organization. For additional information, please contact citizenspatrol@northparksd.org.

Used Oil and Filter Recycling Events

The City's Environmental Services Department had a successful recycling event on October 12 in Balboa Park. More than 500 City residents showed up over the course of the day and dropped off approximately 16,000 pounds of recyclable hazardous waste including 725 gallons of used motor oil, 3,500 pounds of auto batteries, 2,500 pounds of consumer batteries, 230 gallons of antifreeze, 870 pounds of fluorescent bulbs and 303 oil filters.

Bring your used oil, antifreeze, car batteries, consumer batteries, oil filters, and fluorescent bulbs to an upcoming recycling event listed below. All events take place from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 16 at Southwest High School

1685 Hollister Street (south parking lot), San Diego, CA 92124

Saturday, December 14 at Mission Bay Shores Park

Sea World Drive & South Shores Park Driveway, San Diego, CA 92109

Saturday, January 25 at Public Utilities Operations Center

5571 Kearny Villa Road @ Topaz Way, San Diego, CA 92123

Pedestrian Safety Community Workshop

You are invited to attend the First Comprehensive Pedestrian Safety Guidelines Community Workshop on Thursday, November 7 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. The workshop will take place at the War Memorial Building Auditorium in Balboa Park, located at 2125 Park Boulevard with parking available in the Zoo lot. Come and learn about a current effort to improve pedestrian safety through new and improved strategies, policies and practices. Share your thoughts about the most pressing issues affecting pedestrians in your community. Topics to be addressed include pedestrian safety concerns, crosswalks, mid-block crossings, enforcement and education. For more information, please contact Edd Alberto at AlbertoE@sandiego.gov or by calling 619-533-3093.

City Reorganization



Last month, the City Council unanimously supported Interim Mayor Gloria's plan to reorganize City government. These are a series of strategic tweaks that will help the organization run more smoothly, saving time and money. With this reorganization, Interim Mayor Gloria anticipates decisions will be made more quickly, information will be shared more efficiently, the City will operate more from a proactive rather than a reactive place, and the City will be much more aggressive at cultivating and promoting talented

employees to advance within the organization. "I'm proud that I will be able to pass along these changes to the next mayor. Quite simply, our City government will be a much more resilient and better-run operation as a result of this reorganization," Interim Mayor Gloria said.

With this reorganization, Interim Mayor Todd Gloria announced two key leadership hires, promoting Stacey LoMedico to assistant chief operating officer and bringing back Mary Lewis as chief financial officer. LoMedico has served as the City's Park and Recreation director since 2007 and has worked for the City for three decades. Lewis, who served as chief financial officer from 2008 to 2012, returns to the City after having served as chief financial officer for the San Diego City Employees' Retirement System (SDCERS) for the past 1 ½ years. "Stacey's career with the City has been simply remarkable," Interim Mayor Gloria said. "I don't think I'm exaggerating when I say she has been the world's best Park and Recreation Director. Her command of operational detail is extraordinary. And beyond those skills, she has a gift for being able to relate to people. Mary is the consummate professional. Her competent leadership was one of the reasons the City was able to emerge from the past decade's financial problems in relatively solid shape. I have complete faith in her ability to steer this City in a prudent financial direction," Interim Mayor Gloria said.

Road Construction Moratorium

If, during the holiday season, you wonder why certain City roads are not being repaired, it's because of the City's annual moratorium on road construction on selected City streets. A large portion of Downtown as well as streets adjacent to major shopping malls are included in an effort to minimize traffic impacts of construction on retail merchants and consumers during the holiday season. This moratorium runs from Thanksgiving Day through New Year's Day.

Balboa Park 2015 - Leave Your Stamp Postcard Design Competition

Balboa Park Centennial, Inc. is calling on all artists (novice and seasoned) to enter its design competition to create a postcard for the San Diego Balboa Park Centennial 2015 celebration. The winning postcard(s) will be distributed throughout the City and around the world to promote what will be the biggest and longest running party since the Panama Exposition in 1915. "There are so many ways to participate in and support the San Diego Balboa Park Centennial 2015 celebration. This is a fun and creative way to showcase San Diego," Interim Mayor Gloria said. For information on the contest, visit the Balboa Park 2015's Facebook page.

Tracking Todd



1. With community leaders at the St. Paul's Episcopal Homes ribbon cutting. 2. With Councilmembers Marti Emerald and Mark Kersey at Fire Station 17 in City Heights announcing the City's proposed \$120 million infrastructure bond. 3. With Coronado City Councilman Al Ovrom, on the left and John Ovrom, president of the Coronado Rotary, on the right after addressing the Coronado Rotarians at their recent meeting. 4. With Council President Pro Tem Sherri Lightner and fellow attendees at the Sports and Active Lifestyle Industry Economic Impact Study Launch at the Challenged Athletes Foundation headquarters. 5. At last month's open house for the new office of the Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice. 6. With Assemblymember Shirley Weber, Councilman Scott Sherman, and other community leaders at last month's ribbon cutting for the Linda Vista Picnic Shelter.

New Emergency Generator for St. Paul's Villas

Last month, Interim Mayor Gloria attended the ribbon cutting for the installation of a new emergency generator at St. Paul's Episcopal Homes retirement community. The September 2011 countywide power outage left residents at St. Paul's without power and necessitated the immediate relocation of some residents living in the St. Paul's Villas who require the use of electrical medical devices such as oxygen respirators and feeding tubes. The power outage also put residents at risk with no elevator service nor electronic means of communication to request assistance. The new generator, which was made possible by \$375,493 in CDBG funding, will provide at least 72 hours of uninterrupted service when necessary. St. Paul's is registered with the Red Cross and the County of San Diego Aging and Independence Services as a senior relocation site during a crisis. This new generator not only serves the residents of St. Paul's, but can also support other seniors with special needs during times of emergency. "We have to ensure all our residents, and particularly those most vulnerable, will have the services they need when an emergency or another power outage takes place. St. Paul's residents can rest a bit easier now with the installation of this generator," Interim Gloria said.

Department Meet and Greets

During his time in office, Interim Mayor Gloria is meeting with employees in various City departments to give employees an update on the City and to hear what's on their minds. The first such meeting took place last month with the Purchasing and Contracting department. This department has weathered great change over the past few years, and Interim Mayor Gloria is confident department director, Dennis Gakunga, who joined this department last April, will bring much needed stability and leadership to the department. "It's important for me to learn what workers need to better do their jobs and to reassure them that the City is back on track and back in business," said Interim Mayor Gloria.



Interim Mayor Todd Gloria serves on the following:

Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
San Diego Association of Governments Board (SANDAG)
Chair, SANDAG Transportation Committee

Metropolitan Transit System Board
San Diego River Conservancy

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