

YOUR SAN DIEGO

News From Interim Mayor Todd Gloria



October 2013
Volume 5, Issue 10

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,

I'm happy to report the work in the Mayor's office is charging full steam ahead. My staff and all City employees are dedicated to doing the peoples' work. They are knowledgeable professionals in their respective fields and are committed to being responsive and helpful to you. I invite you to visit our new Mayor's web page to communicate with me and keep abreast of what we're working on. Just how much can I accomplish in 81 days between when I took on this role and the November 19 election? Visit the web site to find out, www.sandiego.gov. Additionally, I send out e-newsletter updates about two times per month. You may sign up on the web site or send an email to toddgloria@sandiego.gov and you'll be placed on the list. In the name of progress, there is much to report on.

The previous administration was criticized for its lackadaisical approach to enforcing our laws and codes consistently, which led to unfair treatment benefiting San Diegans who happened to have access to my predecessor. As your representative, I see it as my job to modify laws that don't make sense. Unless and until laws can be modified, they must be enforced. This is the current challenge I face as I work with my City Council colleagues, the City Attorney, and City staff to develop sensible code updates to allow medical marijuana dispensaries and food trucks to operate legally in ways that balance the needs of their clients and the surrounding neighborhoods. I appreciate the input provided from passionate San Diegans on both topics, and the measures we're developing will be publicly vetted prior to their consideration by the City Council. It's essential your voices are heard; my decisions are always informed by your input.

Just like your participation guides our actions at City Hall, San Diego's interests must be well-represented in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. I am proud that we recently re-hired lobbying firms to resume the representation of San Diego before lawmakers and influencers in our state and national capitols. For the past nine months, San Diego has had no one at the table vying for our interests or funding, which is troubling given the looming sequestration and its potential effect on local families and businesses whose way of life is directly connected to our military economy and other federal spending. Late last month, the City initiated a process for new lobbying contracts to ensure that, moving forward, San Diego receives the representation it deserves. I headed to Washington, D.C. with members from the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce the first week of October and met with key stakeholders to advocate for San Diego on Capitol Hill.

So what have I learned during these past few weeks as Interim Mayor? I've learned I really love this job. I love the people side of it, the consensus-building side of it, the making progress side of it. Make no mistake, it's a demanding job and I do my best to balance my roles as Interim Mayor, Council President and Councilmember. But at the end of each day, it's the people that make it great – diverse stakeholders coming to the table with different ideas on how we can collectively make San Diego a better place to live. This is a great gig.

There is much work to be done between now and when a new mayor takes office. I appreciate your continued patience and participation in these upcoming months. As always, thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Respectfully,

Todd Gloria
Interim Mayor

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Downtown Quiet Zone Gets Quieter

Over the past several weeks, Interim Mayor Gloria has been working with community members, Civic San Diego and various stakeholders and organizations on ways to resolve outstanding issues related to noise and traffic disturbances in the Downtown Quiet Zone. The Quiet Zone is a span of 13 railroad crossings where train noise has been reduced and safety precautions for vehicles and pedestrians at railroad crossings have been improved. In response to his request of Paul Jablonski, CEO of the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System, changes have been implemented to mitigate the noise and traffic challenges at certain rail crossings. The trolley bells at Market, Kettner & G Streets have been replaced with adjustable bells set at a lower decibel level and a number of the bells have been fitted with an internal sound mitigation sleeve. A redundant bell alert at Broadway has been removed. The length of time that warning gates are down after a trolley has passed has been reduced thereby aiding traffic congestion, wait times, and idling car emissions. Interim Mayor Gloria is happy to address this lingering issue for his Downtown neighbors.

Infrastructure Update

On September 23, the Independent Budget Analyst came before the City Council with an update on the status of the City's infrastructure. Because of deteriorating infrastructure and a significant backlog of deferred capital projects, the cost is currently estimated to be at least \$898 million for repairing and upgrading our streets, facilities, and storm drains. The City has adopted a first ever deferred capital funding plan to begin addressing the backlog with the objective of developing a multi-year Capital Improvement Plan. Given tight financial constraints, valid competing priorities, and the significant deferred capital backlog, the City ultimately will need to develop a financing strategy, such as a General Obligation Bond Program, to address priority unfunded capital projects identified in the multi-year capital improvements plan and more comprehensively address infrastructure issues. "This is a daunting figure but I am committed to addressing this issue through a proposed bond measure later this year. Our City's economic viability is directly linked to the health of our infrastructure," Interim Mayor Gloria said.

Mid-City Rapid Bus Project Update

Crews have begun demolishing the center median on Park Boulevard between University and Lincoln avenues to construct transit-only lanes for the Mid-City Rapid bus line. One lane in each direction will be closed during construction. Construction activities in this area are expected to last about three months. During construction, some parking spaces will be temporarily unavailable on both sides of Park Boulevard, specifically:

- Southwest corner of Park and Lincoln (in front of Harmony Animal Hospital).
- South end of the diagonal parking spaces mid-block between University and Lincoln (in front of Cathedral Arms and Grace Tower). The curb in this area will be painted red to preserve access for emergency vehicles, trash pickup, and U.S. Postal Service deliveries.
- Park at Lincoln: Sidewalk construction on the east side of Park Boulevard in front of Grace Lutheran Church is expected to finish by the end of September.

The Mid-City Rapid will be a high-speed, limited-stop bus service between San Diego State University and Downtown San Diego along El Cajon and Park boulevards. The 10 mile project will provide North Park, City Heights, College Area, and Downtown residents, students, and workers with a fast and reliable way to get around in one of this region's key transportation corridors. For the most up-to-date information, visit KeepSanDiegoMoving.com/MidCityRapid and click on the Construction Notices tab.

Community Bulletin Board

Fire Protection Awareness October 5 – 13

The San Diego Fire-Rescue Department (SDFD) and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) are teaming up during Fire Prevention Week, October 5 – 13. This year's focus is the dangers of kitchen fires, most of which result from food left unattended, and to teach San Diegans how to prevent kitchen fires from starting. Among the activities planned for the Health & Safety Fairs are fire station tours, interactive demonstrations on kid's fire safety, photo ops with Sparky the Fire Dog, and fire-fighting simulations. Each location will provide visitors with a variety of take home materials including reusable tote bags, stickers, brochures, fire chief hats, coloring books, and more. Community partner San Diego Project Heart Beat will be leading CPR/AED training and Rural/Metro will be performing blood pressure screenings and ambulance tours. We are grateful to the San Diego Fire Rescue Foundation and SDG&E for making these possible. Participating fire stations are:

Saturday, October 5 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Fire Station 10 – College Area – 4605 62nd St.

Sunday, October 6 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Fire Station 33 – Rancho Bernardo – 16966 Bernardo Center Drive

Saturday, October 12 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Fire Station 14 – North Park – 4011 32nd St.

Saturday, October 12 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Fire Station 25 – Bay Park – 1972 Chicago St.

Saturday, October 12 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Fire Station 29 – San Ysidro – 198 W. San Ysidro Blvd.

Sunday, October 13 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Fire Station 11 – Golden Hill – 945 25th St.

Sunday, October 13 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Fire Station 12 – Lincoln Park – 4964 Imperial Ave.

Sunday, October 13 from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Fire Station 35 – University City – 4285 Eastgate Mall

Recycling Events

Mark your calendars for recycling events taking place in October and November. Bring your used oil, oil filters, household batteries and fluorescent light bulbs. This program is funded by the City of San Diego Environmental Services Department and a Grant from the Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery.

All events are held from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

- **Balboa Park** – Saturday, October 12 at the corner of Presidents Way and Park Blvd. (corner lot) 92101
- **Southwest High School** – Saturday, November 16 at 1685 Hollister Street (south parking lot) 92154

SDG&E Conserve and Earn

Did you know SDG&E will pay you to save energy between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.? How can you reduce your energy use during these hours? First, turn up the thermostat on your air conditioning by four to six degrees. Second, run your heavy appliances such as your washer, dryer and dishwasher either early in the morning or later at night. Finally, if you have a pool, turn off the pump during those daytime hours. You can learn more about this program by visiting www.sdge.com.

**How much can Interim Mayor Gloria accomplish in 81 days?
Visit his website to find out. www.sandiego.gov**

Community Connection: The Todd Squad is Working for You

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Strengthening Public Safety

- Cars of parents whose children attend the Old Town Academy were being unnecessarily cited by parking enforcement in the drop off and pick up zone. A City parking enforcement officer came on site and was able to help remedy the situation.

Infrastructure Investments

- Potholes were repaired on West Mountain View north of Adams Avenue in Normal Heights as well as on the 3800 block of Center Street from Robinson to University Avenue in Hillcrest.
- 48 sections of streets in District Three neighborhoods were slurry sealed during the month of September. Check out the great before and after pictures on Texas Street.



Community Character

- Graffiti was removed from the 3700 block of Adams Avenue in Normal Heights and from the 2400 block of Congress Street in Old Town.
- A street litter container was removed from the 2300 block of 30th Street in the Burlingame neighborhood. The trashcan was regularly overflowing and attracting homeless neighbors in front of a local business.
- Trash and barricades left behind by a contractor working on a City project at the corner of Maryland and Monroe were cleaned up in the University Heights neighborhood. A portable restroom left on Maryland Street from a storm drain project from June was also removed.
- An abandoned and un-maintained blue donation bin with overflowing debris was removed from the Rite Aid parking lot in Normal Heights.
- Interim Mayor Gloria contributed \$5,000 from his office budget savings to fund a needs assessment study at the El Campo Cemetery in Old Town, which has ongoing maintenance issues such as missing plaques, damaged headstones, and cracked crosses.

San Diego's Climate Action Plan for 2035

Interim Mayor Gloria is pleased that the Climate Action Task Force met last month to resume their efforts to strengthen the City's Climate Action Plan. The task force will be helping the City meet state goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing the City's readiness for a changing climate. It is anticipated that the Natural Resources and Culture Committee will take up the item of reviewing an amended Climate Action Plan on November 6 at 2:00 p.m. A comprehensive environmental review would follow before the City Council considers final adoption next year. If passed, this revised plan will result in an increased number of bike lanes on our roadways, reduced energy use in buildings, increased renewable energy, and San Diego will become **even** greener with the planting of more trees. San Diegans are encouraged to attend the November 6 committee meeting to learn more about the plan and to provide input. The meeting will take place at the City Administration Building located at 202 C Street, on the 12th floor.

@Todd Gloria

One thing you might not know about Interim Mayor Gloria is that he is an avid user of social media and regularly relies on Twitter and Facebook to share information and engage in conversations on topics relevant to his constituents, including parking meters, the Convention Center expansion, the new Central Library, and street repairs. Connect with Interim Mayor Gloria on Twitter at @ToddGloria and on Facebook at www.facebook.com/toddgloria. He was recently interviewed by *Measured Voice*. You'll learn a thing or two about Interim Mayor Gloria's tweeting and his leadership style at www.measuredvoice.com/blog.

Strengthening Ties With Mexico

Last month, Interim Mayor Gloria met with Mayor Carlos Bustamante of Tijuana and Alfonso Bustamante, Honorary Director of Bi-national Affairs for Tijuana. Mayor Bustamante thanked Interim Mayor Gloria for taking the time to visit Tijuana and for continuing the work of Mayor Sanders to strengthen ties with Baja California. "I am committed to working with Tijuana to improve border wait times and to continue to promote the San Diego-Tijuana region," Interim Mayor Gloria said. Mexico is an important partner as American trade with Mexico jumped from \$300 billion in 2009 to around \$500 billion last year; the United States trades more with Mexico, than with Japan, United Kingdom and Germany combined, according to Simon Rosenberg, head of the Washington, D.C. think-tank *New Democrat Network*. Those dollars directly impact San Diego's economy. "It's in San Diego's economic interest to continue strengthening our ties with the Baja California region," Interim Mayor Gloria remarked.

In addition to keeping the office of the City of San Diego open in Tijuana, Interim Mayor Gloria proposed having key department staff meet with their counterparts in Tijuana in order to better coordinate, collaborate, and work on border planning and grant opportunities as one unified region. Mayor Bustamante agreed and was excited by the opportunities this could create for our region.

La Jolla Cove Bird Manure Update

The second phase of the La Jolla Cove bird manure clean-up commenced late last month and is expected to take one or two weeks. The City is scheduling the clean-up in phases to avoid disrupting the bird nesting. There may or may not be the need for a third phase, depending on how much progress occurs.

Tracking Todd



1. Celebrating at the dedication of The San Diego Central Library @ Joan A Irwin Jacobs Common! 2. Aboard the USS Midway at the Red Cross *Real Heroes* event. 3. Enjoying some recreational fun while promoting Park(ing) Day on September 20 in the Gaslamp. 4. Welcoming volunteers with Supervisor Cox, Councilmember Cole, and folks from ILACSD at California Coastal Cleanup Day. 5. Joining members of the Tijuana Little League team at Petco Park. 6. Promoting public safety with members of the Bankers Hill Residents Group at the newly installed pedestrian walk signal at 6th Avenue & Spruce Street. 7. Celebrating with residents at Burlingame's 100th Anniversary. 8. Enjoying the multi-cultural experience at the 19th Annual Pacific Islander Festival with Papa Seau. 9. Meeting with Ensenada Mayor-Elect Gilberto Hirata as he recently met with various mayors in our region.

Interim Mayor Todd Gloria serves on the following:

Chair, Budget and Finance Committee

Metropolitan Transit System Board

San Diego Association of Governments Board (SANDAG) San Diego River Conservancy

Chair, SANDAG Transportation Committee

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