



October 2015  
Volume 7 Issue 10

Councilmember  
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

#### In this issue

- Makers Faire, p. 2
- Public Input Needed, p. 2
- Community Connection, p. 3
- Ward Canyon Park Update, p. 3
- Regional Plan, p. 4
- Citizen Survey Coming Soon, p. 4
- Neighborhood Project News, p. 5
- East Village Clean Up, p. 6
- Discounted Attractions, p. 6
- City Prepares for Rain, p. 7
- Tracking Todd, p. 8

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## Returning the Referendum Process to the People

By Councilmember Todd Gloria

We have all been asked to sign a petition as we walk into the grocery store. The causes generally sound good; who doesn't want to "protect neighborhoods" or "support small businesses"? The trouble is, referendum efforts in San Diego have been hijacked by well-funded corporate special interests intent on buying the results they could not achieve through the public legislative process.

Those special interests have hired out of town professional signature gatherers for as much as \$12 per signature. Signature gathering mercenaries have every incentive to tell outrageous lies to get your signature.

Last summer, I was approached in front of the post office by a paid signature gatherer. Knowing that my legislation to increase the local minimum wage – which was approved by the City Council – was the subject of a referendum petition starting that day, I was curious to hear his pitch. "Have you signed the petition so the state can't force the city of San Diego to increase the minimum wage yet?" was what I heard. I simply – and honestly – stated that I support increasing the minimum wage and went about my day, stewing about the pitch I just heard.

That was not an accidental utterance by a well-meaning volunteer; it was a strategic and calculated remark made by a paid signature gatherer who cared little and knew less about the petition on his clipboard. And it was repeated countless times over the 30 days of the signature-gathering effort.

The referendum is an essential part of democratic government. When legislative bodies pass laws that are not in line with the will of the people represented, the people have the right to fight them. The process was developed in 1911 in response to political corruption by wealthy corporate interests. Ironically, this tool of the people is now controlled primarily by wealthy corporate interests.

*Continued on page 5*

## You Can Weigh In On the Proposed Water Rate Increase

After working hard to cut water use by 26% this summer, San Diegans are now facing a water rate increase of almost 40% over the next several years. The good news is, ratepayers can weigh in on this proposal.

Prop 218 requires written notification to ratepayers of any proposed changes and gives them the right to oppose adjustments. San Diegans began receiving mailed notices from the City the last week in September containing details about the water rate increases proposed by the Mayor. It may look like junk mail, but it contains an opposition form on the back. While filling out a form and mailing it in may seem antiquated in today's digital age, if a simple majority of San Diego ratepayers either mail back the form, the City Council must reject the proposed increase, and the Mayor will need to work on a different proposal.

Since San Diegans have so successfully cut their water usage, the Public Utilities Department is short of its revenue projections, which is one of the reasons to increase rates. Councilmember Todd Gloria is not yet convinced this level of rate hikes is necessary, and believes the City could do more to incentivize conservation. He encourages all San Diegans to read through the available material and provide feedback as desired before the November 17 City Council hearing on the topic. Questions? Contact the District Three office at 619-236-6633 or toddgloria@sandiego.gov.

## Comment Period Extended On Community Plan Updates

Do you have thoughts about how your neighborhood should grow? To ensure the community plan updates for North Park, Uptown, and Golden Hill truly reflect the vision of San Diegans, the City of San Diego has extended the deadlines for public input to December 1, 2015.

In addition, neighborhood planning groups will submit their comments by December 16, 2015. City planners are committed to making sure all questions and requests for information are responded to as efficiently as possible, so please provide your honest and constructive feedback to [planning@sandiego.gov](mailto:planning@sandiego.gov). The three draft community plan updates can be found online: <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/cpu/index.shtml>.

Councilmember Gloria has been involved in the community plan update process since it began for these neighborhoods six years ago. "I'm grateful that the public comment period has been extended and appreciate the feedback neighbors continue to provide in this critical planning process," he said.

## Bud Kearns Pool is Open

Swimmers from North Park and throughout San Diego rejoiced about the reopening of Bud Kearns Pool on September 28. The pool was closed for emergency repairs throughout the summer, impacting hundreds of people who rely on it for both recreation and exercise.

Initial repairs were completed in late September. A second phase of repairs will be necessary in the coming years, funding for which has not yet been identified.

"I'm happy Bud Kearns Pool is finally open again. This is a tremendously well-used pool, and I know the community has missed it," said Councilmember Todd Gloria. "More work will be necessary to keep it operating for the long term, but the completion of these repairs and its reopening to the public are worth celebrating."



## Balboa Park's Maker Faire is October 3—4

Be sure to check out the Fall signature Centennial event, Maker Faire, happening in Balboa Park on October 3 and 4, 2015. Councilmember Todd Gloria will help open the event on October 3.

"In addition to all of the wonder that can be experienced in the park every day, Maker Faire will add an unprecedented fusion of technology, science, whimsy, and innovation. I look forward to the amazing experience that Maker Faire will bring to our Centennial Celebration," said Councilmember Gloria.

The Maker Faire "is the Greatest Show (and Tell) on Earth — a family-friendly festival of invention, creativity and resourcefulness, and a celebration of the Maker movement." Part science fair, part county fair, and part something entirely new, Maker Faire is an all-ages gathering of tech enthusiasts, crafters, educators, tinkerers, hobbyists, engineers, science clubs, authors, artists, students, and commercial exhibitors. All of these "makers" come to Maker Faire to show what they have made and to share what they have learned.

Maker Faire has been called many things by many people. It is bigger and bolder than one can imagine. It is the new County Fair for the people. A place where it is cool to be smart and one can witness a spectacle of making and creating. Maker Faire is an event where makers love to share their ideas and innovations with those who want to have fun and learn at the same time.

The Balboa Park Cultural Partnership, San Diego Makers Guild, and Tijuana Innovadora will partner with the City of San Diego to put on this first-ever event showcasing innovators and creators from our binational region.

For more information and to purchase tickets go to <http://sdmakerfaire.org/>

# Community Connection: The Todd Squad is Working for You

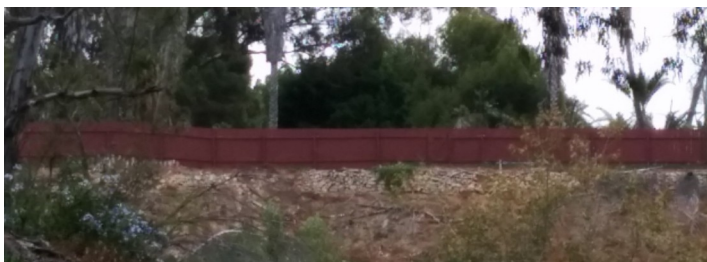
## Strengthening Public Safety

- All-way stop signs were installed at the intersection of North Park Way and 29th Street.
- After the Adams Avenue Business Association reported to the Todd Squad that many streetlights were suddenly out in the area, City electrical crews were immediately dispatched to address the problem. Within one week, 57 lights along Adams Avenue and 30th Street were repaired.
- The light at the south end of the Vermont Street Bridge was repaired.
- A streetlight was repaired at the intersection of Landis and 30th Streets.
- Council District Three staff met with Park and Recreation staff and SDPD officers to discuss criminal activity at Presidio Park. Proposals are being considered and will be implemented soon.
- A red curb was installed at the intersection of Bancroft and Landis Streets to improve visibility.
- A tripping hazard was repaired near a water meter box in the 4400 block of Park Boulevard.



- Pedestrian barricades were removed from the north side of El Cajon Boulevard at Alabama and Mississippi Streets.
- Steel plates were re-connected to the pavement near the intersection of 27th and B Streets after neighbors complained about noise.
- A slope on Bancroft Street was restored.
- A curb in the 2700 block of A Street was repaired after it was damaged due to an undergrounding project.

## Community Character



- Graffiti was removed from the 900 block of Cypress Way (see above) and from the 4200 block of Arizona Street.
- A mattress was removed from the 4400 block of Boundary Street.
- Dumpsters at the University Heights Branch Library were repainted.
- The Homeless Outreach Team visited 25th Street to address an increase in homeless individuals and connect them with services.
- The area under the Vermont Street Bridge was cleaned through a joint effort of the City and Caltrans.
- An extra utility cable was removed from the 3100 block of Herman Avenue.

## Infrastructure Investment



*Illinois Street before and after*

• Several streets in North Park were repaved in August, including Granada between Myrtle and University, Van Buren between Cleveland and Campus, Landis between Arizona and Villa Terrace and between Pershing and Ray, Illinois between University and Howard, Kansas between University and Polk, Ohio between University and Howard, Polk between 30th and Iowa, Capps between 28th and Ray, Dwight between Granada and 30th, and Gunn between Utah and Ray.

- Five new parking spaces were created on Illinois Street between Polk and Howard Avenues thanks to conversion to head-in parking.

## Ward Canyon Park Update

The long-awaited and much-needed interim dog park at Ward Canyon Park is one step closer to reality. On September 22, the Adams Avenue Recreation Council held a community meeting about the planned park improvements. Park and Recreation Department staff were amenable to suggestions offered by adjacent property owners. Construction is expected to begin shortly.



# SANDAG's Regional Plan Delivers Benefits to Council District Three



After three years of outreach and public input, the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) is set to consider passage of San Diego Forward: The Regional Plan on October 9, 2015. The Regional Plan is a document guiding the growth of our region through 2050 and is updated every four years.

As Chair of the SANDAG Transportation Committee, Councilmember Todd Gloria has focused his efforts on expanding transportation options in our region so residents and visitors can get out of their car and move around our region by Trolley, bus, bike, or on foot. The Regional Plan is a balance of competing needs of the entire region.

In the first five years of the plan alone, three out of every four dollars will be spent on transit and active transportation projects, including Centerline stations in Mid-City; bus rapid transit connecting Otay Mesa, Chula Vista, and Downtown; the Mid-Coast Trolley Extension between Old Town and UCSD; and transit priority improvements in four of the most congested areas along I-5, I-805, and SR 76.

Council District Three neighborhoods will see additional benefit in future years of the Regional Plan with Rapid lines between North Park to Downtown, between La Mesa and Ocean Beach via Mid-City, Hillcrest, and Old Town; and between Kearny Mesa and Downtown. A streetcar operating in a loop between Hillcrest and Downtown is another amenity included, and millions of dollars will be invested in active transportation projects to improve biking and pedestrian facilities throughout District Three neighborhoods.



"The Regional Plan must be updated every four years to address growth, changes in transportation choices, and environmental and technological conditions. The early investment in active transportation and public transit signals a tremendously positive shift in SANDAG's priorities, and I am confident future updates will similarly reflect the public's desire for transportation choices other than single-occupant driving," said Councilmember Gloria.

In the full 35 years, San Diego Forward would dedicate more than 50 percent of its \$204 billion investment to transit, including five new Trolley lines, 32 new Rapid (bus rapid transit) lines, and significant increases in transit frequencies. Additionally, the plan would devote more than \$588 million to building 274 miles of bikeways, making active transportation a realistic alternative to car travel for more people.

The City of San Diego has an opportunity to leverage SANDAG's transit and active transportation investments outlined in the Regional Plan to meet the aggressive goals included in the Climate Action Plan (CAP) developed by Councilmember Gloria. By meeting the targets in the CAP, greenhouse gas emissions will be reduced by 50% over the 2010 baseline by 2035. The CAP is scheduled to be reviewed by the Planning Commission on October 2 and should be considered by the City Council for adoption in December. If you are interested in learning more, please visit <http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/genplan/cap/index.shtml>.

## Citizen Satisfaction Survey

The City of San Diego wants to hear from you! During the months of October and November, the City will be conducting a citywide satisfaction survey of its residents. San Diegans from all nine Council districts will be randomly selected to participate via telephone. The purpose of the survey is to understand how well the City is doing in providing various services to the public.

Your feedback is important and will be used to better serve you. If you are contacted, please take the time to respond and let us know what we can do better.

More information will be available after October 15 on the City of San Diego's Performance & Analytics Department website: <http://www.sandiego.gov/pad/index.shtml>.

Of course, if you have suggestions for what the City can do better, or if you have specific concerns, please contact Councilmember Gloria's office for assistance.

## Fire Station and Parks Closer to Reality

East Village Green, Bayside Fire Station, North Park Mini Park, and the redevelopment of the Woolworth building are all one step closer to being ready for construction should the state Department of Finance (DOF) approve the City of San Diego's Long-Range Property Management Plan.

Since redevelopment law was changed by the state legislature, cities and other taxing entities are required by the state to submit a property management plan to the DOF for approval before releasing the properties for use or construction. The City Council approved a required property management plan on September 14, 2015, which will be submitted to the DOF this month.

Sites like the East Village Green, Bayside Fire Station, Woolworth, and North Park Mini Park were listed as Government Use sites and are expected to be approved and released to the appropriate departments for development. The leased community space in the Renaissance in North Park was changed to a For Sale site. Enforceable Obligation sites including the Lyceum Theatre and Horton Plaza Park and their leases and development will continue to be managed by Civic San Diego.

"While this is not the final step, the Council's action brings these important community projects closer to reality," said Councilmember Todd Gloria.



*Rendering of East Village Green*

## Referendum Reform *(continued from page 1)*

We've seen several recent examples of wealthy interests using deceptive referenda to block progress and subvert the decisions of the duly elected representatives of the people of San Diego, including the Barrio Logan Community Plan, affordable housing linkage fee, and minimum wage increase. The documented lies of paid signature gatherers and cash dumped into the measures by out-of-town corporate interests have perverted our referendum process.

By making referendum fundraising and expenditure reporting requirements consistent with traditional campaign disclosures, the public will be better informed about the true intent of the measure before they sign a petition.

These simple changes wouldn't make it harder for the average citizen to launch a referendum, and they would make it easier for all San Diegans to evaluate whether they should lend their support. It just makes sense.

We know that several hundred San Diegans believed the lies of last summer's paid signature gatherers, then withdrew their signatures upon learning the true nature of the petition was to oppose the minimum wage increase. Had the powerful organizations representing corporate hoteliers and fast food franchises not been able to masquerade as the "Small Business Coalition," many might not have been deceived into signing the petitions in the first place.

The changes I've proposed will actually strengthen this key element of our democracy by making voters more informed.

This month, the City Council will have the opportunity to bring some credibility back to the referendum process when we consider these proposals to guarantee more transparency.

Even more can be done to further this effort at the state level. Since several aspects of elections are governed by state law, our state Legislature should explore disclosure when signature gatherers are paid; enhancing rules around what information petitions must provide; and changing the percentage of voters whose signatures are required to force a law's reconsideration.

As an elected official and as a San Diego voter, I base my decisions on the available information. It is my duty to make sure voters, whether at the voting booth or in front of a grocery store, can trust the facts in front of them to make an educated and informed decision.

Together we can take back this tool of democracy and return it to the people.

## University Avenue Pipeline Replacement Project Update

Work continues on the University Avenue Pipeline Replacement Project. Here's what to expect in the coming weeks.

Robinson Avenue between Fifth and Eighth Avenues: construction to replace the water mains will begin on Sunday night, October 4 at 9:00 p.m. The crews will replace the existing water main and install individual service lines to each property before repaving the street.

Robinson Avenue between Fifth and Sixth Avenues: full street closures are required during the night work, which is scheduled to be complete by mid-October. Additional less-restrictive work will continue through early November.

Robinson Avenue between Sixth and Eighth Avenues: From 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 11 through 3:00 a.m. on Friday, October 16, the street will be closed at night for major work. Less restrictive work is scheduled to continue through mid-November.

For more information, project maps, and to sign up for the project e-newsletter, search for "University Avenue Pipeline Replacement" on [www.sandiego.gov](http://www.sandiego.gov).

## Community Cleans Up East Village

On Saturday, September 19, Councilmember Todd Gloria joined hundreds of volunteers for Father Joe's Villages Good Neighbor Month East Village community clean up. Wells Fargo employees from around San Diego partnered to provide clean streets for those living in the neighborhood.

"I am grateful to the Father Joe's Villages for organizing this effort and to the volunteers for helping me shine the gem of East Village," said Councilmember Gloria.

Councilmember Gloria has also participated in clean ups in University Heights, North Park, Hillcrest, and the Gaslamp Quarter in recent months.



## Take Advantage of "Kids Free San Diego" in October

Councilmember Todd Gloria knows it's not cheap to raise kids in San Diego, so here's some news parents can use. October is Kids Free San Diego month and it features free admission and meals for children at more than 100 local attractions. Visit <http://www.sandiego.org/promotions/kids-free.aspx> for the full list of offers.

More than three dozen museums throughout San Diego County are offering free admission to all kids 12 and under. Visit your favorites and explore new options! Enjoy a day at Balboa Park and visit the San Diego Air & Space Museum, San Diego Automotive Museum, or the San Diego Model Railroad Museum, which are all participating in Kids Free San Diego this month. The New Children's Museum located Downtown is a great place to stimulate a kid's inquisitiveness and innovative thinking with hands-on exhibits and art making activities. And the Midway Museum is a historical adventure for all ages.

At the San Diego Zoo and San Diego Zoo Safari Park, all kids aged 10 and younger are admitted free. Sea World San Diego's deal is one child aged 3-9 is admitted free with one full-price paid adult admission. The same offer is valid with Dine with Shamu. Kids aged 10-13 at least 48" tall can participate for free in SeaWorld's Dolphin Encounter and Dolphin and Beluga Interaction Programs with one paid adult participation.

Hornblower Cruises and Events and Flagship Cruises and Events are offering kids aged 12 and younger a free ride on their popular 1- and 2-hour harbor tours along San Diego Bay. Hornblower's offer is good for two kids per each full-price paid adult admission, while Flagship offers one child per paid adult. One child aged 12 or younger rides free per one paid adult on Old Town Trolley Tours and San Diego SEAL Tours Sea and Land Adventures.

Be sure to visit the website for additional offers at restaurants and hotels throughout San Diego and plan a real stay-cation in our perfect hometown in October.



# City is Preparing for Rain

While San Diego continues to deal with record drought conditions, forecasters predict a very rainy year ahead. The City of San Diego has prioritized preparations for potential large amounts of rain.

All San Diegans are encouraged to report non-emergency problems or concerns with any part of the storm water conveyance system including storm channels by calling 619-235-1000 or via the online service request system, <http://www.sandiego.gov/stormwater/services/servicerequest.shtml>. For flooding concerns and other storm water system emergencies, the public should immediately call the City's Public Works Dispatch Center, 619-527-7500. Save these numbers now so they are handy if you need them.

The Storm Water Division annually completes a thorough review of existing conditions in the storm water conveyance system. Over the past year, staff have been reviewing and documenting system conditions throughout the City.

- Trash Clean ups: The Division worked with Urban Corps, community groups, and other organizations to conduct trash and debris clean ups in storm channels throughout the City. Areas immediately adjacent to storm channels were also serviced to ensure they were free of debris that could wash into channels during heavy rains.
- Channel Maintenance: In the last year, more than 14,000 tons of material (sediment, trash, vegetation, and debris) were excavated from six channels throughout the City to improve water flow capacity. Non-native vegetation and trash were cleared from 27 additional locations, and Alvarado Creek channel and the adjoined Smugglers Gulch and Pilot channels in the Tijuana River Valley are scheduled to be cleared in October.
- Storm Drain Repairs: Five storm drain repairs have been completed, and two more are underway and scheduled to be finished in October. Seven clogged pipes have also been cleared. To identify other locations where storm drain pipe may be in need of critical repair, the Division has televised over 2,500 feet of storm drain pipe and will continue assessments whenever a drainage system's condition is in question.
- Storm Drain Cleaning: Staff has continued to conduct nearly 28,000 storm drain inlet cleaning efforts each year to remove trash, debris, and sediment that might cause system impairments or failures.
- Storm Patrol and Emergency Response Efforts: Division staff coordinates with the National Weather Service to monitor weather forecasts. This information is used to initiate "Storm Patrol" duties in the Transportation and Storm Water Department. When Storm Patrols are initiated, crews are mobilized to patrol assigned areas and inspect and clean key drains and locations in advance or during storms. Administrative staff is prepared for complaint and report intake duties and to serve as additional dispatchers during wet weather.
- Pump Stations: Staff have performed preventative maintenance on the 14 pump stations used to move storm water across low-lying areas of the City. Pump stations near the beaches received substantial upgrades after the 2010-2011 rainy season including new electrical systems and the additional of submersible pump motors. Since then, eight additional pumps were repaired and 12 pumps were replaced. The Division also purchased one additional mobile pump and generator to deploy at flood prone locations. Six additional mobile pumps will be added this month. Further, the City has a contract in place to rent additional pumps and generators as necessary.

## Remembering Flight 182

Councilmember Todd Gloria and Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins joined many North Park residents and family, friends, and colleagues of those impacted that day to commemorate the 37th anniversary of the tragic crash of PSA Flight 182.





# Tracking Todd



1. Marston Canyon was made beautiful again by Todd and other volunteers on Coastal Clean Up Day.
2. Todd honored "Mrs. San Diego 2015" Betty Peabody for all of her contributions to Balboa Park and the City.
3. Todd and Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins enjoyed the Burlingame Block Party.
4. Todd highlighted the importance of raising the minimum wage and providing earned sick days at the Labor Day Rally at Petco Park.

Councilmember Todd Gloria serves on the following:

Chair, Budget and Government Efficiency Committee  
Member, Public Safety and Livable Neighborhoods Committee  
Member, Environment Committee  
Member, Smart Growth and Land Use Committee  
Chair, San Diego Regional Continuum of Care Governance Board

Chair Pro Tem, Metropolitan Transit System Board  
Member, San Diego Association of Governments Board  
Chair, SANDAG Transportation Committee  
Member, SANDAG Executive Committee  
Liaison, Civic San Diego

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