



News from

Council President Todd Gloria

City of San Diego ▪ District Three

Friends,

This has been another eventful week moving our City forward, and I think you'll be proud of the work we have done on your behalf. Many of you have told me that strengthening the local economy is a key focus you expect of your government. With that in mind, the City Council unanimously approved two proposals that make doing business easier in San Diego. We made it easier for restaurants to establish sidewalk cafes by making the permit fees more reasonable and decreasing the processing time. By allowing restaurants the options to have more tables, they will likely generate more business, which equates to more jobs and more tax dollars I can use for critical services. Similar results are expected to come from allowing microbreweries opportunities to expand onsite tasting rooms, which is the other regulatory relief action we took on Tuesday. Breweries generally operate in industrial zones and were limited to operating tasting rooms no larger than 3,000 square feet. To keep these positive economic and community contributors here by making this small change in our code was common sense.

These proposals originated from local community members who saw a problem and came to the City for help. If you are experiencing a challenge personally or in your business related to the City's policies or practices, please let me know what I can do to fix it.

Bike to Work Day is Friday, May 17

On Tuesday, at my request, the City Council proclaimed May is Bike Month in the City of San Diego.

A key part of Bike Month is Bike to Work Day, a nationally recognized event celebrated annually on the third Friday in May, falling on May 17 this year. Bike to Work 2013 supports bicycling as a viable, environmentally friendly, cost saving commute choice.

As a proud representative to SANDAG and as Chair of the SANDAG Transportation Committee, I encourage you to [register](#) online for Bike to Work Day, and log your bike trips in TripTracker to be automatically entered to win one of many great prizes. The website also features a map to help plan your route and includes almost 90 pit stop locations throughout the region which offer fun breaks for new and experienced cyclists on Bike to Work Day. Pit stops are places where riders can rest and pick up free t-shirts, snacks, and encouragement.

The [San Diego County Bicycle Coalition](#) and [Bike San Diego](#) both feature a variety of information, resources, and events on their websites. The advocacy of these groups and their members has greatly advanced the awareness of bicycling infrastructure needs and ensures biking is a part of every transportation discussion in our region.

As you enthusiastically add more biking into your commute and recreational plans, I commit to further additions of bike infrastructure to increase safety and efficiency so this can be a real transportation option for more San Diegans.

Coffee with your Council President

Please join me this Saturday morning for the next Coffee with your Council President at the Gathering Bar and Grill in Mission Hills. I enjoy these opportunities to meet casually with neighbors and discuss what's on your mind.

Saturday, May 18

10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

The Gathering Bar and Grill

902 W. Washington Street

Mission Hills

Your City Budget: Participate in Next Wednesday's Special Evening Meeting

Next Wednesday, you'll have the opportunity to participate in a special evening City Council hearing to weigh in on the latest version of the City budget. Following the City Council's review of each department last week, the Mayor will provide his revised budget on May 21, and present it to the Council at our hearing on May 22. I encourage your attendance and input to make sure our decisions appropriately reflect your spending priorities and continue the fiscal discipline that helped us restore stability to the City over the past few years.

Public Hearing on the Mayor's Proposed Budget

Wednesday, May 22, 6:00 p.m.

City Administration Building

202 C Street, 12th Floor

Utility Undergrounding Advisory Group Proposed

The undergrounding of overhead utility lines is a long-term project of the City of San Diego and local utility companies. Ridding neighborhoods of the visual blight and safety concerns of overhead wires is sometimes complicated by the placement of the resulting utility boxes. Working with communities that have experienced undergrounding and with those who are slated to begin soon, I know that utility box placement and aesthetics can sour the benefits of the undergrounding.

I have asked the Land Use and Housing Committee to consider my proposal to create a Utility Undergrounding Advisory Group, which will occur at next Wednesday's hearing at 2:00 p.m. on the 12th floor of the City Administration Building. As a result of my collaboration with neighbors and industry representatives, I propose to create an Advisory Group consisting of members of the public, staff from the City's Utility Undergrounding program, and representatives from local cable and utility companies to explore improved coordination and alignment of the program, utility box aesthetics, and the costs and benefits associated with all options. If its creation is approved, the Advisory Group would develop its recommendations over the course of the next year.

I have advocated to establish this Advisory Group for a year and am grateful that all stakeholders now share my desire to improve the undergrounding program and ensure it's effectiveness and success in all of San Diego's neighborhoods.

If you have experiences to share or want to weigh in on the issue, please attend the meeting. You can always email me with your questions and comments in advance, as well.

Land Use and Housing Committee
Wednesday, May 22, 2:00 p.m.
City Administration Building
202 C Street, 12th Floor

Vermont Street Bridge to Receive Needed Makeover

The beloved Vermont Street Bridge over Washington Street will receive a much needed and long awaited makeover when it is repainted next week. I share the frustration so many neighbors have expressed about its current condition, and look forward to the completion of the facelift.

Mid-City Rapid Bus Meeting Postponed

Last week I shared with you details about a May 20 open house focused on the Mid-City Rapid Bus Project. That meeting has been postponed until the Fall. I'll include details as soon as they are available and apologize for any inconvenience.

Upcoming Events:

LGBT and Allies Career and Professional Networking Night

Tuesday, May 21, 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
The San Diego LGBT Community Center
3909 Centre St.
RSVP: <http://epncareers.eventbrite.com>
Questions: equalityprofessionalsnetwork@gmail.com

FilmOut San Diego

2013 LGBT Film Festival
May 29 – June 2, various showtimes
Birch North Park Theatre
<http://www.filmoutsandiego.com/lgbt-festival-2013.htm>

North Park Festival of Arts

Saturday, May 18, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.
University Avenue and 30th Street
<http://northparkfestivalofarts.com/>

Art Around Adams

Saturday, June 1, 2:00 – 10:00 p.m.
FREE Two Mile Art and Music Walk
<http://artaroundadams.org>

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Todd".

Todd

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<http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd3/news/index.shtml> *to unsubscribe.*