



News from INTERIM MAYOR TODD GLORIA

City of San Diego ■ District Three

Friends,

It's been a distracting and difficult summer for San Diegans. It was my intention to spend the summer months focused on what I cared about: improving my Council District Three neighborhoods, advocating for the Convention Center expansion, preparing for the opening of our new Downtown library, and collaborating with community leaders on the Balboa Park Centennial. In July, our city was thrust into a national and international media spotlight with people all over - from Talmadge to Sacramento, from Dallas to London - shaking their heads and asking, "What is going on in San Diego?"

I assumed the office of Mayor on August 30, and there's much work to be done until a new mayor is elected. Between now and then, I'm focusing my efforts in three main areas.

My first order of business is a top-down review of all city departments. I want to know what is working, what isn't, and what our employees need to better serve our neighborhoods. And I need to make sure contracts which were previously stalled since January get signed, so critical work for this city is getting done.

My second order of business has been a restructuring of the Mayor's staff and creating a new culture where folks are excited to come to work. I want to ensure my staff is working efficiently and productively in an environment where they feel empowered and inspired to strengthen neighborhoods.

My third order of business is to vastly improve the communications coming from the Mayor's office and city departments. When people don't have the information they need, they're left to their own imaginations. I don't intend to let folks imagine what's happening in our city. I intend to tell them. I also need to hear your ideas on how we can improve neighborhoods. To that end, I would encourage you to contact my office: 619-236-6330 or toddgloria@sandiego.gov. You can also connect with me on Facebook and on Twitter.

I inherited a mess that I will fix. Please know, however, that during the summer's news conferences, taped statements, and rampant Twitter chatter about what was wrong with San Diego, our city employees were working hard to provide important and necessary services we rely on to live safely and comfortably.

Looking ahead, I would ask for your patience and partnership. I know this is a tall request as the white noise of cynicism about our city's government has become a deafening roar these past three months. I would also ask you to stay engaged and return to the polls on November 19 to vote for a new mayor. San Diegans didn't deserve the former mayor and now isn't the time to become a spectator in our democratic process. Don't give up on San Diego. With your patience and participation, we will remind the nation why we are America's Finest City.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Todd



Downtown Library Dedication

Please join us for the dedication of the new Downtown Central Library on September 28! This library will be a civic icon that embodies San Diego's commitment to the future. It will serve the community's needs for literacy, information and knowledge in the 21st century.

New Central Library Celebration and Sneak Peak

Saturday, September 28

Library Dedication 11:00 am

Family Street Festival 12:00-6:00 pm

330 Park Boulevard

East Village

The New Central Library will fulfill its crucial role as the heart of the 35-branch system, with space to provide literacy, children's and adult programs, disabled access, technology and web-based services, and answers to reference questions from throughout the region. The library will be open to the public starting Monday, September 30. Complete tours will be available at that time.

Convention Center Expansion



I recently reaffirmed my support for the San Diego Convention Center expansion plan, a project that is vital to creating jobs, boosting the local economy and attracting Comic-Con and other major events. I am joined by local leaders including Jerry Sanders, president and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, Mark Cafferty, president and CEO of the San Diego Regional Economic Development Corporation, David Glanzer, spokesperson for Comic-Con, and Bob Nelson, Vice Chair of the Port Commission in praising the expansion plan.

This plan is the product of years of study, analysis, and public debate and is the result of an exhaustive process reflecting input from countless stakeholders and, most importantly, the public. The California Coastal Commission is scheduled to consider the proposal next month. Delaying the project could be catastrophic to the city's efforts to compete with other areas vying for the nation's most elite and lucrative conventions. There is an overwhelming consensus that this project is the right way to go. As it currently stands, our Convention Center is forced to turn away a year's worth of business annually because there simply isn't enough capacity. And if we don't expand, we run the very serious risk of losing those events we already have. Comic-Con is the most obvious example.

Community leaders agree on the critical importance of moving ahead with the project. Among other things, the expansion would create 7,000 permanent new jobs and more than 3,000 construction jobs; generate an additional \$13 million in city tax revenues, and have an estimated annual economic impact of nearly \$700 million.

Prevailing Wage For San Diego

On September 9, the City Council approved the prevailing wage ordinance by a vote of 5-4. San Diego supports a strong middle class, and I am proud of the City Council's action to approve the prevailing wage ordinance.

The ordinance requires the city and its departments, boards, and agencies to advertise and include specifications requiring compliance with the State prevailing wage law in contracts for public works, which generally include construction, reconstruction or repair of public buildings, streets, and utilities.

Prevailing wage is known to result in safer and better monitored work sites; on-time completion; properly trained apprentices; and fewer construction defects, change orders, and cost overruns. Further, by providing appropriate compensation, workers providing a public service do not have to live in poverty. Requiring prevailing wage be paid is a sound decision that will result in better improvements to our streets, sidewalks, and public facilities.

In Pursuit of a Plastic Bag Reduction

On September 11, the Rules and Economic Development Committee took steps necessary to move toward a reduction on plastic bags. This is great news for our environment! A plastic bag reduction ordinance simply makes sense, and I am grateful to Council President Pro Tem Sherri Lightner for bringing this forward and helping me protect our environment.

Plastic bags cause environmental damage that can be avoided with the ordinance being considered. Our neighborhoods, beaches, waterways, landfills, and overall environment will benefit from fewer plastic bags. I will work with city staff to develop an effective ordinance and I'll also coordinate outreach with the city's Environmental Services Department, various stakeholders and the City Attorney's Office to identify and address any practical and legal issues before a proposed ordinance is developed and presented to the City Council for its consideration. I will also seek corporate sponsors to promote free reusable bag giveaways in disadvantaged communities. The Rules and Economic Development Committee is scheduled to receive a progress report on this matter at its meeting on October 23.

Public Hearing on Uptown Interim Height Ordinance Extension - September 19 at 9:00 a.m.

The Planning Commission will meet on September 19 at 9:00 a.m. to consider an extension of the interim height limitation in the Uptown community. The proposed amendment would extend the effect of the height limitation on structures above a building height of 50 and 65 feet along specific portions of 5th Avenue, Robinson Avenue, University Avenue, and Washington Street north of Upas Street until the community plan update is complete. I hope you will be able to attend this important hearing so the Commissioners can hear directly from you, my neighbors, of the importance of maintaining the character of the Uptown community. The hearing will take place at 202 C Street on the 12th floor of the City Administration Building.

San Diego Downtown Partnership's *Work Your Way Home Program*

In an effort to remedy our Downtown homelessness problem, the **Downtown San Diego Partnership's** innovative *Work Your Way Home Program* recently hit an important milestone. Since the program's inception a year ago, more than 100 homeless individuals in Downtown San Diego have traveled back home to reconnect with family and friends and re-establish the much-needed support systems to end the cycle of homelessness. Ending homelessness in Downtown San Diego in the next four years is one of my goals and accomplishing this will take considerable collaboration from many people and organizations. This privately-funded program identifies homeless individuals who will be best served by travelling back home. Family and friends are contacted to ensure the individual will have a place to stay and the support they need to get back on their feet. These are important and successful strides being made for our homeless neighbors.

Congratulations to the Downtown Partnership on this great program! If you'd like to learn more about the *Work Your Way Home Program* visit www.downtownsandiego.org.

Bankers Hill Pedestrian Safety



On Monday, September 16 at 6:00 p.m., I'll join the Bankers Hill Residence Group at 6th Avenue and Spruce Street to turn on the switch to the newly-installed flashing crosswalk sign which will provide safer pedestrian access from Bankers Hill to Balboa Park. Making neighborhoods pedestrian safe and friendly benefits everyone.

Fiestas Patrias Celebration this Saturday

I hope you can spend part of your weekend at the Fiestas Patrias Celebration marking Mexican Independence Day in Old Town this Saturday, September 14. I'll be there in the afternoon and look forward to being a part of the festivities and promoting the Old Town neighborhood. To find out more about the event, visit <http://www.oldtownsandiegoguide.com/events.html>.

California Coastal Cleanup Day - Join Me

I Love A Clean San Diego, in partnership with the California Coastal Commission, is hosting the 29th Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 21 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. This is a terrific community event which aims to clean up our beaches, lakes and canyon areas in San Diego as well as in Tijuana. In 2012, more than 9,000 volunteers removed nearly 167,000 pounds of trash and recyclables from San Diego County's 11 watersheds. The removal of trash is not the only focus of this annual event. Other activities include storm drain stenciling, invasive plant removal, native planting, and graffiti removal. Let's come together for this important event to improve the health of our environment and preserve the San Diego way of life for future generations. To register and volunteer at a site in your neighborhood, go to www.CleanupDay.org.

Adams Avenue Street Fair

Mark your calendars for the 32nd annual Adams Avenue Street Fair taking place on September 28 and 29. My office will be hosting a booth at the fair so we hope you'll stop by and meet some of the awesome staffers that make up the Todd Squad. You can find out more info about the event here: <http://www.adamsavenuebusiness.com/Adams-Avenue-Street-Fair.html>

The San Diego Metro Wastewater System Turns 50!



On September 10, I joined folks from the San Diego Metro Wastewater System to mark the occasion of its 50th anniversary.