

YOUR SAN DIEGO

News From Interim Mayor Todd Gloria



Update from the Mayor's Office *by Interim Mayor Todd Gloria*

September 2013
Volume 5, Issue 9

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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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.

City of San Diego Invests in Small Businesses

On August 6, Council President Gloria celebrated the completed improvements at two local businesses which were partially funded by the City of San Diego's Storefront Improvement Program. Improvements were made at 3952 4th Avenue where tenants, Cabais MexiDeli and Sailor's Tattoo Gallery, are enjoying new paint, dimensional signage, construction of trellis details, creation of an outdoor seating area, and fresh landscaping. The City provided a grant of \$9,017. The total project cost was \$27,051. Improvements were also made at the Belching Beaver Tasting Room located at 4225 30th Street. Those improvements included new paint, new roll-up windows, a preserved neighborhood mural, and new exterior light fixtures. The City provided a grant of \$5,000. The total project cost was \$19,831. The City of San Diego's Storefront Improvement Program revitalizes building facades visible to customers, neighboring merchants, and residents. The City of San Diego provides design assistance and financial incentives to small business owners who wish to make a creative change to their storefronts. More details can be found at: <http://www.sandiego.gov/economic-development/business/starting/improvement.shtml>

New Central Library Celebration September 28



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 design allows the New Central Library to 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.

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

In an effort to remedy our Downtown homelessness problem, last month the **Downtown San Diego Partnership's** innovative ***Work Your Way Home Program*** 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 their cycle of homelessness. Ending homelessness in Downtown San Diego in the next four years is one of Interim Mayor Gloria's 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.

City Leaders Focus on Strengthening Border Relations *Meetings Held with Current and Incoming Tijuana Mayors*

Council President Todd Gloria traveled to Mexico to meet with the current mayor and incoming mayor of Tijuana and strengthen the regional relationship between the two cities. San Diego City Councilmember David Alvarez accompanied him on the trip. During the short visit, Council President Gloria and Councilmember Alvarez participated in a meet and greet with Tijuana Mayor-Elect Dr. Jorge Astiazaran Orci and then met with Mayor Carlos Bustamante at Tijuana's City Hall before returning to San Diego. "Meeting with the representatives of Tijuana is essential to fostering a strong relationship between our cities for the good of our entire border region," said Council President Gloria. "I look forward to productive meetings and a positive relationship moving forward."

This is Council President Gloria's second trip to Mexico in 2013. In May, he and Councilmember Mark Kersey met with Tijuana city councilmembers and toured the city.

September is National Preparedness Month

How many of you have an emergency plan in place in the event of a disaster? If you don't yet have one you're in good company. Only 7% of households in San Diego County are prepared for a disaster. It's something you've thought about doing, said you're going to do and then you never got around to it. Well, September's your month.

This month, the American Red Cross San Diego/Imperial Counties Chapter, in collaboration with a number of community leaders and enterprises, launched ***Prepare San Diego***. ***Prepare San Diego*** is an online resource where households and businesses alike can learn how to best be prepared in the event of a disaster. There are three actions you should take when planning for an emergency: 1. Get a kit; 2. Make a plan; 3. Stay informed. Let's add a fourth action: 4. Don't put it off any longer. Visit www.preparesandiego.org to get started on your own disaster preparedness plan.

Community Connection: The Todd Squad is Working for You

Meet The Todd Squad!



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Strengthening Public Safety

- Traffic lights at the corner of Lincoln and Washington Streets are being evaluated by City staff to see if timing adjustments are needed.
- Noise reported by Golden Hill residents was investigated and found not to be from the police shooting range.
- District 3 staff worked with the Housing Commission to repair a faulty smoke alarm at their complex at 1st and Walnut Streets.
- A large graffiti abatement program was completed at the Ft. Stockton/ Mormon Battalion site in Presidio Park, Old Town. Check out the before and after pictures.



Infrastructure Investments

- Crews ramped a sidewalk in the 2900 block of Grape Street with asphalt as a temporary fix. The location was placed on the City backlog list for repairs.
- A water leak at Copley Avenue and Idaho Street was reported by a neighborhood resident. Water Operations was able to fix the broken valve and repair the leak.
- A Notice to Proceed has been issued for the replacement of the Municipal Gym roof in Balboa Park. Funds for the project (\$1.2 million) are coming from Deferred Capital Bond #2. The project is expected to be completed this November.

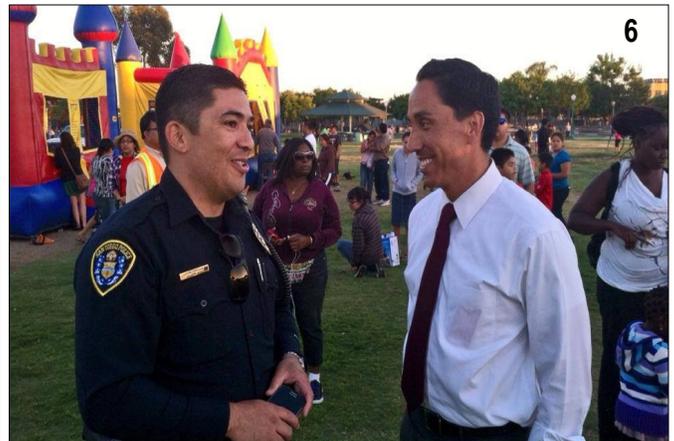
Community Character

- Illegally dumped furniture located at Kettner Boulevard and the I-5 ramp was cleared by the Environmental Services Department after a report to the District 3 office.
- An abandoned property on the 2600 block of El Cajon Boulevard was reported for being a blight on the neighborhood. The Development Services Department Neighborhood Code Compliance Division was able to contact the property owner and have them take corrective action.
- Tree wells on the 2200 block of Broadway had been paved over and the trees were unable to grow properly. The City reopened the tree wells to provide necessary space for growth.
- A liquor store in East Village was reported for storm water pollution. The business was later cited by City staff.
- Recent demolition near Lincoln Avenue and Maryland Street was found to be permitted. Townhouses are being built on the site.
- Debris was removed from the southwest corner of India and Sassafras.

Tracking Todd



1. Serving seniors at the Gary & Mary West Wellness Center.
2. Honoring Nicky Award winners on August 25.
3. Teaming up with The Center, the Imperial Court, and Martinis Above Fourth to distribute backpacks to local youth.
4. Celebrating the Vermont Street Bridge Rededication.
5. Supporting local AIDS programs at CityFest.
6. Encouraging community involvement during National Night Out in Teralta Park.



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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