



The Emerald News

Office of
Councilmember
Marti Emerald



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- Talmadge
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- Willie Henderson

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Dear Friends:

2014 is off to a great start! My council colleagues and I returned from legislative recess earlier this month in full stride! Just in January we passed policies that will rebuild our city's infrastructure and will provide opportunities for members of the community to become more involved in the city planning process.

While I have been busy working with my colleagues to get things done at City Hall, I have also been spending a lot of time working with community groups and organizations out in the district to address several community needs. We still have many more goals to accomplish, but there definitely is a lot of excitement and progress being made! To the countless leaders and volunteers - thank you all for continuing to stay involved and continuing to do your part to improve the quality of life for everyone in District 9.

As always, if you have any questions or comments please do not hesitate to contact me at (619) 236-6699 or at MartiEmerald@san Diego.gov.

Thanks, Marti



Councilmember Emerald speaking at the groundbreaking of Fire Station 45 in Mission Valley.

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Delivering Resources



My council colleagues and I recently approved a \$120 million infrastructure bond to fund fire stations, sidewalks, city streets, and libraries around the city.

Specifically in District Nine, the construction of a new \$11 million, 10,760 square feet, three-story Fire Station 17 in City Heights will be fully funded. This station is located at 4206 Chamoune Avenue and is in close proximity to all mid-city neighborhoods including Talmadge and Kensington. Construction is anticipated to begin in October 2014 and to be completed in March 2016. This bond also sets aside \$2 million for design and land acquisition for a future fire station in the vicinity of Home Avenue.

Empower People



For several years neighbors from the Talmadge and Kensington communities, and others, have raised concerns and questions regarding utility undergrounding. To address these questions and begin a productive conversation with city departments and the utility companies, the City Council recently approved the formation of the Utility Undergrounding Advisory Committee. The committee will be composed of 7 representatives from the community and 7 representatives from the utility companies. The group will have a one-year lifespan and will report back to the council on March 1, 2015 with recommendations regarding the City's Utilities Undergrounding Program.

Public Safety

For over 20 years, a severe lack of lighting at the Willie Henderson Park has caused public safety concerns for the community and our police department. I recently held a press conference with EDCO, SDPD, and Park and Recreation to discuss the vibrant history of the park and to present a check to the community for \$80,000 for additional park lights to increase park usage and reduce crime!



Safe Neighborhoods

A portion of San Diego’s “Main Street,” University Ave, now has its first-ever bike lane. The bike lanes extend from 58th St. to College Ave. and includes painted buffers and green paint. This first phase of enhancement was shaped and approved in the University Ave Mobility Plan (54th St to 68th St). It includes “squaring” the highly dangerous 54th St & University, Chollas Pkwy & University Ave., and 58th St & University Ave. intersections to improve pedestrian and transit access experience.



BEFORE



AFTER

Thanks to Randy Van Vleck, City Heights residents and Built Environment Team members Sidney Michael, Sally Lemmie, and Samantha Ollinger who actively shaped that plan.

Enhancements like this aren’t just about bikes; they create a more human-friendly environment for all. Dan Ortiz, a University Ave resident, said “Before we had these bike lanes, I wouldn’t walk to [the nearby businesses]... It now feels more walkable and comfortable.”

Research about the affects of similar bikeways in Long Beach reaffirms Mr. Ortiz’s perspective – **Biking increased by 33%, walking increased by 15%, bike crashes decreased by 80%, and car crashes decreased by 50%.**

Marti in the District



Councilmember Emerald at the Jade Buddha for Universal Peace Exhibition Opening Ceremony in City Heights earlier this month.



Councilmember Emerald With Assemblymember Shirley Weber and SDSU President Elliot Hirshman at SDSU's Annual MLK, Jr. Luncheon.



Councilmember Emerald joined others at City Heights and participated in the annual "We All Count" survey. Every year the Regional Task Force on the Homeless uses this data to inform decisions that addresses homelessness in our community. There was a terrific turnout of volunteers from the community and Mid-City Police who were out before sunrise to talk to and take count of homeless individuals in our canyons. A special thank you to Ocean Discovery Institute, San Diego Canyonlands, and San Diego Park Ranger Jason for helping us do this safely and efficiently.