



District Three Dialogue

June 2009 Volume 1, Issue 5

Councilmember Gloria serves on the following:

- Chair, Land Use and Housing Committee
- Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
- Budget and Finance Committee
- Rules, Open Government and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee
- City-County Joint Homeless Taskforce
- Metropolitan Transit System Board
- San Diego Workforce Partnership
- San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau

Inside this issue:

Infrastructure Improvements	2
Veterans Outreach	3
Community Coffees	3
Foreclosure Assistance	4
Budget Update	4
City Heights Super Youth	4
Community Connection	5
Upcoming Events	5
Tracking Todd	6

Public Safety: 34 Arrested in Prostitution Sweep

Responding to your concerns about increased prostitution activity in District Three, Councilmember Todd Gloria reported that the San Diego Police Vice Unit conducted a two-day operation at the end of May called "Street Sweep" targeting those individuals who engage in selling women for purposes of prostitution and those individuals who are customers of prostitutes within San Diego.

The operation resulted in the

arrests of 34 suspects whose charges ranged from recruiting females for the purpose of prostitution to agreeing to engage in prostitution. Thirty-three males and one female were booked into San Diego Central Jail.

The San Diego Police Department is aggressively addressing street prostitution, human trafficking for the purpose of prostitution, and reducing the demand for prostitution.

Councilmember Gloria appreciates the work of our police officers and affirms that District Three neighborhoods will be safeguarded.

Water Changes Now in Effect!

- Odd numbered addresses water on Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday
- Even numbered addresses water on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday
- Sprinklers may not be used for more than 10 minutes per assigned day per watering station
- Watering is permitted only between 6:00 p.m.—10:00 a.m.

Honoring Harvey Milk

The San Diego City Council proclaimed Friday, May 22 as "Harvey Milk Day." Councilmember Todd Gloria spoke about Harvey Milk before his colleagues unanimously voted on May 19 to support his resolution honoring the slain civil rights leader.

"Harvey Milk's role as a voice for underrepresented people paved the way for me and countless others to pursue careers in public service," said Councilmember Gloria, who was flanked by Mayor Jerry Sanders and Councilmember Carl DeMaio for the presentation. "Because of Harvey Milk's legacy, I stand before you today as a proud, openly gay San Diego City Councilmember. I stand on the shoulders of all those courageous leaders that Harvey inspired."

Joining City leaders in the Council Chambers were representatives from the Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast Committee; the San Diego Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center;

the Greater San Diego Business Association; San Diego LGBT Pride; and the San Diego Democratic Club. See photo below.

"Both in life and death, Harvey Milk was more than a politician. He was a visionary who saw a future in which all races, genders, classes and sexual orientations stood together to support justice and equality," said Councilmember Gloria. "Harvey Milk exemplified how service and commitment can affect lives outside one's own demographic and City. Honoring him today will inspire a new generation of leaders of all backgrounds and orientations. The future is in our hands, and I hope we have the courage to follow Harvey's example, never

waiver in the fight to secure equality for all Americans, and always remember to 'give 'em hope!'"

The First Harvey Milk Diversity Breakfast was also held on May 22, which would have been the leader's 79th birthday.



A Solution to San Diego's Road Woes

Councilmember Gloria Addresses Report on Poor Street Conditions

San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria advocated for additional infrastructure funding and transit use in response to a report from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) which determined that more than half the roads in San Diego were in poor condition.

"The fact that our roads are falling apart is not surprising news to anyone who drives in our City. The real news is that the City of San Diego is investing in our streets," said Councilmember Gloria. "By October 2010, more than 60 miles of streets in Council District Three will be slurry sealed or overlaid to improve their condition and extend their lives."

Thanks to funds from the City's \$103 million Infrastructure Bond, State Proposition 42, State Proposition 1B and trenching fees, San Diego is accelerating its progress on addressing its growing deferred maintenance list.

As stated in AASHTO's report, "Rough Roads Ahead: Fix Them Now or Pay Later," the costs of sustaining deteriorating roads is significantly higher than maintaining roads that are in good condition.

"Waiting for our roads to fail is absolutely foolish," said Councilmember Gloria, "Spending \$1 to maintain a road is much smarter than spending \$7 to reconstruct them once they fail."

He noted that infrastructure below the roads is often the cause of potholes and other street surface problems. "San Diego's streets are part of an expansive infrastructure network, including water and wastewater pipes, much of which is literally crumbling beneath us," said the Councilmember, who chairs the City Council's Committee on Land Use and Housing (LU&H), which has jurisdiction over infrastructure and transit issues, among other things.

One of the contributing factors to worsening road conditions described in AASHTO's report is the number of cars that travel on them. Decreased personal use of cars in favor of public transportation is another

means of addressing the issue, according to Councilmember Gloria. Though not discussed specifically by AASHTO, an effective and efficient transit system would take some cars off San Diego's roads or at least reduce car trips. The Councilmember

will continue to fight for improved transit and more infrastructure funding through his positions on LU&H, the City Council, the Metropolitan Transit System Board and SANDAG.

San Diego Secures Smart Growth Funding

I-15 CenterLine Planning Project Receives Grant

Council District Three and surrounding communities will benefit from \$2,676,000 in smart growth grant funding secured from the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). The TransNet Smart Growth Incentive Program funds both planning and capital projects through a competitive process.

The funding recipients in Council District Three are:

- **CenterLine BRT Station Area Plan:** This study would plan for the future development of Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) transfer stations at the intersections of I-15 and El Cajon Blvd. and I-15 and University Ave. and the surrounding areas to facilitate the development of the areas as destinations to live, work and shop. These would serve as the transfer points between the planned El Cajon Blvd. Rapid Bus service and the I-15 BRT service. The study will bring together stakeholders and focus on the El Cajon Blvd. and University Ave. transit corridors between Cherokee and Van Dyke.
- **Park Blvd. and Essex Street Pedestrian Improvements:** The project will improve the walking safety of pedestrians and transit users for this section of Park Blvd. The proposal to install corner curb extensions will narrow the crossing distances and improve safety and walkability. Adding crosswalk lighting in the pavement will help make the street crossing experience safer and more comfortable. The combination of these improvements will allow the mix of commercial and residential uses to become more vibrant in this area. Along with the prior mixed-use developments in the immediate vicinity, these improvements should help stimulate an increase in future smart growth.



Other smart growth funding will benefit the following projects, many of which will positively impact the neighborhoods of District Three.

- Park Blvd./City College/San Diego High School Pedestrian and Transit Access Improvements
- Fourth Ave. and Quince St. Pedestrian Crossing and Traffic Calming
- Nutmeg Street and Fourth and Fifth Ave. Pedestrian Crossing and Traffic Calming
- Chollas Triangle Master Plan
- Euclid and Market Village Master Plan
- Imperial Ave. and Commercial St. Corridor Plan

Councilmember Announces Veterans Job and Service Outreach Program

In recognition of Memorial Day weekend, Councilmember Todd Gloria announced the City of San Diego's Veterans Job and Service Outreach Program at the Veterans Memorial Center in Balboa Park on Saturday, May 23.

"The Veterans Job and Service Outreach Program will ensure the City of San Diego better serves those who have served our country," said Councilmember Gloria.

The Veterans Job and Service Outreach Program will focus on alerting local veterans organizations of City job openings and services from which they may benefit. Councilmember Gloria took the opportunity to address deficiencies in the City's hiring policies while job vacancies exist in the Police Department and others.

Councilmember Gloria has been a longtime friend and supporter of the veterans community, stemming from his past work as an aide to Congresswoman Susan Davis. Upon taking office as a Councilmember, he saw a lag in how the City's policies and

processes affect veterans and worked with local groups to craft a program that provides maximum impact with minimum expense.

"The City's Veterans Hiring Policy is terribly outdated. The Veterans Job and Service Outreach Program is a first step toward addressing the City's need for a qualified workforce and veterans' needs for good jobs that respect their sacrifice," said Councilmember Gloria.



Councilmember Gloria, Personnel Director Hadi Dehghani and local veterans at the announcement.

The City's Veterans Hiring Policy was last updated in 1977 and gives preference only to those who served in the Vietnam War or before when a federal act of conscription was in effect. Amending the policy would be a change to the City Charter and would require a Citywide vote. Councilmember Gloria continues examining all possible ways of better connecting the City and veterans, and will pursue appropriate avenues with the input and support of the local veterans community.

Joining Councilmember Gloria for the announcement were Stephen R. Arends, Chairman of the County's Veterans Advisory Council, Tom Splitgerber from the County of San Diego Veterans Service Office, Alan Miliesfsky, Vice Chair of the United Veterans Council, Nathaniel Donnelly, Founding President of the SDSU Student Veterans Organization and Will Hayes, Chairman of the Veterans Memorial Center Association.

The Veterans Job and Service Outreach Program went into effect immediately.

Coffee with your Councilmember

Councilmember Gloria invites neighbors to meet casually at community coffees throughout District Three. The coffees in May featured conversations as diverse as the District, including zoning for chickens and local public safety concerns. The next two coffees are listed below. Please come by at any time during the hours listed to take the opportunity to share your thoughts with the Councilmember.



Saturday, June 13
10:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
City Heights-Weingart Library
3795 Fairmount Ave.

Saturday, June 27
10:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Sea Rocket Bistro
3382 30th Street

National Public Works Week

The week of May 18, 2009 was proclaimed "National Public Works Week" in the City of San Diego at Councilmember Todd Gloria's request.

Highlighting the importance of infrastructure and improving the City's roads, sidewalks, sewers and water systems have been among the top priorities set for Councilmember Gloria by his constituents. The proclamation helped raise awareness of the systems that

keep the City functioning.

The resolution stated, in part, "Public works infrastructure, facilities and services are of vital importance to the health, safety and well-being of the citizens of the City of San Diego. It is in the best interest for the civic leaders of San Diego to champion public works projects in their communities for addressing infrastructure needs and job opportunities. The support and cooperation of an informed

constituency is integral to the proficient operations of public works systems and programs such as streets, parks, public buildings, storm water, environmental services, water and sewer infrastructure."



\$900,000 Committed to Foreclosure Assistance

Speaking in front of a foreclosed home on May 28, Council President Ben Hueso, Councilmember Todd Gloria and San Diego Housing Commission (SDHC) President and CEO Rick Gentry affirmed their commitment to providing a helping hand for the low-income San Diegans who have lost their homes due to the severe and ongoing economic crisis that has affected our City, state, and nation.

"Too many of our working class neighborhoods are susceptible to blight because families are losing their homes," said Council President Hueso. "Empty houses and neglected properties can quickly become a public hazard. We must do everything possible to ensure our

neighborhoods are healthy, vital communities. Our long-term quality of life depends on it."

Of an additional \$1,662,183 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds allocated the City by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, more than



half, \$902,003, will be directed to SDHC. The funds will be put to practical use immediately. SDHC will purchase homes that are in foreclosure, rehabilitate the units, and lease them to eligible families. Ideally, and over the long term, these homes will be sold to qualified low-income individuals or families who will be able to maintain the properties.

"Home foreclosures can have a devastating double effect on neighborhoods. The loss of one's home is difficult, and empty properties can be crime attractors," said Councilmember Todd Gloria. "This funding will allow the Housing Commission to address both problems by improving local homes and helping to build stronger communities."

San Diego is Fighting Against State Budget Grab

The San Diego City Council, working closely with Mayor Jerry Sanders, has worked diligently to address its budget challenges, including bridging a gap of \$83 million caused by low tax revenues. This was accomplished through labor concessions, reserves and fee increases, among other measures.

Now, state legislators are threatening to use property tax and gas tax revenues of San Diego to fund the devastated California

budget.

Councilmember Todd Gloria has joined with other City leaders to fight off this raid.

If the state moves forward with its proposal, San Diego could lose \$60 million. The general fund would lose \$36 million, which is the approximate cost of running the City library system for a year. The other \$24 million would come from street repairs, meaning fewer potholes would be filled, crumbling streets

would not be resurfaced and damaged sidewalks would not be repaired.

Councilmember Gloria opposes the state's raid of the City's tight coffers. He is also concerned about the state's threat to completely eliminate necessary programs upon which many District Three neighbors depend, and spoke out about the potential impacts of such cuts with representatives from Family Health Centers in North Park.

City Heights Youth Recognized for Community Service

Councilmember Todd Gloria was proud that two local youth were recognized by Cox Communications for their dedication to strengthening their community of City Heights.

This year two of the three Cox Conserves Heroes awards for youth went to volunteers who have supported restoration at Swan Canyon in City Heights.

Sonya Vargas won first prize. She was one of two youth members who served on the steering committee for the Wetland Avengers / Campeones de los Canones, a community-based habitat education and restoration event that occurred in May 2008. She also helped to inspire and mobilize the

Swan Canyon community to care for the canyon. Over 950 volunteers participated in the event by planting native plants, creating a school garden at the adjacent elementary school and designing an outdoor classroom. Sonya Vargas donated her prize of \$5,000 to Aquatic Adventures Science Education Foundation.

Jose Mendoza, former Hoover High School Eco Club President, won third place and donated his award of \$1,000 to San Diego Canyonlands, (SDCL). SDCL will use these funds to continue the community's work at Swan Canyon. Jose has worked closely with community members, taking on leadership roles for the development of the canyon friends group at Swan Canyon.

He drums up participation for work parties and meetings. He also conducts outreach and leads projects in the canyon. He has shown leadership, reliability and dedication to improving his community.

This recognition for Jose and Sonya is well deserved, and with all neighbors pitching in, Swan Canyon has truly been transformed into a healthier and safer place for the community to enjoy. Cox is continuing to promote the canyon work by acknowledging Jose and Sonya.

Councilmember Gloria provided both Sonya and Jose with commendations for their impressive contributions.
(News courtesy of Linda Pennington.)

Community Connection: The Todd Squad is Working for You

Community Character



- Councilmember Gloria and members of the Todd Squad proved their personal commitment to community beautification by taking part in two neighborhood cleanups. The streets of Hillcrest were brightened by Councilmember Gloria and the rest of the Hillcrest Clean Team on May 30. The area near Monroe Clark Middle School benefited from a Mini-FaceLift sponsored by Community Housing Works on June 6. Volunteers

cleaned the streets, parkways, alleys, yards and the nearby canyon area around 44th St. and Redwood St.

- Several pieces of furniture were removed from alleys near Cherokee Ave. in Normal Heights, upon the request of Councilmember Gloria.
- After sharing their situation with Councilmember Gloria at the community coffee on May 9, a North Park couple interested in housing chickens and growing vegetables in their yard was provided with permitting information and County contacts.

repairs and curb cut installations on New Jersey St. and Monroe Ave. that were originally requested by a wheelchair-bound neighbor.

- Norma Dr. will also benefit from sidewalk repairs and accessibility ramps soon.
- A study is underway for potential traffic calming measures near the intersection of Aldine Dr. and Monroe Ave.
- Electrical problems impacting a business on El Cajon Blvd. were corrected by City staff the same day they were reported to Council District Three.

Infrastructure Improvements

- A large street mound, or "pot hill," was eliminated from the 2300 block of Landis Street just days after the matter was reported to Councilmember Gloria.
- After being marked for repairs for almost three months, the sidewalk in the 4600 block of Cherokee Ave. was repaved and now includes modern ADA curb cut ramps.
- City staff is coordinating multiple sidewalk

Success Story of the Month!

Multiple neighbors contacted Councilmember Gloria to express their concern about a residence in Talmadge that was being used for the sale of used cars. By working with the property owners, the San Diego Police Department and the Neighborhood Code Compliance Department, a notice of eviction was issued to the tenant.

Upcoming Events: Save the Date and Support Your Neighbors!

First Anniversary of the City Heights Farmers Market and Grand Opening of the Community Garden

Saturday, June 6, 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
43rd and Wightman Street

Art on Adams

Benefiting the Adams Avenue Rec Center
Saturday, June 6, 12:00—10:00 p.m.
Adams Avenue Recreation Center
3491 Adams Ave.

GSDBA 30th Anniv. Celebration

Thursday, June 11, 6:00 p.m.
Hard Rock Hotel
207 Fifth Ave.



South Park Old House Fair

Saturday, June 20
10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
30th St. and Beech St.

Somali Family Service Health Fair

Saturday, June 20 at 2:30 p.m.
City Heights Community Park
3795 Fairmount Ave.

Adams Avenue Recreation Council

Tuesday, June 23, 7:00—8:30 p.m.
Adams Avenue Recreation Center
3491 Adams Ave.

Summer Concerts!

Bird Park Summer Concerts

Presented by North Park Community Association

Saturdays, 5:30—7:30 p.m.
Bird Park
28th Street at Thorn St.

Schedule

June 27: Marcia Froman Band
July 11: Theo and the Zydeco Patrol
July 25: Brain Buckit
August 8: Ruby and the Red Hots

Sponsored in part by the San Diego City Fire Fighters, Local 145.

Summer in the Park Concert Series

A program of the University Heights Community Development Corporation

Fridays, 6:00—8:00 p.m.
Trolley Barn Park
Adams Ave. at Florida St.

Schedule

July 10: The Swamp Critters
July 17: Joe Rathburn's Island
July 24: The Rhythm Jacks
July 31: The Midili Brothers
August 7: Sue Palmer and Her Motel Swing Orchestra



Tracking Todd

The month of May found Councilmember Todd Gloria actively participating in events and festivities throughout Council District Three, in addition to those pictured below. He enjoyed the 8th Annual Cinco de Mayo con Orgullo Festival that took place in City Heights on May 1. The event promoted the true meaning and family nature of the Cinco de Mayo holiday while promoting awareness of the impact of tobacco and alcohol in the community. On May 15, he joined Councilmember Carl DeMaio and County Supervisor Ron Roberts for a conversation

on "Our City in Crisis," organized by the Catfish Club and the San Diego City Club and held at the Hall of Champions in Balboa Park.

CLARIFICATION: The last District Three Dialogue included mentions of Councilmember Gloria's participation in an Arbor Day tree planting and the announcement of sustainability improvements to Balboa Park. Both are efforts of the Friends of Balboa Park. The Councilmember values the leadership of the organization and regrets the omission.



Councilmember Gloria paid tribute to his alma mater on its 60th anniversary by joining Councilmembers Donna Frye and Tony Young in proclaiming April 28, 2009 as University of San Diego Day. (Above)



Neighbors from City Heights and Normal Heights took the opportunity to share their concerns with Councilmember Gloria during a recent community coffee at Lestat's Coffee House. (Above)



Councilmember Gloria participated in the patriotic Memorial Day Parade in Kensington with several supporters. (Above)



At the North Park Festival of the Arts on May 17, Councilmember Gloria presented the Flicka Scholarship to Julie Le (Left)

Councilmember Gloria, a member of the Tlingit-Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska, proudly took part in the 21st American Indian Cultural Days on May 10 in Balboa Park. (Right)

