



District Three Dialogue

November 2009 Volume 1, Issue 9

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

A Lasting Legacy for Balboa Park

By Councilmember Todd Gloria

On October 12, I joined with Mayor Jerry Sanders and many philanthropic and cultural leaders to announce an important step to sustain and strengthen Balboa Park as a public park. A new task force will develop a new nonprofit public-benefit entity to work with the City's Park and Recreation Department on fundraising and park management.

Balboa Park has been the jewel of the park system and the jewel of the City for nearly 100 years. It is a source of pride and inspiration for San Diegans and visitors. Ongoing investment and oversight of the park will guarantee its strong future, and the task force will get us closer to that result.

Balboa Park Task Force

Meets the third Monday of every month 6:00 p.m.

Nov. and Dec.: Balboa Park Club

Jan. and Feb.: Reuben H. Fleet Science Center Community Room

This task force is the latest in a lengthy process in planning for the park's continued viability. After nine months of public hearings, the Balboa Park Committee determined that the park would best be served through the creation of a new nonprofit organization connected to the City.

To ensure an appropriate fundraising and governance foundation is built for Balboa Park, Vicki Granowitz answered the call

to chair the task force and engage the public in a dialogue about a potential organization's design.

This diverse group of stakeholders will hold public meetings over the next six months. Topics to be discussed include: the relationship between the City and park support organizations; potential changes to the municipal code, council policies and the City Charter; and the structure of the new governance body. The role of the public organization will also be considered.

While the work ahead for the task force will be difficult, and the questions to answer are many, privatizing the park is not on the agenda of this task force and should not be considered at any time.

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A Primer on the Budget Deficit

When it comes to the budget challenges facing San Diego, Councilmember Todd Gloria believes it is critical for the City to share information with the public and for the public to share input with City leaders.

"With a budget deficit of approximately \$200 million, there is no doubt that the public will be impacted, and the City Council needs to hear from our neighbors about your priorities and ideas," Councilmember Gloria said.

The schedule of public budget forums in the community are listed on page 5.

Though the complexity of the current budget situation does not lend itself

well to soundbites or brief newsletter articles, Councilmember Gloria assembled this primer so San Diegans are armed with information on which to base their input.

Where we are: As reported in the October issue of the District Three Dialogue, Mayor Jerry Sanders released the City's Five Year Financial Outlook on October 1 and projected a \$179 million budget deficit for the next fiscal year. The Independent Budget Analyst reports that the deficit may be closer to \$200 million.

Continued on page 5.

I know the task force members share my passion for the park and my commitment that Balboa Park will always remain the property of the people of San Diego and the City will remain responsible for its operation.

I am excited for the public to participate with the task force and to see the structure it recommends to ensure the future of Balboa Park.



New Park Approved for University Heights

By Councilmember Todd Gloria

The Birney Elementary Joint Use Field took a giant step closer to construction when, on October 5, my San Diego City Council colleagues unanimously supported my motion to approve the project. Long before I took office almost one year ago, I knew of the incredible need that both Birney Elementary and the surrounding University Heights community had for this joint use field. I knew of the long wait all have endured to see this project come to fruition, the coalition that moved the project forward and the commitment to the field by my predecessor, Toni Atkins.

The Birney Joint Use project includes a 1.6 acre irrigated turf multipurpose field, a .25 acre perimeter walkway, fencing and an accessible pathway onto the field from the corner of Meade Avenue and Park Boulevard. It is anticipated that ground will be broken in December and the field will be open for use by next fall.

A combination of Uptown Community Planning Area's Development Impact Fees and State Proposition 40 grants completed the full funding necessary for the City to move forward with construction. In light of the City's current

financial challenges, it is important to note that these funds were allocated responsibly and could not have been used for general City purposes.

I hope you share my high level of excitement that this project cleared massive hurdles by becoming fully funded and approved by the City Council. With the unfortunate financial realities facing the City, California and so many of us personally, neighbors should take enormous pride in knowing that this field is one of only three Park and Recreation Department projects moving forward this year in the City of San Diego. This is largely due to the fact that Birney students, parents and faculty and University Heights neighbors have fought so hard for so long to make this joint use field a reality.

I will keep the community up to date with information about this long-awaited project. I look forward to working in continued partnership with our neighbors to deliver more services and amenities that you deserve.

Clearing the Debris from District Three

Talmadge and City Heights Both Host Cleanups

If there is such a thing as Fall Cleaning, October 24 and 25 was the weekend for it in Council District Three. On Saturday, Councilmember Gloria and hundreds of others participated in the City Heights Fall FaceLift event.

Several homes near the intersection of Manzanita and Glenfield in Azalea Park were spruced up over the course of two weekends as part of FaceLift, and Councilmember Gloria and several staff members worked on clearing out the front yard of one home so a new walkway could be installed and landscaping could be added.

"I have participated in FaceLift for nearly 10 years," said Councilmember Gloria. "The work, community spirit and results are all inspiring, and I am thankful to Linda Pennington and the other organizers for their continued commitment to this critical program."

The following day, a total of 59 volunteers conducted an alley clean-up event in and around Talmadge. This event was organized by members of the Talmadge Patrol in coordination with the staff of Harbor Church.

Alleys in Talmadge near El Cajon Boulevard were the focus of the group's ambitious efforts. The youngest volunteer was 2-1/2 years of age and the oldest was 66 years old. Volunteers covered nearly three miles of alleys and collected more than four tons of trash, greens clippings and other debris.

The Talmadge Patrol expressed gratitude to Councilmember Gloria's office, the City's Environmental Services Department and Allied Waste for the donated dumpsters and dumping permits for the Miramar Landfill.

A nuisance dumping site was identified during the efforts, and the community and Council office will work to address the problem.

Thanks to James Quistorf of the Talmadge Patrol for the information.



Coffee with your Councilmember

Councilmember Gloria invites neighbors to meet casually at community coffees throughout District Three.

The final coffee of 2009 is listed below. Please come by at any time during the hours listed to take the opportunity to share your thoughts with the Councilmember.

**Saturday, December 12
10:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Hall of Champions
2131 Pan American Road
Balboa Park**



Community Connection: The Todd Squad is Working for You!

Improving Infrastructure

The alley bordered by 32nd and Bancroft Streets and Collier and Adams Avenues was regraded after complaints were received about large potholes and ruts making the area impassible.

Lincoln Avenue between Vermont and Washington Streets will be resurfaced in the next six to nine months.

A sidewalk in University Heights damaged by a public works crew was repaired.

Asphalt that rippled onto the sidewalk at Texas Street and University Avenue was milled and the area was repaved, removing an unsightly mess and correcting the street's drainage pattern.

An asphalt patch was used to fix a crack in the sidewalk in the 4000 block of 30th Street.

Community Character

Burlington community identification signs will soon be installed. The signs were privately funded and will adorn entrances to the neighborhood.

Graffiti was removed from the Georgia Street bridge.

Graffiti was removed and the fence was fixed at the vacant lot at Polk Avenue and Florida Street. City staff is working with the property owner to clear remaining rubbish and debris from the site.

Thanks to the work of Neighborhood Code Compliance officers, an apartment complex in North Park replaced its unsecured, overflowing dumpsters with new, secured ones.

A code compliance citation was issued to a University Heights resident for repeated illegal placement of storage containers.

Traffic and Safety Improvements

The traffic signals on El Cajon Boulevard between I-15 and 54th Street were evaluated and re-timed to decrease congestion and improve traffic flow after Council District Three highlighted the concern to City staff.

A disabled parking stall near 3955 Park Boulevard was restriped.

The intersection of Washington Street and Third Avenue in Hillcrest is being evaluated for potential safety enhancements.

The intersection of Front Street and West Lewis is being evaluated for the potential installation of a crosswalk.

A 25 mph speed limit sign will soon be added in the 4300 block of 33rd Place facing northbound traffic in response to concerns about excessive speed.

A 25 mph speed limit sign was installed on Vista Street.

Street lights were fixed in several locations in Kensington and Talmadge.

Juniper Street Project Approved

Councilmember Todd Gloria proudly announced that the San Diego City Council unanimously approved pedestrian safety improvements for a segment of Juniper Street near the South Park and North Park neighborhoods. Sidewalks and guardrails will be added to the often-traveled stretch of Juniper Street between Felton and Westland Streets, making it far safer for the neighbors who regularly walk in the area.

"Community connectivity and safety will be improved with the new sidewalks and guardrails," said Councilmember Gloria. "A safe connection between the residential neighborhoods on the east and the businesses on the west will finally be realized."

The project was approved on October 26 as part of the City's \$19,576,549.15 allocation of Proposition 1B funds for Fiscal Years 2009-2010. Other projects include slop stabilization at 46th and Maple Streets, a storm drain replacement on Maryland Street in University Heights, citywide traffic calming measures and \$3,250,707.15 for citywide street resurfacing and slurry sealing.

Assuming the funds are received by the City near the start of 2010, construction of Juniper Street improvements will begin by mid-2011. Proposition 1B was approved by the voters in 2006. The City of San Diego received \$21,180,426 in August 2008 as the FY 07-08 allocation of 1B funds.

Upcoming Events

Visit to the City Heights Area Planning Cmte.
Monday, November 2 at 6:30 p.m.
Metro Center Community Room
3910 University Ave.

Greater Golden Hill Community Plan Update
Advisory Committee Meeting
Wednesday, November 4, 6:30—8:30 p.m.
War Memorial Building, Rm. 2, 3525 Zoo Drive

Visit to the Balboa Park Committee
Thursday, November 5 at 6:00 p.m.
Balboa Park Club's Santa Fe Room
2150 Pan American Rd.

Mt. Soledad Veterans Day Ceremony
Saturday, November 7 at 11:30 a.m.
Atop Mt. Soledad

Vietnamese American Armed Forces
Recognition
Saturday, November 7 at 2:00 p.m.
Veterans Museum and Memorial Center
2115 Park Blvd.

Visit to the Hillcrest Town Council
Tuesday, November 10 at 6:30 p.m.
Joyce Beers Community Center
1230 Cleveland Ave.

Veterans Day Parade
Wednesday, November 11 at 11:00 a.m.
Pacific Highway near the County Building

Native American Month
Friday, November 13 at 11:45 a.m.
Civic Concourse near City Hall, 202 C St.

I-15 Centerline Transit Project Open House
Tuesday, November 17, 3:00—7:00 p.m.
Central Elementary School, 4063 Polk Ave.

New Hillcrest-Mission Hills Library Town Hall
Wednesday, November 18, 6:30—8:30 p.m.
Top of the Park, Park Manor Suites Hotel
525 Spruce Ave., 7th Floor

Council Round Up: A New Fire Chief and Perhaps a Library and Civic Center, Too.

Welcome to Chief Mainar

Javier Mainar was sworn in as the City of San Diego's 16th Fire-Rescue Department Chief after being confirmed by the City Council on October 19. Chief Mainar has moved up the ranks of the department over the last 29 years and served as the incident commander during the 2007 wildfires.

He has earned the respect of all whom he encounters and is regarded as a thoughtful yet decisive leader and a true firefighter who has never lost sight of his duty and the mission of the department to protect lives and property in San Diego.

"I could not be more proud that Chief Mainar is taking this position and am confident he will help us make the right decisions to preserve public safety," said Councilmember Gloria at the confirmation hearing.

Winter Homeless Shelter Site Selected

The City of San Diego's Winter Homeless Shelter will return to 15th St. and Island Ave. this year. San Diego City Council approved the annual secured the consent of the

property owner shortly thereafter. The site was home to the shelter last year, and the City paid for \$140,000 in improvements to make it usable. This site, which is close to necessary services and in the nearest proximity to most homeless individuals, was the best alternative. "It is now time to move forward aggressively to establish a permanent homeless shelter," said Councilmember Gloria. "The City has received proposals from service providers for a permanent facility, and I call on the Mayor and my colleagues to open these discussions immediately."

Civic Center Options

On October 12, the San Diego City Council approved entering into an exclusive negotiating agreement with developer Gerding Edlen to determine if a new Civic Center project is a good idea financially. The negotiations will result in realistic cost figures for the proposed development. If the resulting proposal does not yield City savings over current costs, the City Council has the right to not move forward with the project.

The negotiations will include input from environmental experts, construction consultants and financial specialists and should conclude by mid-2010. Councilmember Gloria said, "I will only support moving forward if the development saves the City money from day one forward, as compared to the 'hold steady' scenario; the developer accepts financial risk including cost overruns and building delays; and the development is a state of the art example of environmental sustainability."

Main Library Planning Continues

The City of San Diego will soon have updated bids for the proposed new main library downtown. The updated cost estimates will guide the City Council's upcoming decision on whether or not to actually build the project. The bids are due back in early 2010.

Al Stasukevich Day

Longtime good neighbor and City employee Al Stasukevich was honored for his community service to the Cherokee Point neighborhood and surrounding areas by the City Council's proclamation of October 20, 2009 as "Al Stasukevich Day" in the City of San Diego.

MTS Board Approves Stricter Taxicab Penalties

The Metropolitan Transit Service (MTS) Board of Directors unanimously approved penalty guidelines designed to improve taxicab vehicle conditions and safety in San Diego on October 22.

As the Chair of the MTS Taxicab Committee, Councilmember Todd Gloria expressed confidence that taxicabs would be safer thanks to the guidelines. "The new stricter penalties will improve compliance among taxicab permit holders, and passengers and general public will be better protected," said Councilmember Gloria.

The new guidelines increase the penalties for dozens of violations ranging from malfunctioning safety equipment to inappropriate tire pressure and from a lack of proof of insurance to display of driver identification. Previous administrative penalties proved inadequate in ensuring necessary vehicle maintenance.

Through intensified vehicle field inspections, MTS found that an alarming number of taxicabs were found to be in unacceptable condition. Inspections between January 2008 and February 2009 resulted in 85% of vehicles being removed from service for poor condition. Inspections between March 1, 2009 and June 30, 2009 yielded a 70% failure rate. Poor conditions included bad tires, unsafe brakes, body damage and unsecured seats. Vehicles had to be fixed before returning to the road.

"MTS will continue our strong oversight and enforcement of vehicle safety regulations," said Councilmember Gloria. "Should the new penalties not result in better vehicle maintenance, we will consider additional steps. Public safety will not be compromised."



Winter Water Restrictions

As temperatures decrease, so does your need to water your property. Here are some reminders about winter water use restrictions.

Landscape irrigation is limited to no more than three assigned days per week.

Homes with odd-numbered addresses can water Sunday, Tuesday & Thursday
Homes with even-numbered addresses can water Saturday, Monday & Wednesday
Apartments, Condos and Businesses can water Monday, Wednesday & Friday

Between November 1 and May 31, you may only water before 10:00 a.m. or after 4:00 p.m.

Sprinkler use is limited to no more than seven minutes maximum per watering station per assigned day. This does not apply to drip, micro-irrigation, stream rotor, rotary heads, hose end sprinklers with timers or valves operated by a weather-based irrigation controller.

Info: <http://www.sandiego.gov/water/conservation/drought/droughtlevels2.shtml>

\$2 Million Secured for Balboa Park Sustainability Projects

As the Balboa Park Task Force proceeds with its work as described on page 1, the sustainability of Balboa Park will be further guaranteed thanks to the support of Councilmember Gloria and his Council colleagues. In approving the use of Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funds, Councilmember Gloria asked for \$2 million to be dedicated specifically to projects in Balboa Park. Under the original proposal, projects in any City-owned building leased to a non-profit organization would have been eligible to compete for these funds.

"I appreciate that my colleagues understood the importance of dedicating these funds to energy efficiency projects in Balboa Park," said Councilmember Gloria. "The EECBG funds will be leveraged to attract additional private investment of \$2 million for these projects, to equal up to \$4 million for Balboa Park. I offer my special thanks to all those who have participated in the process of shaping how these EECBG funds were allocated."

Budget Primer *(continued from page 1)*

What this means: Numbers of this magnitude are hard to grasp for most people. The deficit represents approximately 16% of the City's General Fund budget. For the City, this could translate to the complete elimination of the City's Park and Recreation Department, Engineering and Capital Projects Department and the Library Department; it could translate to the elimination of the entire Fire-Rescue Department; or it could translate into the elimination of approximately 2,300 of the current 7,000 General Fund employees.

How we arrived: The City's current budget troubles are the worst in its history, but several services have actually been cut since Fiscal Year 2001 because of the structural budget deficit. Since then, the number of firefighters per 100,000 San Diegans decreased from 80 to 71; the number of police officers per

100,000 San Diegans decreased from 166 to 158; the average wait time to answer 911 calls worsened from four seconds to 10 seconds; the average number of weekly library hours at each branch decreased from 48 to 40.8; and the average weekly recreation center operating hours decreased from 62.3 to 40.25. Councilmember Gloria believes these facts illustrate the impact previous budget deficits have had on service and should heighten everyone's concern about how further cuts will cripple essential City functions.

Moving forward: To address last year's shortfall, the City Council made service fees fully cost recoverable and reengineered many of the City's business practices. These changes positively impacted the budget by approximately \$50 million. Another \$32 million was saved when City employees, including Councilmember Gloria, agreed to 6% pay cuts. Again, these responsible actions have already been implemented, meaning additional funds will need to be found elsewhere.

"We currently have over 800 vacant positions, including 106 in Fire-Rescue and 320 in the Police Department, which will not be filled," said Councilmember Gloria. "Because our options are so limited, our comprehensive solution will include further 'efficiencies,' which will

Most parties have been honest that pursuit of additional revenues must be included in the equation to balance the City's ledger. "The longer we go ignoring the need to increase revenues and connecting revenues to the City's long-term stability, the worse off San Diego will be," said Councilmember Gloria.

Because the City has gone so long without addressing the revenue side of the budget equation, the options for new funds are many. As an example, if each household agreed to pay \$10.60 per month to cover the cost of trash collection currently provided by the City, \$55 million would be available to alleviate some of the service cuts planned for departments including Police and Fire-Rescue. Many options like this require voter approval, adding urgency and importance to including them in the public conversation about the budget.

The newly formed Citizens Revenue Review and Economic

Competitiveness Commission will provide additional insight on balancing the budget.

"As City leaders, my colleagues and I must be honest about our financial circumstances and allow the public the opportunity to decide whether closing fire stations and libraries and slashing police staffing is preferable to paying for something like trash collection or storm water management," said Councilmember Gloria.

For more complete information about the budget deficit, please see, "Understanding the City's Budget" on the Council District Three website, www.sandiego.gov/cd3.

Those who cannot attend any of the

forums listed in the above box are welcome to share their input and answers to the following questions directly with Councilmember Gloria's office.

1. What are your top priority City services?
2. What services do you think could be decreased partially or eliminated entirely?
3. What additional revenue options would you support?

Councilmember Gloria needs to hear from you! Contact him at the office using the information on the front page of the newsletter or via Facebook or Twitter.

When it comes to addressing the City's budget deficit:

1. What are your top priority City services?
2. What services do you think could be decreased partially or eliminated entirely?
3. What additional revenue options would you support?

Share your responses at a public budget forum:

Tuesday, November 17
7:00-8:30 p.m.
The Center
3909 Centre Street

Thursday, November 19
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
DePortola Middle School
11010 Clairemont Mesa Blvd.

Saturday, November 21
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Hoover High School
4474 El Cajon Blvd.

Wednesday, December 9
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.
Joe and Vi Jacobs Center
404 Euclid Ave.

Tracking Todd

Councilmember Todd Gloria enjoyed an active month in and around District Three.

Councilmember Gloria is tremendously grateful for the selfless work completed by all public safety personnel and was proud to honor several outstanding lifeguards, firefighters, emergency medical professionals and civilians at the Fire-Rescue Department's Annual Service Awards Ceremony on October 15.

Performing in a reading of the Laramie Project at the Mandell Weiss Forum at the La Jolla Playhouse was a real highlight. Mayor Jerry Sanders and District Attorney Bonnie Dumanis also had roles in the play.

School is officially back in session, and the councilmember visited a calculus class at Crawford High School on October 29 and two classes at Albert Einstein Charter School on October 26 and enjoyed a fun and safe morning at the City Heights Walks to Schools event with his friends from Central Elementary School on October 7.

He also took the opportunity to participate in several community group meetings and events including the 50th Anniversary of Pat's Barber Shop, the Talmadge Block Party, Between the Heights Block Party, University Heights Community Association, Mississippi Street Block Party, Uptown Planners, City Heights Project Area Committee, North Park Project Area Committee, Greater Golden Hill Planning Committee, Burlingame Neighborhood Association and Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association.

Many neighbors also took the opportunity to meet with Councilmember Gloria at his community coffees in Kensington on October 10 and in North Park on October 24.

He made sure to support as many community-serving organizations as possible and participated in events for San Diego Young Positives, Aquatic Adventures, the Trevor Project, Coastkeeper, Center for Policy Initiatives and the LGBT Community Center. He also served as the master of ceremonies at the annual dinner supporting the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill and as a judge at the "Battle of the Bar Queens" fundraiser for Mama's Kitchen.

A guided walking tour of historic North Park was a fun experience as were visits to FilAmFest and the American Indian Youth Center.

Councilmember Gloria even made sure to make it to the homecoming celebration of his alma mater, University of San Diego.



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