

News from Councilmember Todd Gloria

District Three

DIALOGUE



City of San Diego

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Public Safety Remains Priority One

By Councilmember Todd Gloria

The impacts of the public safety budget cuts the City Council approved in December are becoming obvious, and monitoring the effects is in everyone's best interest.

Stories about police, fire and rescue activities in and around Council District Three have topped the news in recent weeks, bringing appropriate attention to the City's public safety service levels and generating interest in strengthening our responses.

respect for its quick handling of two homicides in North Park and Hillcrest in March. Though violence of any kind is not welcome in our neighborhoods, it's important to understand that the police determined that the incidents were isolated and not part of an ongoing crime spree. While our police officers work diligently to keep our streets safe, I am mindful of the potential effects of the cutbacks in police records, crime lab work and other administrative duties.

Some of the effects of the Fire-Rescue Department's engine

closures are already apparent. The fact that approximately eight fire engines are closed every day is troubling. Every month, these apparatus are out of service, and in odd-numbered months, that includes the engines from Fire Station 14 in North Park and from Fire Station 11 in Golden Hill.

I understand that these reductions are supposed to save money but remain concerned about the overall impacts of these rolling brown outs. The fire stations in and adjacent to District Three are some of the busiest in the City because of our older buildings and dense population, so removing two fire crews has increased the volume of calls for the remaining crews on duty. Even in February, when District Three stations were fully staffed, some of our crews were spending more time responding to neighboring communities because of the ripple effect of engine closures elsewhere. I will have updated response statistics for all District Three fire stations soon and will share them with the community so you remain informed.

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The Police Department deserves

Councilmember Earns High Marks for Environmental Work

San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria achieved an A- grade on the 2009 Environmental Quality Report Card issued in March by a coalition of local non-profit organizations.

The respective environmental impacts of nearly 100 City Council votes and 27 budget items were analyzed and weighted to derive the grades for the Mayor and each councilmember. Councilmember Gloria earned 42.75 points out of a possible 47.5, for a score of 90%, coming in just behind top ranked Councilmember Donna Frye's 93.5%.

Green energy, environmental justice, land use and climate change were Councilmember Gloria's strongest policy areas, according to the report.

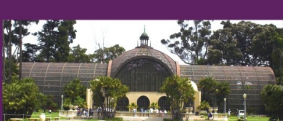
"I'm proud of my work to protect San Diego's environment," said Councilmember Gloria. "I've always been an overachiever, so I'm aiming to improve my grade to a solid A on next year's report card."

Councilmember Gloria's ongoing work as chair of the City's Land Use and Housing Committee to develop a sustainable building policy and to simplify the process of creating community gardens will strengthen the region's environment, and his continued efforts to protect San Diego's canyons, move forward with an indirect potable reuse water demonstration project, and strengthen public transit options to decrease single-passenger car trips will also be helpful to the long term quality of the environment and the overall health of San Diegans.

District Three Dialogue

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Solving Homelessness in San Diego: Hearing Set for Apr. 21

Councilmember Todd Gloria is dedicating April's Land Use and Housing Committee meeting to solutions for issues of homelessness. The actions on the April 21 agenda should include selecting a contractor for the winter shelter, moving forward with a permanent homeless shelter downtown, and reorganizing the way the City tackles homeless issues going forward.

Councilmember Gloria believes there is an immediate need to focus on this issue.

"Annual squabbles by City officials over the site of the winter shelter, and the almost total abdication of responsibility by County officials has left our region without the leadership needed to turn this predicament around and place San Diego at the forefront of addressing homelessness," said Councilmember Gloria.

The number of homeless in San Diego has increased dramatically due to the national recession. According to the Regional Taskforce on the Homeless, 7,892 San Diegans find themselves without appropriate stable housing, often surviving in our City's shelters, streets and canyons. This is an increase of almost 500 people over last year.

"Simply put, San Diego's homelessness problem is bad and it is getting worse," said Councilmember Gloria.

For many years now, two non profit organizations have provided shelter in San Diego for some of the homeless during the

winter months. Through the winter shelter program, Alpha Project and Veterans Villages of San Diego have helped thousands of San Diegans living on the streets to locate permanent housing and reclaim their lives. The organizations perform this essential work even without full City funding of their programs.

Though he is grateful for the commitment of these organizations and believes they should remain involved in the winter shelter program, Councilmember Gloria knows it is not enough for the City to care about the homeless for 16 weeks in the winter.

Homelessness Solutions Day
Land Use and Housing Committee
Wednesday, April 21
2:00 p.m.
City Administration Building
202 C Street

"We must have a year round facility to provide help to those who want it," he said. "A shelter that helps get the homeless off our neighborhood streets is just as critical to the continued redevelopment of downtown as any of the other proposed civic projects and should be pursued and funded with the same vigor afforded the convention center expansion or the new football stadium."

April's committee hearing will take the City a

step closer to making this long held vision a reality.

The Committee will also consider a proposal to provide the City's Housing Commission with the responsibility of oversight of the complex issues of homelessness. The Commission has over 30 years of experience constructing and operating housing for low-income San Diegans and is known nationally for its cutting edge approach to affordable housing. Importantly, the Commission has the resources to dedicate multiple staff members to the tasks of helping moving people into permanent, supportive housing.

"This would be a major influx of resources over the current practice of having one mayoral staffer oversee this matter, among a portfolio of other assignments," said Councilmember Gloria. "I believe this could be a welcome improvement and ensure that greater attention is paid to this pressing social and economic problem going forward."

Homeless individuals and families would obviously directly benefit from these new services. Neighbors grappling with growing populations of transients, and taxpayers paying the bill for the extraordinary health and service-related costs of homeless people would indirectly benefit as well.

When combined with a commitment from the County of San Diego, continued innovation by

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Public Safety (continued from page 1)

Let me be clear, closing fire engines was no one's first choice when addressing last year's budget deficit of \$179 million. The impacts are real, but the City is still better off than we would be had we closed entire fire stations or laid off firefighters.

Since the City Council balanced the budgets for FY 10 and FY 11 in December, we have become aware of an additional \$30 million deficit. The Mayor will present his budget proposal by April 15.

The financial circumstances continue to be dire, yet the time is now to plan corrective action to restore these cuts and strengthen these essential departments to ensure San Diego's safety.

The national standard for fire-rescue response times is five minutes or less. The City's goal is to meet this standard in at least 90% of all calls for service. Before the brownouts, we were not meeting this goal.

My constituents haven't told me that your parks are too clean or your libraries are open too many hours. The only way we will be able to provide the public safety protection to which you've become accustomed without shuttering other valuable City services is if additional revenue is secured.

I am confident our police and fire personnel have never been more dedicated and will continue to provide the high quality service that is their hallmark. However, I ask that we not take public safety for granted and simply hope help will arrive when we need it. We all must give serious thought to the effects of the cuts, and talk to our neighbors about our City priorities.

Your safety is impacted every day. You deserve to be part of the conversation on whether that is a concern and if and how the City should fix it. I encourage your feedback.

Community Connection: The Todd Squad is Working for You!



Infrastructure

- Councilmember Gloria connected residents impacted by the March 1 water main break in the 2800 block of Polk Ave. (pictured above) to needed services and assisted with property damage claims on-site.
- The alley between the 4000 blocks of Highland Ave. and 45th St. has been repaired.
- Potholes were repaired near Fourth Ave. at Arbor Dr. and in the 1300 block of Bancroft St.
- A damaged sidewalk in the 4600 block of Park Blvd. was repaired.
- A manhole cover has been fixed in Balboa Park.
- A loose steal street plate was secured on Marlborough Ave.
- A water leak was repaired near Maryland St. and Meade Ave.
- A water line access hole was addressed on Hastings St.
- Dead End signage was replaced on Franciscan Way.
- A driveway and sidewalk damaged by City crews was repaired on the 5200 block of Canterbury Dr.

Neighborhood Character

- Trash and abandoned items were removed from an alley near the 4200 block of Polk Ave.
- Graffiti was removed from a building in the 3700 block of Fourth Ave.
- Graffiti was removed from University Ave. and Robinson Ave. with the help of the Hillcrest Town Council Neighborhood Improvement Committee.
- Graffiti was removed from Polk Ave. and Florida St.
- Graffiti was eliminated at the intersection of Eugene Pl. and E. Mountain View Dr.
- Follow up ensured that a public works contractor cleared debris from a 33rd Street water and sewer job.
- Community clean ups sponsored by the City's Environmental Services Department helped clear waste and recyclables from City Heights and Golden Hill.
- Unwanted distribution of advertising and free publications was stopped thanks to the District Three staff's coordination with the publishers.

Public Safety

- The audible pedestrian indicators at the intersections of Fairmount Ave. at El Cajon Blvd. and Highland Ave. at University Ave. were repaired.
- The pedestrian signal at Cherokee Ave. and Adams Ave. was adjusted.
- A damaged tree in the 3500 block of 42nd St. was removed before it could become a hazard.
- Streetlights were fixed near Juniper St. at Ralene St. and University Ave. at 38th St.

Coffee with your Councilmember

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

Please come by at any time during the hours listed to take the opportunity to share your thoughts with the Councilmember.

Saturday, April 24

10:30 a.m.– 12:00 p.m.

Caffé Calabria, 3933 30th Street

Saturday, May 22

10:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Location TBD in Balboa Park



Other Upcoming Events

EarthFair 2010

Sunday, April 18, 10:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.
Balboa Park

Adams Avenue Roots and Folk Festival
Saturday, April 24-Sunday, April 25
All Day

Adams Ave. in Normal Heights

North Park Festival of the Arts

Sunday, May 16
10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.
University Ave. between 30th and 32nd

Old House Fair in South Park

Saturday, June 19
10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
30th and Beech St.

Homeless Solutions *(continued from page 2)*

the City's nonprofit and private sector partners, and renewed support by our philanthropic community, Councilmember Gloria believes that significant progress will happen to move the nearly 8,000 San Diegans from the streets to housing.

The Land Use and Housing Committee meeting marks a new chapter in San Diego when it comes to solving homelessness.

"By renewing the City's commitment to the winter shelter program, moving forward aggressively with a permanent facility that will move people from the streets to supportive housing, and embarking on a new approach to manage homelessness, San Diego will stand proudly in our care for our homeless neighbors."

Tracking Todd



A new restaurant, two community coffees, a canyon clean up, and a visit from the Easter Bunny were only a handful of the activities in which Councilmember Todd Gloria participated in the last month.

Clockwise, starting above:

- Porkyland Restaurant opened the doors at its newest location on University Ave. in Hillcrest. Councilmember Gloria joined the owners for the ribbon-cutting on April 1.
- Councilmember Gloria joined neighbors for Walk the Watershed Day on March 20 in Swan Canyon.
- Congratulations and certificates were shared by Councilmember Gloria with Proyecto's Leadership Academy on March 19 in City Heights.
- The Easter Bunny brought Easter baskets and even some new bicycles to hundreds of District Three youth in Trolley Barn Park on April 4.
- Councilmember Gloria chatted with friends at The Center following his "Two Cents with Aaron Heier" interview on March 16.



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
- Metropolitan Transit System Board
- San Diego Association of Governments
- San Diego Workforce Partnership
- San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau

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