

News from Councilmember Todd Gloria

District Three

DIALOGUE



City of San Diego

February 2010 Volume 2, Issue 2

The State of District Three: You Set the Agenda, You See the Results

By Councilmember Todd Gloria

When I ran for office, you all gave me very clear instructions. You wanted me to strengthen public safety, improve infrastructure in our neighborhoods, and remain accessible to you.

The challenges of my first year in office were great, to be sure, but so were the successes you all helped make possible. Working together, we have increased street repairs by 400% over last year, returned Community Relations Officers to the neighborhoods which need them most, and held more public hearings in communities throughout the City to encourage public participation. These

successes would have been unheard of only a few years ago and are all testaments to the power of collaboration.

The issues remaining before us are immense. The City of San Diego is wrangling with our budget; City employees (including me) are taking pay cuts; our public assets are in need of more repair and maintenance; and San Diegans are still clamoring for high-quality public services.

I consider myself lucky to get the chance to tackle these matters. Working with my City Council colleagues and staying in close

contact with neighbors through community coffees and participation in civic group meetings and events, I am pleased that a strong dialogue has developed and progress is being made. I know that honest communication and broad coalitions are vital to moving any initiative forward, and there is no more important initiative right now than strengthening our City.

As always, thank you for your partnership and thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Accessibility is Key to Representation

By Councilmember Todd Gloria

Accessibility: By the Numbers

Community Coffees: 14
E-Newsletters: 19
District 3 Dialogue Issues: 12
Civic Group Meetings Attended: 47
Community Clean-Ups: 6

I can only be an effective representative if I know what you, my constituency, wants, needs and expects. Just over a year ago, I walked to my swearing in at Golden Hall – with many neighbors by my side – as a way to show that my orientation, my loyalties, and my heart are and will always be with the neighborhoods of District Three.

Being as accessible to you as possible means more than making sure the office phones are answered between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. I have employed a number of means in the last year to

remain in touch with you and to encourage you to stay in close contact with me. I will continue to explore and seek out new avenues of communication to make certain I continue to represent your interests.

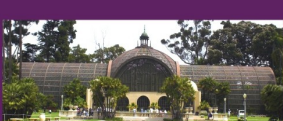
Whether your preference is calling, sending emails, chatting on Facebook, or attending community meetings, coffees and clean-ups, I respectfully request you continue to participate in your government and help me further strengthen District Three and all of San Diego.

Thank you for your part in our accomplishments to date.

District Three Dialogue

Inside this issue:

Public Safety Successes	2-3
Infrastructure Investments	4-5
Revitalization	6
Equality	7
Balboa Park	7
Clean Communities	8-9
Historic Preservation	9
The Road Ahead	10



202 C Street, MS 10A
San Diego, CA 92101
Phone (619) 236-6633
Fax (619) 595-148
toddgloria@sandiego.gov
www.sandiego.gov/cd3

Strengthening Public Safety

Neighborhood Safety

- Councilmember Gloria, in response to the concerns of North Park residents and business owners about public safety in the late evenings, worked with SDPD to provide enhanced patrols near University Ave. and 30th St.
- Alcohol consumption and partying at Ward Canyon Park, and neighborhood violence concerns stemming from a Normal Heights residence were addressed through coordination between Councilmember Gloria's office and the Police Department.
- Councilmember Gloria and his staff worked with multiple neighborhood groups and constituents in University Heights to report a home that was generating a great deal of community concern. As a result, the home



was raided by the San Diego Police Department's Narcotics Division and three individuals were arrested.

Councilmember Gloria congratulations an RSVP graduate.

Traffic Safety

- A 25 MPH School Zone sign post was replaced after it was knocked down by a motorist on Hawley Blvd..
- The City installed a new automated photo enforcement camera system at Cleveland Ave. and Washington St. in University Heights.
- An all-way stop was added near Garfield Elementary at the intersection of Meade Ave. and Idaho St.. Parents organized the call for stop signs after students were injured at the location.
- A four-way stop sign was added to Florida St. and Cypress at the request of the Greater North Park Planning Committee to better manage the traffic in Florida Canyon.
- Two 25 MPH speed limit signs were installed on Fifth Ave. near Washington St.
- Traffic enforcement increased along Gateway Dr. in Fairmount Park after neighbors noticed an increase in speeding.
- A 25 MPH speed limit sign was installed on Vista St..

Crackdown on Illegal Gaming

On June 25, 2009, the San Diego Police Department Vice Unit and the Department of Justice Gaming Unit announced their partnership to address illegal gaming establishments.

Investigators conducted multiple inspections at Internet cafes and small businesses with slot machines and computer gaming devices. Operation "Jackpot" resulted in the arrest of two suspects, the removal of 31 gaming devices and the seizure of more than \$11,000. There are many businesses in San Diego that have computers that are used for gambling. Individuals pay cash to get credit on a player's card. If the player wins, the machine adds credit to the card which can be cashed in. Section 330a of the California Penal Code makes it illegal to possess these machines.

- A 25 MPH speed limit sign facing westbound traffic was installed at Upas St. and 30th St.
- The curbs on the corners of Cleveland Ave. and Monroe Ave. were painted red.
- New stops signs were installed at Adams Ave. and Oregon St. to address the safety concerns of the Adams Ave. Business Association and local residents.
- Red no parking zones were installed at 4390 Arizona St., 3536 Ray St., 3369 C St., the intersection of Donald Ave. and Wightman St., and the southeast corner of 4th Ave. and Walnut Ave.

Streetlight Repairs

- Streetlights in the 4300 block of 40th St. and the 3600 block of Albatross St. were repaired.
- Streetlights were turned back on along Lila Drive in Talmadge.
- Working with the Adams Ave. Business Association, the District Three office was able to have the street lights repaired along 30th St..
- Street lights were fixed in several locations in Kensington and Talmadge in November.
- A streetlight was replaced near the intersection of Florida Court and Georgia St.

Talmadge Streetlights Are Finally Back On!

For anyone who lives in Talmadge or visited the eastern-most neighborhood in Council District Three at night last spring, the dark streets could not be missed.

In late July, the lights came back to Talmadge. The complete lack of lighting plagued the community for months, which has also dealt with frequent localized outages for many years.

Unlike many areas of San Diego, the non-functioning lights were not due to simple burned-out bulbs.

When Talmadge was built, the electrical wiring for the streetlights was just buried in the ground under the sidewalks and streets, without any protection or casings. (See photo above.) Through the years, the moisture present in the soil naturally impacted the wires and caused the lighting problems. These 83-year old series circuits are extremely fragile.

"I am thrilled that the lights are back on in Talmadge," said Councilmember Todd Gloria. "I extend my thanks to the City's General Services Department for their dedication to solving this problem and to the community members for their patience."

City staff indicates the circuits should have been replaced years ago. Until that occurs, the City's dedicated electricians now have the expertise to pinpoint and address problems that may arise.



Community Collaborations with Cops Yield Success

I was proud to work with Police Chief Bill Lansdowne and Mid City Captain Lawrence McKinney to bring three Community Relations Officers (CROs) back to Council District Three in 2009. Crime prevention is vital to community stability, and CROs provide that necessary service by using their familiarity with the people and properties in specific neighborhoods to directly address nuisances and crime trends proactively with the support of community members. Bringing these officers back was my goal and part of my commitment to strengthening public safety.

CROs and department leadership were quick to respond to our shared concerns about increased prostitution throughout Council District Three. The Police Department performed two multiple-day "Street Sweeps" in 2009, targeting those individuals who engage in selling women for purposes of prostitution and those individuals who are customers of prostitutes. The operations resulted in the arrests of 60 suspects. While some argue that more focus should be paid to violent crimes, it is equally important to address quality of life offenses.

Prostitution impacts far more than the individual participants; it breeds other criminal activity. When lower-level offenses like prostitution are overlooked, the message is sent that an area consents to crime.

To further combat questionable street activity, the police department partners with local schools and community organizations for curfew sweeps every month. As disturbing as it can be know youth as young as nine years old are roaming District Three's streets after 10 p.m., it is even more impressive how these situations are handled. The success of the curfew sweeps is due to the training and personal care of our local officers.

Preventive measures like curfew sweeps decrease the likelihood of youth being involved in crime. That is not to say that violent crimes have been ignored. On the contrary, in one single five day period last June, the commanding officers deployed a number of resources to target areas in Mid-City that had been hit hard by violent crime. The action resulted in 4 felony arrests, 7 misdemeanor arrests, 6 misdemeanor citations, 15 traffic citations, 6 impounded vehicles and 86 field interviews

Urban Search and Rescue Canines Added to the Fire Force

Councilmember Todd Gloria announced the addition of four new rescue canines to the County's California Task Force 8 Urban Search and Rescue Team with Mayor Jerry Sanders, Council President Pro tem Kevin Faulconer and Fire-Rescue Chief Tracy Jarman on July 23 at the Regional Public Safety Institute.

"It is a real honor to welcome the newest members of the Fire-Rescue Department, Fletch and Martini!" said Councilmember Gloria. "These four-legged firefighters will be a tremendous asset locally and nationally."

San Diego's local Urban Search and Rescue Team's expertise is confined space search and rescue used when structures have collapsed. San Diego team members have been dispatched to the World Trade Center after 9/11, the Northridge earthquake in 1994, the 1995 Oklahoma City Federal Building Bombing and several hurricanes, including when Hurricane Katrina struck Louisiana in 2005.

"Without the substantial amount of grant funding Chief Jarman has been able to fight for, our Fire-Rescue operations would not be nearly as extensive or effective," said Councilmember Gloria.

The partnership with FEMA, Homeland Security and the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation provides San Diego this resource at no additional cost to taxpayers. Most importantly, these dogs and our entire Urban Search and Rescue Team provide amazing insurance and peace of mind that members of the public will receive the most effective response possible should disaster strike.



Above, one of the new USRT dogs demonstrates her skill with the help of her handler.

Firefighters Support Copley Family YMCA and Mama's Kitchen



The San Diego City Firefighters — Local 145 generously donated \$2,000 to the Mama's Kitchen on January 30 and \$2,000 to Copley Family YMCA on April 7. Councilmember Gloria joined representatives from Local 145 and crews from nearby fire stations for the check presentations.

San Diego firefighters personally contribute a portion of their paychecks to the Community Responsibility Fund, which is used to support worthy charitable groups like the Mama's Kitchen and Copley YMCA.

Mama's Kitchen is a volunteer-driven, not-for-profit organization that prepares and delivers food to men, women and children who are affected by AIDS or other critical illnesses.

The Copley Family YMCA provides educational and physical wellness services to the neighboring North Park and City Heights communities, and has been a fortunate recipient of the Firefighters' generosity for many years.



Infrastructure

Sidewalk and Street Repairs

- Sidewalks at the corner of Collier St. and Arizona St. and in front of a business on Park Blvd. were repaired, alleviating significant tripping hazards.
- An alley behind Hamilton St. was repaired to prevent sinking after rains.



- A pothole was filled in the 4000 block of Georgia St.
- The deep holes in the alley behind the 4000 block of Louisiana St. were filled with asphalt, making the alley easier to navigate for residents.

- A group of potholes that developed in the alley behind Ohio St. was filled.
- The gutters and curb ramps at 30th St. and Dwight Ave. were reconstructed to eliminate water ponding.
- To ensure the safety of pedestrians in the Hospital Zone near UCSD Medical Center Hillcrest, street and gutter repair occurred and the Police Department mitigated traffic near the work.
- A lifted sidewalk area caused by heat expansion near 1240 University Ave. in Hillcrest was repaired in May.
- Damage due to a palm tree on Ridgeway Drive in Kensington was repaired in spring.
- An asphalt patch was used to fix a crack in the sidewalk in the 4000 block of 30th St.
- 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.
- A sidewalk in University Heights damaged by a public works crew was repaired.
- Asphalt that rippled onto the sidewalk at Texas St. and University Ave. was milled and the area was repaved, removing an unsightly mess and correcting the street's drainage pattern.
- A large street mound, or "pot hill," was eliminated from the 2300 block of Landis St. just days after the matter was reported to Councilmember Gloria.

Neighborhood Needs

- When one of Talmadge's historic gates damaged by a delivery truck, Councilmember Gloria's office coordinated a quick fix with the approval of the City's Historic Resources Board.
- The circuit of streetlights on Talmadge Circle in Kensington was repaired.
- San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria announced on January 7 that a well-known Hillcrest community boundary sign had been re-installed. The sign located on Washington St. near the intersection with Dove St. commemorating the neighborhood's centennial was damaged and knocked down shortly after its installation in 2007.

Signage

- Burlingame community identification signs were installed. The signs were privately funded and adorn entrances to the neighborhood.
- Guide signs for 163 North were installed facing westbound traffic at University Ave. and 10th Ave.
- The traffic circle signage at the intersection of Landis St. and Louisiana St. was improved and brought up to City standards.
- A "No Parking" sign on Cromwell Court that had been knocked down due to recent construction was replaced.
- The missing Normal Heights neighborhood identification sign on Adams Ave. near East Mountain View Dr. facing westbound traffic was restored/replaced/re-installed.

Traffic Improvements

- The traffic signals on El Cajon Blvd. between I-15 and 54th St. were evaluated and re-timed to decrease congestion and improve traffic flow after Council District Three highlighted the concern to City staff.
- The timing coordination of traffic signals near Washington St. and Goldfinch was adjusted to improve traffic flow.
- The centerline on Washington St. between Fourth Ave. and Fifth Ave. was restriped.
- A crosswalk was installed across Fifth Ave. at Washington St..

Accessibility Upgrades

- Curb cuts were added along Wightman St. between 35th St. and 40th St. in City Heights. These were completed as part of an asphalt overlay project. Additional accessible curb cuts were inserted in University Heights and Hillcrest.
- To allow for appropriate passenger access to a disabled parking spot near All Saints Episcopal Church in Hillcrest, Councilmember Gloria led the effort to move and repaint the blue zone. This work was completed so that the space was no longer blocked by guide wires and a telephone pole.
- A disabled parking stall near 3955 Park Blvd. was restriped.
- 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.
- Blue disabled parking zones were installed at 2820 Lincoln, 4122 Utah St., 3693 Grim St., 3878 Van Dyke Ave. and 3660 Villa Terrace.
- City staff coordinated multiple sidewalk repairs and curb cut installations on New Jersey St. and Monroe Ave. that were originally requested by a wheelchair-bound neighbor.



"Pave it Forward" Citywide Street Repairs Accelerate in 2009



City Councilmember Todd Gloria joined work crews and community members on a City Heights street being repaved as part of the City's renewed investment into its roads on September 23. In Fiscal Year 2009, the City increased its street repair budget to \$79.2 million, a jump of almost 400%, to address

maintenance needs, improve quality of life and strengthen neighborhood vitality.

"Smoother roads are ahead for San Diego," said Councilmember Gloria. "Sixty miles of roads in Council District Three will be repaved or overlaid by October 2010, and I know my neighbors welcome these improvements."

The news conference took place on Rowan St. in the Fairmount Park community of City Heights. Rowan St. was in ill-repair and cited by residents as one of the roughest local roads. Councilmember Gloria, who represents the area, has fought for infrastructure investment while being honest about the amount of funds necessary to complete the large task.

The City's overall deferred maintenance backlog including repairs to roads, public buildings and properties, and water and wastewater systems, is estimated to cost approximately \$1 billion. The City's \$103 million infrastructure bond announced by Mayor Jerry Sanders in April 2009 was used to jumpstart several projects. City infrastructure bond funds are being combined with Proposition 1B, Proposition 42 and trenching fees for the street repairs.

Please visit www.sandiego.gov/cd3/issues/infrastructure for a map of planned street improvements.

Improvements Promote Driving Alternatives

Council District Three and surrounding communities are benefiting smart growth and federal stimulus funding.

Over \$20 million of federal stimulus funds were allocated to transportation projects throughout San Diego, including these in District Three:

- An 8.75 mile bikeway project to link downtown, Balboa Park and other District Three communities;
- Roadway and sidewalk improvements on 38th Street between Dwight and Landis Streets; and
- A pedestrian-countdown timer at El Cajon Boulevard and Menlo Avenue.

The TransNet Smart Growth Incentive Program funds both planning and capital projects through a competitive process, and \$2,676,000 were secured for local projects. The funding recipients in Council District Three were:

CenterLine BRT Station Area Plan: This study plans 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 will serve as the transfer points between the planned El Cajon Blvd. Rapid Bus service and the I-15 BRT service. The study brings together stakeholders and focus on the El Cajon Blvd. and University Ave. transit corridors between Cherokee and Van Dyke.

Park Boulevard 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 approved in 2009 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 St. 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

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, February 27
10:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.
Babycakes, 3766 5th Ave.**



Revitalization Through Housing and Redevelopment

- **Arbor Terrace Expands Housing in North Park**



The number of residences in North Park expanded by 71 units when Councilmember Gloria and former Councilmember Toni Atkins cut the ribbon at Arbor Terrace, an affordable rental housing complex located on Florida St., on April 29.

Councilmember Gloria thanked the Greater North Park Planning Group and the North Park Redevelopment Project Area Committee for their support of Arbor Terrace's craftsman-style buildings, noting, "They obviously work to make sure projects fit with the community character." He added, "Developments like this only add richness to the diversity already thriving in North Park."

- The community-driven Fourth 5-Year **Implementation Plan** was adopted for the City Heights Redevelopment Project Area in April.
- **North Park Inn Renovations**
in July, Councilmember Gloria joined with the San Diego Housing Commission to announce renovations transforming the deteriorating North Park Inn into 17 residential apartments for graduates of the Pathfinders recovery program for homeless men. When this project is complete in 2010, a block of North Park will be rid of blight and several neighbors will be able to continue their roads to recovery.

- **Euclid Tower**
The corner of University Avenue and Euclid Avenue in City Heights welcomed back the iconic Euclid Tower on April 20. Before termites forced its demolition a decade ago, the Euclid Tower stood as a landmark for about 70 years. Councilmember Gloria participated in the ribbon-cutting along with local community members and commented, "Euclid Tower is a symbol of City Heights, and its return proves the strength of this neighborhood."



- **Lafayette Hotel Improvements**
The Lafayette Hotel on El Cajon Blvd. will soon undergo extensive improvements, which Councilmember Gloria and his colleagues

approved in January 2010. The project will renovate the historic main building, poolside rooms and swimming pool of the hotel. Improvements include remodels, plumbing repairs, ADA compliance, guest room upgrades and HVAC system changes. Although the existing building and amenities have been maintained, the hotel is suffering the effects of age. The hotel would continue as a full service boutique hotel. The building rehabilitation will cost \$4,031,620, and redevelopment funds are being used to support the project.

- **Community Plan Updates** for Uptown, Golden Hill and North Park were kicked off in 2009. Revisions to these roadmaps for neighborhood protection and preservation are underway to ensure land use decisions are based on current data and a renewed community consensus.

City Heights Square Groundbreaking

City Councilmember Todd Gloria was joined by Congresswoman Susan Davis, Mayor Jerry Sanders, Price Charities and San Diego Redevelopment Agency officials on January 8, 2010 to celebrate the groundbreaking of City Heights Square, a \$44



million mixed-use project in the heart of City Heights. The City Heights Square Residential and Retail Project is the third redevelopment project to break ground within the City Heights Square master planned development and will provide local jobs.

City Heights is one of the most ethnically diverse communities in San Diego. The City Heights Square project occupies the majority of the block on University Avenue bound by 43rd Street and Fairmount and Polk Avenues. The project has four distinct and complementary components, including a Senior Housing Project (completed in August 2007), the La Maestra Family Clinic (to be completed summer 2010), a 5,348-square-foot pocket park funded by the Redevelopment Agency (being designed), and the City Heights Square Residential and Retail Project. Combined, these individual elements represent an investment of more than \$75 million dedicated to revitalize the City Heights urban core. These redevelopment projects also complement the award-winning City Heights Urban Village located across University Avenue bound by 43rd Street, Chamoune Avenue and Landis Street.

Plans for the development include 92 residential apartment units (14 affordable housing units), 20,500 square feet of retail space, 3,000 square feet of office space, two levels of underground parking and 54 covered surface level spaces.

Progress for Equality

City Council Supports Repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”

Councilmember Gloria was proud that San Diego once again stood up against discrimination and is thankful to his colleagues for their unanimous vote supporting the repeal of the federal “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” law at the City Council meeting on June 22.

The discriminatory policy took effect 15 years ago. Since then, more than 12,500 people have been discharged from military service because of their sexual orientation, including 265 discharged since President Barack Obama’s inauguration. According to a Blue Ribbon Commission Report, the cost to replace and train service members discharged under this law between 1994 and 2003 exceeded \$363.8 million. In spite of this, some lesbian, gay and bisexual service members are proudly serving our country in uniform. Some are still harassed and serve with the fear of losing their chosen careers.

The City of San Diego regularly takes positions on federal and state legislation. Prior to the City Council action, the City’s Human Relations Commission and the Committee on Rules, Open Government and Intergovernmental Relations advocated for the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell.”



Councilmember Gloria was joined by most of his Council colleagues, the Mayor and the Independent Budget Analyst in the 2009 Pride Parade.

A federal bill formally eliminating “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” has been introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Honoring Harvey Milk

The San Diego City Council proclaimed 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.

“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 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.

Balboa Park’s Bright Future

- **\$2 Million Secured for Balboa Park Sustainability Projects** 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. The EECBG funds will be leveraged to attract additional private investment for Balboa Park sustainable projects.
- **Balboa Park Gardens Receive \$1.25 Million Gift** The future of Balboa Park’s Inez Grant Parker Memorial Rose Garden and the Japanese Friendship Garden was secured thanks to a major gift from the estate of Thomas and Lilyan Frank. The \$1.25 million donation was equally split between endowments for both gardens. The funds will help cover the maintenance and improvement costs for the areas in perpetuity.
- **Governance Structure** To sustain and strengthen Balboa Park as a public park, a task force of philanthropic and cultural leaders, chaired by Vicki Granowitz, is developing the framework for a

nonprofit public-benefit entity. It is the latest in a lengthy process in planning for the park’s continued viability through ongoing investment and oversight.

- **2015 Celebration** The 100th anniversary of the Panama-California Exposition will be celebrated in 2015. Several legacy projects are planned to commemorate this milestone, including the reclamation of the Plaza de Panama as the public space and the restoration of historic ornamentation that has been removed over the years on a number of the park’s cherished buildings.

Councilmember Gloria helps plant a tree in Balboa Park on Arbor Day.



Cleaning Up the Community

Illegal Dumping

- A mattress and rubbish that were dumped in an alley near Hawley Blvd. were removed within one day of the Council District Three office being notified of the problem.
- Dumped furniture and assorted trash were removed from alleys near the 4500 blocks of Cherokee Ave. and Hawley Blvd.
- Councilmember Gloria was able to have a motorized scooter which was illegally blocking a Herman Ave. sidewalk removed.
- City staff addressed the illegal dumping of paint and chemicals into the canyon off of Cromwell Court.
- Furniture illegally dumped behind homes on Cherokee Ave. and Third Ave. was removed.
- Construction debris that had fallen off of a construction utility truck at the intersection of Madison Ave. and Cherokee Ave. was also removed.
- An illegally placed storage container was removed from a street in Normal Heights.
- Illegally dumped materials were removed from an alley behind Albatross St..
- The 42nd Street Canyon was cleared of debris and made safer through the clearance of brush and overgrown vegetation.
- Several pieces of furniture were removed from alleys near Cherokee Ave. in Normal Heights.

Community Clean Ups

- Councilmember Gloria kicked off the inaugural Talmadge Alley Cleanup on Saturday, January 10 and joined members of the Talmadge Community Council and his staff in the event. The Council office also helped secure passes for the collected debris to be dropped off at the Miramar landfill.
- The Greater Golden Hill Community Development Corporation sponsored a clean up of Juniper Canyon on Saturday, March 14. With the help of Urban Corps, Path Finders, members of Kaleo Church and many neighbors, approximately four tons of trash were removed. On Saturday, March 21, a similarly successful clean up of Van Dyke/Manzanita Canyon occurred in City Heights.
- In conjunction with the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program, Urban Forestry and the Engineering and Capital Projects



Councilmember Gloria lends a hand during the Fall FaceLift in October.

Department, and with the help of Scripps Mercy Hospital, the area surrounding the 163 and Sixth Ave. was renovated in spring 2009. Debris and weeds were removed and repairs were made along the center median, frontage and pedestrian bridge.

- The streets of Hillcrest were brightened by Councilmember Gloria and the rest of the Hillcrest Clean Team on May 30.
- Based on citizen requests and community involvement, the Cherokee Point area of City Heights was selected for a special Mini-FaceLift clean up event on June 6. The successful clean up removed a total of 38.05 tons of waste (31.42 tons of non-recyclables and 6.63 tons of recyclables consisting of metals and appliances) from the neighborhood.
- The North Park Community Association organized a cleanup near Texas St. and Howard Ave. on June 13.

Code Compliance

- The Neighborhood Code Compliance Department investigated complaints of substandard housing in North Park, resulting in the completion of necessary repairs.
- 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.
- Understanding the critical importance of code compliance monitoring, Councilmember Gloria helped resolve issues between the City's Neighborhood

Code Compliance Department and Community Development Block Grant staff in order to secure continued proactive enforcement in District Three.

- 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.

Graffiti Removal

- City staff removed a grouping of graffiti spots at a home on Cromwell Pl.
- Graffiti in the Kensington Plaza Alley was removed.
- Thanks to community reporting, graffiti was removed from multiple locations in Normal Heights.
- Graffiti was removed from the Georgia St. bridge.
- Graffiti was removed and the fence was fixed at the vacant lot at Polk Ave. and Florida St.. City staff is working with the property owner to clear remaining rubbish and debris from the site.

Curbing Car Sales on City Streets



Beginning on July 25, it became illegal to park a vehicle for sale on designated streets within the City of San Diego including the following streets in Council District Three. Each citation carries a

\$50 fine.

- 33rd St. from 4300 Meade Ave. to 4399 El Cajon Blvd.
- Adams Ave. from 3100 Boundary St. to 3159 W. Mountain View Dr.
- El Cajon Blvd. from 3150 Iowa St. to 33rd St..
- Home Ave. between I-805 to 4699 Home Ave.
- Meade Ave. from 3174 Boundary St. to 32nd St.
- University Ave. from 43rd St. to 44th St.
- Wightman St. from 35th St. to 40th St.
- Home Ave. from Fairmount Ave. to 45th St..

San Diego Secured \$7 Million Grant to Address Lead Hazards

On March 6, Councilmember Todd Gloria joined Mayor Jerry Sanders in front of a City Heights home to announce that the City of San Diego secured a \$7 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to remove lead paint hazards from local residences.

The money will be used for the Lead Safe San Diego program, administered by the San Diego Housing Commission, and should assist more than 500 households in the next three years.

Both owner-occupied and rental units constructed before 1978 are eligible for grants ranging between \$5,000 and \$10,000 to eliminate lead hazards. Homes with children under the age of six are targeted, and



household income is a factor when grants are considered.

Because young bodies absorb more lead and their activities increase exposure, children are at greater risk for lead poisoning. Research shows that small amounts of lead can have severe effects on the nervous system and can cause brain damage, learning disabilities, reduced muscle and bone growth and hearing loss.

Over the last six years, HUD grant funding has helped the City eliminate lead hazards in 735 homes.

Any San Diego resident living in a home or apartment built before 1978 that has peeling paint or identifies a contractor's disturbing paint uncontained may call the City's lead hotline at 858-694-7000 or email lead-safe@sanidiego.gov to have an enforcement officer perform an inspection.

Preserving the Past

Burlingame Historic District

Councilmember Todd Gloria announced that the North Park area of Burlingame is officially a geographic historic district. His letter to local residents stated that all appeals of the designation were withdrawn, allowing the designation to become official as of April 1, 2009.

Museum of Man Honored for Preservation Efforts

The California Preservation Foundation and the 2009 Preservation Design Awards Jury selected Balboa Park's California Building and the Museum of Man façade restoration project for an award in the Craftsmanship/ Preservation Technology category.

Strengthening City Preservation Policies

Under the leadership of Councilmember Gloria as Chairman, the Land Use and Housing Committee strengthened protections for potentially historic resources by closing loopholes that had allowed some such structures to be demolished without any community review.

- The Committee directed City staff to amend the Historic Resources Guide to ensure that no process can be used to bypass input from qualified community members.
- Staff was also directed to extend the review period by five days to allow adequate time for comment.
- The Committee also directed staff to develop methods to post demolition permit applications on the City's website and to develop a potential policy regarding fines for the unpermitted destruction of historic resources.

Renovations to the North Park Theatre and Villa Montezuma

The City Council approved renovations to the historic North Park

Theatre and Villa Montezuma. The North Park Theatre has been a centerpiece to the revitalization of the neighborhood's core. It will be further rehabilitated with local redevelopment funds to improve its viability and decrease operating costs. Villa Montezuma, located at 1925 K St. in Sherman Heights, is on the National Register of Historic Places and is owned by the City. It has been operated by the Historical Society as a museum and cultural center since 1972 but has been closed due to safety issues since 2006. Renovations to the facility will again make it the community asset it should be.

Marston House Re-Opening

Councilmember Todd Gloria was thrilled to participate in the re-opening of the Marston House in Balboa Park on July 23. The Marston House is a local historic treasure which was closed months ago because of budget problems. The landmark will now be managed through a partnership with Save Our Heritage Organization (SOHO).

The Marston House Museum & Gardens is open Friday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. The house and gardens will be available for group tours and rentals for special events. For more information, please visit http://sohosandiego.org/marston/mh_now.htm.



Councilmember Gloria and SOHO's Bruce Coons review the history of the Marston House.

The Road Ahead

2010 will see progress on many long-awaited projects

Thorn Street Median

The North Park neighborhood of Altadena will soon be made safer with the completion of the Thorn Street median. By narrowing the street along the commercial corridor between Felton St. and 33rd St., the median will cause traffic to slow down and create a safer environment for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians.

Florida Street Resurfacing

A badly damaged segment of Florida St. in North Park will soon be repaired. The stretch between Robinson Ave. and Myrtle Ave., the source of numerous complaints for the past several years, should be improved by summer.

City Heights Streetlights



Through Councilmember Gloria's partnership with the City Redevelopment Agency, the Engineering and Capital Projects Department, the San Diego Police Department and Price Charities, 11 new streetlights were added to City Heights recently and 11 more locations are almost complete.

These lights promote safety

and urban vitality in this critical 10 block radius near the Urban Village.

Juniper Dip

Pedestrian safety improvements for a segment of Juniper St. near the South Park and North Park neighborhoods will be completed by mid-2011, thanks to approval Councilmember Gloria shepherded this fall. Sidewalks and guardrails will be added to the stretch of Juniper between Felton and Westland Streets, making it far safer for the neighbors who regularly walk in the area.

Kensington Sign

The beloved Kensington sign will be up as part of this year's Community Centennial.

Birney Elementary Joint Use Field

The Birney Elementary School Joint Use Field, which includes a 1.6 acre irrigated turf multipurpose field, a quarter-mile perimeter walkway, fencing and an accessible pathway into the field from the corner of Meade Ave. and Park Blvd. It is anticipated that the field will be open for use when the new school year starts next fall. The progress of this project 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.

Hillcrest Parking



For Hillcrest, a lack of parking has become its hallmark battle. On January 26, 2010, Councilmember Gloria was thrilled to join with the Uptown Partnership and many community members to celebrate the completion of the Normal Street Median Improvements Project.

The angled parking and new

meter zone will help improve parking turnover, allow more people to enjoy Hillcrest, make the area more visually pleasing for residents and serve as a critical step toward increasing parking supply in the community. The Councilmember believes that parking management techniques should be implemented while the addition of new spaces with surface lots or garages is pursued. He looks forward to at least one major parking announcement for Hillcrest this spring and challenges businesses with closed lots to open them for community use.

Aldine Drive Slope Stabilization

The Aldine Drive slope stabilization project will be advertised for bids in 2010, a significant step forward for a much-needed community improvement.

North Park Community Park

Security measures and improvements to the joint use facilities at North Park Community Park will be prioritized as conditions of the neighboring ALBA School's operation. These changes will create a safer and more welcoming environment at the North Park Community Park.

University Heights Library

Formal investigations with the San Diego Board of Education into the potential restoration and adaptive reuse of the Eugene Brucker Education Center historic building annex 1 into a new University Heights branch library will begin in 2010. These discussions could lead to an eventual joint use library for the community and the school district.

Montclair Park

The long overdue repairs to the park will occur by summer 2010.

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