

News from Councilmember Todd Gloria

District Three

DIALOGUE



City of San Diego

March 2010 Volume 2, Issue 3

Veterans Jobs Initiative Approved for June Ballot

By Councilmember Todd Gloria

The June 10 ballot will include an initiative that would strengthen the City's hiring policy to give appropriate preference to all U.S. veterans. I championed this proposal and am grateful for the unanimous support of my City Council colleagues.

San Diego's veterans are worthy of honor, and this initiative will help ensure they receive appropriate preference through an updated City hiring policy.

Currently, the outdated policy excludes service members returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. The proposed

changes would include a broader definition of time of service, which would include any "war, major military action, or peacekeeping mission," replacing the 1970's requirement of an "act of conscription," as well as an added credit for any veteran who has a service related disability of at least 15%, which would bring the total preference credit for qualifying veterans to 10% for City jobs.

San Diego has a long history with our nation's armed forces, and it's time we consider benefiting from the experience of the large number of highly skilled public servants who are discharged into our region.

The proposed policy change is part of my ongoing effort to improve the City of San Diego's connection to the local veteran community. In May 2009, I announced the City's Veterans Jobs and Service Outreach Program, which focuses on alerting local veterans organizations of City job openings and services from which they may benefit.

If you have additional suggestions on honoring our service members and veterans or if you want more information about the initiative, you may contact my office.

Todd

Improvements Coming to North Park Community Park

Significant Park Work Also Begins at Montclair Park and Birney Elementary Joint Use

Significant upgrades to North Park Community Park are on the horizon because of the investment of the San Diego Unified School District.

Thanks to Councilmember Gloria's close work with San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) Board President Richard Barrera, SDUSD will invest \$630,000 into the joint use area at North Park Community Park.

North Park Community Park is the largest community park in Council District Three and has been impacted by ongoing problems with graffiti, litter, homelessness and crime. As a result, many residents of North Park choose not to visit with their families.

"District Three is park deficient, so ensuring access to more park and open space for residents is one of my top priorities," said Councilmember Gloria. "Because our park space is so limited, we can't afford to give up on our largest community park. Accordingly, my office has been working for several months now to develop solutions along with the

police department, the City's Department of Park and Recreation, homeless outreach organizations like Alpha Project, and the North Park Community Association."

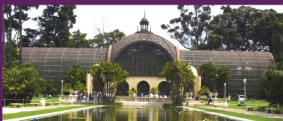
All of the recommended improvements emerged out of a series of community outreach meetings co-sponsored by the City, SDUSD, and the NPCA. Desired improvements will not only beautify the park, but will enhance public safety. Some of the projects on the wish list include a new basketball court, replacement of 30' light poles at the joint use playground, a new playground surface, replacement of damaged sidewalks surrounding the school and the park, a new fence surrounding the joint use field, and security improvements. The Councilmember will continue to work with all stakeholders

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District Three Dialogue

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Councilmember Gloria Releases Affordable Housing Progress Report

Affordable Housing in 2009: By the Numbers

- 693 new affordable housing units in eight different locations were created.
- 14,000 low-income families received rental assistance.
- Three new supportive housing developments totaling 170 affordable units were approved.
- 60 homes were rehabilitated for low income households using deferred-payment loans.
- 19 properties were retrofitted to become more accessible for those living with disabilities.

San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria, Chair of the Land Use and Housing Committee, released the report, "Meeting the Challenge: 2009 Progress in Affordable Housing" on February 3.

"By increasing affordable housing units, helping with first-time homebuyer programs, investing in housing rehabilitation programs and focusing on aiding the homeless and special populations, the Land Use and Housing

Committee is expanding options for San Diegans," said Councilmember Gloria. "I am proud of our work in 2009 and look forward to additional success in 2010."

The report highlights the progress made in 2009 toward meeting the City of San Diego's affordable housing challenges. The Land Use and Housing Committee provides oversight and input into the strategy and development of housing solutions for low and moderate income San Diegans.

The City took multiple approaches to the affordable housing problem, all of which have been successful," said Councilmember Gloria.

The report was unveiled at the site of a future affordable supportive housing facility in North Park, which is currently under construction.

Also attending the news conference was Khadija Basir, a former San Diego Housing Commissioner. With help from the Commission's self-help programs, Ms. Basir, a single mother who formerly received housing assistance, was able to become economically self-sufficient and purchase her first home.

"Commissioner Khadija Basir's story shows that people who are motivated to improve their lives will thrive with the right mix of services and housing assistance," said Carrol Vaughan, Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer of the San Diego Housing Commission.

The full report is available at www.sandiego.gov/cd3.



Councilmember Gloria with new homeowner Khadija Basir

First Avenue Bridge Re-Opens

Councilmember Todd Gloria joined Council President Pro Tem Kevin Faulconer on February 22 for the ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the First Avenue Bridge over Maple Canyon Retrofit and Painting Project.

"The bridge now meets California's seismic criteria and will be safe should an earthquake occur," said Councilmember Gloria. "It is also in conformance with the Uptown Community Plan and the City's General Plan, and the surrounding neighborhoods will again be able to connect easily using First Avenue."

The ribbon-cutting ceremony commemorated the opening of the bridge after fifteen months of rehabilitative efforts. The Council members were joined by Uptown Planners, Bankers Hill/Park West Community Association, Hillcrest Business Association, and Engineering and Capital Projects Department (E&CP) Staff.

"As far as bridges go, this is one of the best. It's not just a beauty. It has a rich history and it offers gorgeous views of San Diego Bay, Coronado and Point Loma," said Faulconer, who was pleased to see how much the historic bridge looks like it did when it was built in 1931. "I want to thank all the fine folks who made today possible, especially city staff and engineers, Bankers Hill residents and business owners, and T.Y. Lin International and Reyes Construction."

The project's scope included: seismic retrofit, rehabilitation of the bridge deck, removal of existing lead paint, installation of historical street lighting, utility relocation where necessary, and repainting the entire bridge structure to its original color.



The renovated First Avenue bridge is again open to connect District Three neighborhoods with downtown.

Community Connection: The Todd Squad is Working for You!

- The traffic signal at Fifth and University Avenues in Hillcrest was repaired.
- A homeless encampment near SR 163 and Sixth Ave. was addressed by the San Diego Police Department.
- A successful clean up took place on February 6 in Fairmount Village, Swan Canyon and North Swan Canyon, resulting in the removal of almost 53 tons of junk and debris.
- Two new concrete cross gutters were installed in North Park, one on the east side of 30th St. at North Park Way and one on the north side of University Ave. at Iowa St. Both were installed as a result from requests from the Council District Three office because the previous degraded cross gutters caused massive water ponding that inhibited pedestrian traffic.
- On February 13, the Hillcrest Clean T.E.A.M. met under the Hillcrest sign at Fifth and University Avenues and tidied the local area. An additional team combed the alleys in a pick up truck and gathered old mattresses, furniture and other abandoned items.
- An illegally parked truck that blocked a sidewalk on Lila Dr. in Talmadge for weeks was moved.
- Two large potholes on Sussex Dr. in Kensington were repaired.
- An exposed wire on Hilldale in Kensington was removed by construction workers.
- Streetlights were repaired on 47th St., Hilldale Rd., Beech and 30th, Beech and Dale, Beech and Fern, Norma Drive, thorn Street near Fairmount, Myrtle near Highland, Euclid near Wightman and Auburn, and University near 47th and Highland.
- The alley between 33rd and Wabash and University and Lincoln was repaved.
- A gravel alley in Kensington was re-graded following the last rainstorms.
- Parking enforcement has been improved and abandoned vehicles were removed from Mississippi St. in University Heights.
- A leaking water main in the 4500 block of Copeland Ave. was fixed.
- Excessive and non-work-related noise and disturbances from a subcontractor in University Heights were eliminated.
- Faded street sweeping signs were replaced on Adams Ave. in Kensington.
- A fallen palm tree was removed from the 4700 block of Constance Dr. in Talmadge.
- A broken driveway and sidewalk were addressed on Canterbury Dr. in Kensington.
- Incorrect parking requirements for a new business in Kensington were rectified after Council District Three investigated.

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, March 20
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
City Heights-Weingart Branch Library
3795 Fairmount Ave.

Saturday, March 27
10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Kensington Café
4141 Adams Ave.



Park Progress *(continued from page 1)*

on this effort. The high level of community engagement throughout this process is a testament to the willingness of all to cooperate to improve the Community Park. The discussions were generated by the relocation of the ALBA school to the former North Park Elementary site.

The initial investment by the school district is only part of Councilmember Gloria's long-term effort to revitalize the Community Park. The City and SDUSD are working together to install and monitor security cameras in the park, which will prove to be both an important law enforcement tool and a major deterrent to crime. The membership of the NPCA also continues to volunteer at the school and the park. The City's Department of Park and Recreation will also continue to invest in the park, most notably by resurfacing the joint use field.

"By continuing to work together, I am confident that the City, SDUSD, and the community will succeed in our efforts to ensure that ALBA and the Community Park are safe and enjoyable places for both students and neighbors," said SDUSD President Barrera. "I offer my sincere thanks to my colleagues on the school board, Councilmember Gloria, the San Diego Police Department, and Omar Passons and the NPCA."

In addition to the North Park Community Park upgrades, ground was broken on long awaited improvements to Montclair Park and Birney Elementary School on February 26. The playground at Montclair Park on Nile Street in North Park was badly damaged in a car accident years ago. Complications arising from the accident delayed repairs to the park, and neighbors look forward to the return of playground equipment to this much-loved park, anticipated by late spring. Renovations to the joint use field at Birney Elementary School in University Heights are also underway and should be complete by fall.



Councilmember Gloria and members of the student council break ground on the Birney Elementary Joint Use Field.

Tracking Todd

Councilmember Todd Gloria kicked off last month by presenting his first State of District Three address on February 1 at the Sheryl and Harvey White Theatre at Balboa Park's Old Globe. Approximately 300 people joined him for the speech, a video of which is now available at www.sandiego.gov/cd3.

The rest of the month was similarly eventful with a community coffee at Babycakes in Hillcrest, celebrations marking Lunar New Year, discussions about transit funding, a forum on walkability, Hillcrest's annual Mardi Gras event, a visit to Albert Einstein Academy to meet celebrity Chef Ann as she taught the students the importance of healthy eating habits, Black History Month commemorations, the Dance with the Masters event, the re-opening of the First Avenue Bridge over Maple Canyon, the honoring of young leaders in San Diego, a walking tour with North Park Main Street, the groundbreaking for improvements to Montclair Park and the Birney Elementary Joint Use Field, participation in a meeting at the Blind Community Center, and many other meetings.

For a list of upcoming events, please visit the News and Events page at www.sandiego.gov/cd3.

To keep track of the Councilmember and find out what he's working on, you may follow him on Twitter or become his friend on Facebook.



A student from Albert Einstein Academy shares what she learned about healthy eating from Chef Ann on February 19 in South Park.



Councilmember Gloria makes a new friend at the opening of the Air and Space Museum's newest exhibit.



Councilmember Gloria enjoys VAYA's TET festival in Balboa Park on February 20.



Congresswoman Susan Davis congratulates Councilmember Gloria after his State of the District address on February 1.



Councilmember Gloria proclaims January 26 as Nicole Murray Ramirez Day in San Diego. They are joined by Bruce Abrams and Rabbi Laurie Coskey.



Councilmembers Gloria and Emerald honor San Diegans Meghan Rickey and Cheyne Whitney for winning television's Amazing Race.

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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