

News from Councilmember Todd Gloria

District Three

DIALOGUE



City of San Diego

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Pedestrians to Return to the Plaza de Panama *Councilmember Gloria Guides Balboa Park Toward 2015 Centennial*

As San Diego prepares to celebrate the centennial of the 1915 Panama-California Exposition at Balboa Park, Councilmember Todd Gloria is part of an impressive team making sure the City's crown jewel is in fine condition.

A key improvement planned is the restoration of the Plaza de Panama. Seen as the heart of Balboa Park, the Plaza de Panama is the area directly in front of the San Diego Museum of Art and currently houses a parking lot. Plans formally announced on August 30 by Dr. Irwin Jacobs showed the reclamation of the

Plaza and adjacent areas for pedestrian use. Mayor Jerry Sanders, Councilmember Gloria and County Supervisor Pam Slater-Price joined Dr. Jacobs in presenting his idea.

"In 2015, when you walk through the plaza, you will not have to dodge motorists looking for that ever-elusive parking space. Instead, you will find yourself in the midst of a world-class public space bustling with pedestrian activity," said the Councilmember.



The envisioned plan includes the transformation of the roadway from the Organ Pavilion to the Plaza to a pedestrian esplanade, and shade trees, benches, landscaping, fountains and other amenities fortifying the Plaza itself. Vehicle traffic would be diverted near Alcazar Garden, and additional parking would be added in a two-story parking structure behind the Organ Pavilion.

Councilmember Gloria encourages San Diegans to participate in the public planning process for the Plaza de Panama's restoration. Details for an upcoming meeting are below.

Balboa Park Committee
Thursday, September 23, 6:00 p.m.
Balboa Park Club, Santa Fe Room

Historic Preservation Again Tops Committee Agenda

Councilmember Todd Gloria has scheduled a hearing for greater protections for potential historic structures in San Diego at the next hearing of the Land Use and Housing Committee (LUH), which he chairs.

A year ago, LUH strengthened the public notification process required before demolition permits could be approved.

After the likely historic former Ford car dealership at 1015 Park Blvd. was demolished (see picture) without this notification, Councilmember Gloria is calling for an explanation and additional action at the next Committee meeting.

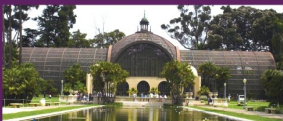
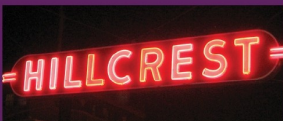
Also on the agenda is an update on the proposed Abandoned Buildings Ordinance and a presentation on the City's gray water programs.

Land Use and Housing Committee
Wednesday, September 15, 2:00 p.m.
City Administration Building, 202 C St., 12th floor



District Three Dialogue

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Montclair Park Playground Re-Opens in North Park After Three Years *Tot Lot was Destroyed by Drunk Driver in 2007*

Councilmember Todd Gloria joined with North Park neighbors and City staff from both the Park and Recreation Department and the Engineering and Capital Projects Department on August 12 to officially re-open the new and improved playground at Montclair Neighborhood Park, located on Nile Street.

"Montclair Neighborhood Park is open and better than ever," said Councilmember Gloria at the ribbon-cutting. "Like so many areas of this community, the involvement and vigilance of neighbors ensured this project was done right. The children and families of North Park

will enjoy Montclair for years to come."

Along with local neighbors, Councilmember Gloria was joined at the celebration by Stacey LoMedico, Director of the City's Park and Recreation Department, and Patti Boekamp, Director of the City's Engineering and Capital Projects Department.

In 2007, the playground equipment was obliterated by a drunk driver. The 6,000 square foot playground was then completely redesigned. The area now includes a rubber surface that is ADA-compliant. To further guarantee use and enjoyment by all children, distinct areas for toddlers and older children are part of the design, and swings, slides and climbing walls will be well-used.

Left, Councilmember Gloria receives advice from a young neighbor on how best to cut the ribbon. Above right, the community celebrates.



"For three years, this park served as a reminder of a bad accident. Starting now, Montclair will be the setting for many new, happy memories," said Councilmember Gloria.

Councilmember Gloria kicked off the \$341,000 renovations at Montclair Neighborhood Park on February 26, 2010. He is excited that additional park improvements are underway throughout District Three.

Mid-City Rapid Bus: A Work in Progress

By Councilmember Todd Gloria

The San Diego region will grow by approximately one million people in the next 40 years. Considering the current condition of much of our public infrastructure, we must step up our planning efforts to ensure all San Diegans have a sustainable quality of life. To help, the City is aggressively investing in our streets, sidewalks, water and wastewater systems and incrementally starting to address our deferred maintenance backlog.

Our public transportation system will need further strengthening to accommodate future growth and to better serve our neighborhoods. Improving and expanding current bus and trolley services is part of this process, as is the addition of new transportation alternatives.

One pioneering transportation concept planned to serve our central communities is the Mid-City Rapid. This rapid bus project is designed to provide trolley-like service using equipment enhancements between Downtown and San Diego State University. Through District Three, the rapid bus route will be on Park Blvd. and El Cajon Blvd. and include a station at Balboa Park. The proposed route would require traffic circulation and parking changes on Polk Ave., Centre St. and Lincoln Ave., the details of which are being worked out to ensure the greatest community benefit. The transit-signal priority and repaired signal synchronization system on El Cajon Blvd. will also result in better traffic flow for personal vehicles. More information is

available at www.sandag.org/midcitybus.

Any proposed innovation generates questions, and the Mid-City Rapid is no exception. I recently walked door to door in North Park and distributed information about the project, taking input and questions from neighbors.

Several people are also contacting my office with their concerns. All of this feedback is helpful in developing a project that improves transportation efficiency for the region and addresses neighborhood impacts.

Of particular concern to me about the project as proposed are the potential closure of Polk Ave. at Park Blvd., the potential loss of the historical terrazzo sidewalk on El Cajon Blvd. at Euclid Ave, and the reduction of on-street parking along the route.



As we work out these wrinkles, I am confident that the Mid-City Rapid will vastly improve traffic flow and public transportation efficiency in our urban core and am committed to ensuring your voices are respected and concerns are attended to in the planning process. To that end, I will be scheduling a hearing on the proposed circulation and parking changes at an upcoming Land Use and Housing Committee meeting. I ask for your continued feedback on the proposed project as plans develop.

Community Connection: The Todd Squad is Working for You!

Public Safety

- Brush clearance along Juniper Canyon was determined to be adequate by City staff.
- Weeds and overgrown vegetation were removed from a property in the 2000 block of University Ave., again putting it into compliance with the California Fire Code.
- Overgrown brush was removed from a sidewalk near 46th St. and Monroe Ave.
- Property owners of vacant parcels in the 3800 block of 31st St. were notified that overgrown weeds there were in violation of the fire code. The area will be monitored for compliance.
- High brush obstructing the view of merging traffic was removed from Fairmount Ave.
- A traffic study performed on 33rd St. between Upas St. and Thorn St. concluded that the area is not a good candidate for the installation of physical traffic calming devices.
- San Diego Police increased patrols near Cherokee and 37th St. in response to neighbors' concerns about suspicious activity.
- Increased traffic patrols on 31st St. in South Park and on Georgia St. in North Park generated several citations and improved safety.
- Streetlights were repaired on the corner of 30th and Beech St., the 4100 block of Alabama St., the 3500 block of 43rd St., the 4300 block of Myrtle St., 39th St. at Myrtle Ave., Meade Ave. near Fairmount, and at First Ave. at Walnut.
- Damage to a private irrigation system by ongoing City work in Kensington was mitigated.
- Broken concrete was fixed in front of a home in the 4800 block of Kensington Dr.
- Items left by a homeless encampment were removed from an area near the 2600 block of Montclair St.
- Additional signage clarifying rules for use was added to the entrance of Norfolk Canyon.
- A failing fire hydrant, security fence, broken curb and eroding slope were repaired on 39th St.
- An unused newspaper rack that was the target of repeated graffiti was removed near Lincoln Ave. and Florida St.
- Illegally dumped couches were removed from 35th St. and Adams Ave. and from behind the Mid-City clinic.
- Hateful graffiti was removed from two sections of Park Blvd.
- Trash and debris were removed near the 163 on- and off-ramps, thanks to coordination between District 3 and Assemblymember Saldana.
- Tree logs were removed from 46th St.
- The deteriorated sections of an alley behind the 3900 block of Oregon St. were patched.
- A portion of the alley between 49th St. and Estrella Dr. was repaved.
- The 2700 block of Landis St. qualified for resurfacing and will be prioritized as funding becomes available.
- Incomplete street repaving work on Lincoln Ave. was finished after follow up was requested through the District 3 office.
- Multiple sprinkler heads were replaced at the Azalea Recreation Center to curb water use.
- The area near 33rd and Lincoln (below) is in better shape with new water and sewer pipes and freshly paved asphalt.



Infrastructure

- An investigation following water and sewer improvement work in the 3900 block of Wabash Ave. resulted in a determination that water pressure was in the expected range.
- A sewer/compaction issue in the 5100 block of Bristol Rd. was addressed.
- Potholes at the end of Cliff St., on Miracle Dr., and in the 4100 block of Wightman St. were repaired.
- A patch of asphalt on Pamo Ave. was repaired.

Neighborhood Character

- Litter was removed from the northwest corner of Howard Ave. and Idaho St.

Uptown Community Design Meetings

Councilmember Gloria and the City Planning and Community Investment Department invite you to participate in charrette meetings for the Uptown Community Plan Update. You will have an opportunity to determine the vision for the Uptown community.

Saturday, September 11
8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Balboa Park Recital Hall

Tuesday, September 21
6:00—9:00 p.m.
Balboa Park Club
Santa Fe Room

Saturday, October 23
8:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.
Hall of Champions
Banquet Room

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, September 18
10:00—11:30 a.m.
Zio's Restaurant
2940 El Cajon Blvd.

Sunday, October 3
9:30—11:00 a.m.
Hillcrest Farmers Market
DMV Parking Lot, Normal at Lincoln

Tracking Todd



Neighbors share questions and concerns with the councilmember during a community coffee at Grant's Marketplace in South Park on August 14.

Upcoming Events

Visit to the Adams Avenue Farmers Market
Wednesday, September 8
3:00 p.m.
4671 35th Street

Annual Sustainable Energy Conference
Sunday, September 12
10:00 a.m.
Center for Sustainable Energy
8690 Balboa Ave.

Altadena Block Party
Sunday, September 12
2:00 p.m.
Thorn Street Median

House of Charm 75th Anniversary Celebration
Sunday, September 12
5:00 p.m.
Seaside Room at Marina Village
1937 Quivira Rd.

Adams Avenue Street Fair
Saturday, September 25-
Sunday, September 26

California Coastal Clean Up Day
Saturday, September 25
9:00 a.m. Locations TBA

21st Annual AIDS Walk
Sunday, September 26
8:05 a.m.
6th Ave. at Olive St.
aidswalksd.kintera.org

Open House and Reception for the San Diego Family Justice Center
Wednesday, September 29
5:00 p.m.
1122 Broadway, Ste. 200

Walk to School Day in City Heights
Wednesday, October 6
6:30 a.m.
Cherokee Point

Annual NAMI Awards Dinner
Friday, October 8
6:00 p.m.
Catamaran Hotel



Councilmember Gloria celebrates National Night Out Against Crime in Talmadge (top), North Park (middle) and City Heights (bottom).

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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