

## District Three

# DIALOGUE



City of San Diego

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## City Pursues \$30 Million More for Streets

By Councilmember Todd Gloria

A few years ago, I stood on a freshly paved road in City Heights and proclaimed there is nothing sexier than a freshly paved street.

On April 4, I stood with Mayor Jerry Sanders to announce that we are pursuing bond financing for \$30 million more just for road repairs, meaning San Diego will have a lot more sexy streets soon. The

influx of funds is part of a larger \$75 million deferred capital bond.

Since I took office, the City has increased street resurfacing by 182%. In Fiscal Year 2008 we repaved 115.4 linear miles. We're expected to pave 326 linear miles this fiscal year.

The \$75 million in total bond funding for deferred capital projects is only one part of next year's infrastructure investment.

The City will be budgeting approximately \$54 million more for operations and maintenance of our assets in Fiscal Year 2013.

Over the next five years, the City will commit over \$720 million toward infrastructure under the financing plan recently endorsed by the Council. Obviously, this will require continued economic recovery, and may need to be adjusted as we move forward.

As the Chairman of the Council's Budget and Finance Committee, I'm extremely proud of this fiscally responsible approach. Now that our economy is picking up and we're continuing to reap the benefits of our reforms, I believe that we should take a more aggressive step to address our infrastructure and ongoing maintenance needs so that we don't fall further behind.

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## Clean Syringe Exchange Program Saved

In April, Councilmember Todd Gloria helped secure \$51,000 to keep the local syringe exchange program operational. Safe Point San Diego, which is run by Family Health Centers of San Diego, accepts used syringes and provides clean ones for community health benefit at two weekly clinics, one in North Park and one in Downtown.

Safe Point San Diego was created in 2001 when the San Diego City Council formally declared a state of emergency due to the spread of the Hepatitis C Virus (HCV) and the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV), exacerbated by the shared use of syringes by injection drug users.

Understanding the critical importance of the region's only syringe exchange program, Councilmember Gloria worked with his Council colleagues to accumulate funds from their Community Projects, Programs and Services (CPPS) accounts. Along with his CPPS contribution of \$11,000, Council President Tony Young, Council President Pro Tem Kevin Faulconer, and Councilmembers Marti Emerald and David Alvarez each contributed \$10,000.

The City Council approved the allocation to Safe Point San Diego by a vote of 7-1 on April 10. Safe Point San Diego has already secured full funding for the fiscal year beginning July 1.

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## May is Bike Month

On Tuesday, May 1, the City Council proclaimed May as Bike Month in San Diego. Bicycling is not only fun, but it provides a healthy, environmentally-friendly transportation option.

"Neighborhoods like Hillcrest and University Heights are very short of parking options, and the need for easier access is always on my mind," said Councilmember Todd Gloria at the Bike Month kickoff. "One parking spot can hold up to 10 bikes, and I am thrilled that we will be cutting the ribbon on our very first bike corral in my home district soon."

A key aspect of Bike Month is "Bike to Work Day," a nationally recognized event celebrated annually, which will occur on May 18 this year. More than half of the United States population lives within a five mile radius of their workplace but the lack of alternative transportation knowledge and incentives have deterred them from exploring bicycle transportation.

Bicycles are a viable, environmentally friendly, and cost saving transportation option, and organizations and companies are better able to meet corporate green goals, build team camaraderie, and demonstrate community involvement by participating in Bike to

Work events.

In San Diego, more than 6,000 participants partake in Bike to Work Day annually, and there are various pit stops located throughout the region that provide participants with free merchandise, refreshments, and encouragement.

When one considers that 40% of all vehicle trips are two miles or less, substituting bicycles for cars can make a significant impact on traffic and environmental concerns.

"I hope that we continue to make progress and invest in the projects that our cycling community needs, like the Mike Gotch Memorial Bridge, which became active in April and completed a missing link for bicyclists over Rose Creek," said Councilmember Gloria.

Work continues on improving San Diego's bicycle facilities so rides are smoother and safer throughout the region. Councilmember Gloria met with staff from the San Diego Association of Governments recently, and they will be working with District Three communities this summer on several local bike and pedestrian projects. Stay tuned!

## Community Garden Event is May 19

The San Diego Community Garden Network (SDCGN), a local nonprofit whose mission is to support the growth of community gardens in San Diego County, is kicking off the summer gardening season with a free event on Saturday May 19, 2012 from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. at the TLC Giving Garden, located at 11240 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. in Tierrasanta.

The event, "Celebrating Community Gardens from the Ground Up!" will feature a full day of workshops on topics such as composting, grey water recycling, and starting community gardens.

"I worked hard with my neighbors to advocate for changes that made establishing community gardens easier in the City of San Diego," said Councilmember Todd Gloria. "The event at the TLC Giving Garden will hopefully motivate more San Diegans to dig in to gardening."

Council District Three is home to multiple community gardens, and a visit to the TLC Giving Garden may provide a new source of information and inspiration.

Event attendees can expect delicious local eats, great activities for kids, opportunities to find out about community gardens located throughout San Diego, and tours of the TLC Giving Garden. For more information go [www.SDCGN.org](http://www.SDCGN.org) or follow SDCGN on Facebook.

## Water Conservation Garden of the Month

When Jill Hammons moved to South Park from being in "lawn required" University City, she was blown away at the explosion of gophers. After much research of how to deal with the rodents, she became a believer in succulents and she also quickly became a container gardener.



On top of all that, 90% of her indoor plants are succulents, too! Congratulations, Jill! And thanks for the submission.

Submit your favorite yard via email to [toddgloria@sandiego.gov](mailto:toddgloria@sandiego.gov).



## Community Connection: The Todd Squad is Working for You

### Strengthening Public Safety

- Streetlights were repaired near Alder Drive and Canterbury Drive in Kensington and near Gateway Drive and Rexford Street in City Heights.
- The 2900 block of 30th Street was evaluated for an all-way stop sign at the request of a neighbor. After factoring pedestrian volumes, reported accidents, visibility, and other conditions, the stop signs facing Palm Avenue were deemed sufficient.
- A stop sign was requested in the alley behind the 4100 block of 30th Street, and staff found the addition unnecessary.

### Improving Infrastructure



- The guardrail located in the 3100 block of Van Dyke Avenue was repaired by City crews and warning signs were replaced. (See above for the picture provided by Dennis Wood and Jody Carey.)
- Anti-graffiti coating was applied to the new Aldine Drive retaining wall to prevent tagging.
- Large potholes were filled on Norma Drive and Natalie Drive in Talmadge.
- A deteriorating barricade was repaired in the 4200 block of Sycamore.

## Coffee with your Councilmember

Join Todd and your neighbors for a casual conversation about City issues and share your questions and concerns at either of the community coffees scheduled this month.



### Coffee with your Councilmember

Saturday, May 5  
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.  
Lestat's on Park, 4496 Park Blvd.

### Coffee with your Councilmember

Saturday, May 26  
10:00—11:30 a.m.  
Vons, 515 W. Washington St.

- Street repairs were completed at the northeast corner of Fourth and Robinson, making it safer and smoother for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Two very large circuits of lights were repaired through a collaborative effort of City workers and SDG&E.
- The 3600 block of 28th Street will be repaved starting this month.
- Plumbing and electrical infrastructure issues in the Electric Building in Balboa Park were resolved.

### Community Character

- Councilmember Gloria is working with the McDonald's in City Heights to install a permanent memorial honoring fallen Police Officer Jeremy Henwood. Staff is presently researching fabrication and installation costs for a plaque to be mounted near the counter where Officer Henwood completed his final good deed.
- The incorrect water bill of a Normal Heights neighbor was adjusted to appropriately reflect previous payments.
- A streetlight in the 1800 block of 31st Street was changed to a warmer, more natural looking light at the request of an adjacent property owner.

## Infrastructure Investment

(Continued from page 1)

In addition to securing \$30 million for our streets, the deferred capital bond will also help address other needs, including making progress on replacing Fire Station 17 in City Heights and Fire Station 5 in Hillcrest and several critical investments in Balboa Park. Check out the recently released design for Fire Station 5 below and let me know your thoughts.

Investing in our infrastructure now – especially to maintain it in decent condition — is far more cost-effective than waiting for complete deterioration.



## District Three Sees Many Park Improvements

### *Jefferson Joint Use Opens, Roosevelt Joint Use Construction Begins*

This Spring, many park improvements have occurred in District Three.

#### **Sixth Avenue Playground Opening**

Councilmember Gloria joined the Friends of Balboa Park and Mayor Sanders to cut the ribbon on the renovated Sixth Avenue playground. See picture 2 below.

#### **Jefferson Elementary Joint Use Field is Open**

On April 12, the ribbon was cut on the newest park in North Park at Jefferson Elementary School. The joint use field is now open to the public in non-school hours. See picture 1 below.

#### **Arbor Day**

Sixteen crape myrtle trees were planted at the Spreckels Organ Pavilion in celebration of Arbor Day on April 27. Schoolchildren were part of the program and left with their own California Live Oak saplings to plant at home. See picture 3 below.

#### **Roosevelt Joint Use Field Groundbreaking**

Ground was officially broken at Roosevelt Middle School on April 27 to start construction on a new joint use field. Improvements are expected to take about one year to complete, meaning there will be more to celebrate next Spring. See picture 4 below.

#### **North Park Mini Park**

The first step of the North Park Mini Park and Associated Streetscape Improvements project is complete. On April 23, the North Park Recreation Council voted unanimously to recommend approval of the General Development Plan for the mini park. The project reflects tremendous input from the businesses and residents of North Park who have been involved in meetings and workshops for over a year.

City staff will be taking the project to the Design Review Committee (DRC) on May 9, 2012. The meeting is at 8:30 a.m. in the Santa Fe Room of the Balboa Park Club in Balboa Park.

All are encouraged to attend the DRC meeting and share your thoughts for the project. Public input will add emphasis to the dedication and support that the North Park community has and continues to show for this project.





## Community News Briefs

### Burlingame Historic Homes Walking Tour



Burlingame is hosting a walking tour of historic homes as part of its Centennial Celebration on Saturday, June 2, 10:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m. starting at 3117 Laurel Street.

The tour features six homes built in 1912, the year the community was

founded. Cost of the tour is \$25 with proceeds benefiting charities for women and children. Tickets may be purchased ahead of time by check or PayPal. Visit [www.burlingamesd.com](http://www.burlingamesd.com) or call 619-285-9680 for more information.

### Update on Harvey Milk Street and the Pride Flag

Two important projects in Hillcrest are headed to City Council for hearings soon, and Councilmember Gloria urges you provide your input. On May 8, the Council will consider honoring a civil rights leader by renaming Blaine Avenue as Harvey Milk Street. This seems to be an appropriate tribute to Milk's contributions, and the Planning Commission voted to support of the change.

The City Council will also consider approving installation of a Pride flag monument in Hillcrest. Councilmember Gloria has been impressed with this community-initiated proposal and looks forward to a full public hearing with his colleagues. The hearing is expected to occur on May 15.

### Speed Humps Near Rowan Elementary?

The District Three office is reaching out to neighborhood residents to see if they support the installation of speed humps near Rowan Elementary School. The Fairmount Park Neighborhood Association has been looking for a solution to address excessive speeding in the area, and City staff has suggested speed humps as a possible solution. Please share your thoughts, 619-236-6633 or [ToddGloria@sandiego.gov](mailto:ToddGloria@sandiego.gov).

### Parking Spaces Added to University Heights

The shortage of public parking is an issue that has long plagued University Heights. Residents and visitors alike are often forced to circle block after block in search of an available parking space. In a densely populated, built out neighborhood, solutions can be difficult to develop. On April 10, the City Council approved the addition of 10 angled parking spaces on Meade Avenue between North Avenue and Campus Avenue. Councilmember Gloria was pleased to vote in support of this action, which garnered unanimous support from his Council colleagues. The community should see these 10 spaces as a starting point only. Much more work remains.

### More Transit Service? Bring It On!

The Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) is considering adding and improving services. Options include restoring frequencies of transit service, expanding operating hours, and improving connections. Your feedback is necessary to ensure Councilmember Gloria and his fellow MTS board members make the best decisions possible.

Giving your input is easy.

Online survey: [www.sdmts.com](http://www.sdmts.com)

Telephone: 619-595-4912

Email: [mts.planning@sdmts.com](mailto:mts.planning@sdmts.com)

Mail: 1255 Imperial Ave., Ste. 1000, San Diego, CA 92101

### Community Plan Updates

Updates to the community plans for Uptown, Greater Golden Hill, and North Park continue to progress. Your input remains important to the process, so please see below for additional opportunities to learn more. Topics of discussion will include land use planning.

North Park Planning Committee

Tuesday, May 15, 6:30 p.m.

North Park Christian Fellowship, 2901 North Park Way

Uptown Planners

Tuesday, June 5, 6:00 p.m.

Joyce Beers Community Center, 1230 Cleveland Ave.

Greater Golden Hill

Wednesday, June 13, 6:30 p.m.

Golden Hill Recreation Center, 2600 Golf Course Dr.

### Ocean Discovery Institute Secures Lucrative Funds

The California State Parks Department has awarded Ocean Discovery Institute (ODI) with a \$1.6 million grant in support of the future Living Lab.

This news comes after a lengthy application process that began over two years ago and involved support and guidance from so many neighbors and civic leaders.

As a result of the award, the Living Lab project will include unique opportunities including science laboratories, natural hiking trails, teaching gardens, and a venue for visitors to prepare for careers in science and conservation fields.

Because of these funds and ongoing local support and belief, ODI are much closer to its vision of a Living Lab – a place that will engage over 20,000 individuals each year and transform an entire community through science.

## Tracking Todd



One of the highlights of Adams Avenue Unplugged on April 21 for Todd was getting to introduce Grammy-nominated artist John C. Reilly, who was performing with his musical group.



On April 28, the community celebrated the 100th anniversary of the Spruce Street Bridge. Todd joined Council President Pro Tem Kevin Faulconer, several community members (including the young man pictured here) and the bridge designer's great granddaughter.



Todd presented a \$1,000 check to I Love A Clean San Diego to support the Creek to Bay Cleanup on April 28. Six other City Councilmembers also contributed \$1,000 each to help ensure our neighborhoods are free of trash and other hazards, like in Camelot Canyon in University Heights.



The annual Community Easter Egg Hunt sponsored by the Imperial Court de San Diego again brought Todd and hundreds of kids to Trolley Barn Park. Todd helped collect Easter baskets for the participants and thanks the San Diego City Firefighters and Municipal Employees Association for their donations to the cause.

### Councilmember Gloria serves on the following:

- Chair, Budget and Finance Committee
- Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
- Land Use and Housing Committee
- Rules, Open Government and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee
- Metropolitan Transit System Board
- San Diego Association of Governments
- San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau
- San Diego River Conservancy

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