

District Three

DIALOGUE

City of San Diego

November 2012 Volume 4, Issue 10



Securing \$1.3 Million for Homeless Services

By Councilmember Todd Gloria

Like you, I am troubled by the growing number of homeless individuals in our neighborhoods. The City, through the San Diego Housing Commission, supports several projects and programs to end the cycle of homelessness and help our neediest neighbors return to self-sustaining paths. The City Council recently agreed to set aside \$1.3 million of our annual federal Community Development Block Grant monies to fund basic homeless support services. This means that funds are guaranteed for Connections Housing, San Diego's first permanent year round homeless services center which is set to open this winter; the Neil Good Day Center; the Cortez Hill Family Shelter; and the Veterans Winter Shelter.

I am incredibly proud that my Council colleagues

understood the importance of avoiding future funding uncertainty and ensured that homeless programs administered by the Housing Commission on behalf of the City will be funded so San Diego's homeless population can be helped with these essential services.

I also recently allocated \$10,000 of Community Projects, Programs, and Services funds to the operation of the homeless storage center downtown. The facility known as the Check-in Center currently serves 315 people and holds about 30,000 pounds of their belongings. This center is not only about keeping our streets, sidewalks, neighborhoods, and canyons clean of personal belongings, though those are important impacts. It's about allowing our

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Branch Libraries Now Open More Hours

After years of City service cuts due to budget constraints San Diego is now restoring core services. On October 26, Budget and Finance Committee Chair Todd Gloria joined Mayor Jerry Sanders and Council President Tony Young to announce that more operating hours were being added to local libraries.

Starting this month, Central Library downtown added Saturday hours 9:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m., and four branch libraries added Sunday hours 1:00—5:00 p.m. Now each Council District has at least one library open on Sundays.

"Adding operating hours to our libraries is a clear sign that San Diego has moved in the right direction," said Councilmember Gloria. "While we all wish we could add even more hours, buy more books, and provide even greater resources, we are cautious about not overextending our finances again. Ensuring a continuity of this core service is critical for our neighborhoods."

Earlier this year, five hours were added to the schedules of all 35 of San Diego's branch libraries.

"Thanks to reforms spearheaded by Mayor Sanders and the Council, more efficient City operations, a rebounding economy, and significant concessions from our employees, our City budget is stronger than it has been for most of the past decade," said Councilmember Gloria.

More good news for our libraries came last month when the City Council included the new Mission Hills-Hillcrest in a bond offering. The new bond would add \$2 million to complete the design or other soft costs of the new facility.

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Budget Update *By Councilmember Todd Gloria*

On October 24, the Budget and Finance Committee had an in depth discussion about the Mayor's Five-Year Financial Outlook . Though it may sound boring, it is important.

The Mayor's Five-Year Financial Outlook is a part of our ongoing budget process and provides a framework for the development of the annual budget as well as our priorities. The Mayor's Outlook does include budget surpluses for the next several years, which is good news and testament to our hard work on reforms and efficiencies and the sacrifices agreed to by our employees.

It's critical to point out that the outlook also includes several uncertainties which could greatly impact our budget and decrease – if not eliminate – the potential surpluses. As I've shared in earlier emails to you, the City's future Annual Required Contribution (ARC) for retirement costs may be \$37 million higher than expected, largely because of the recent passage of Prop B. In addition, the dissolution of the Redevelopment Agency may require the City to take over

Expanding Public Electric Car Charging Infrastructure

In October, the City Council approved expanding infrastructure to allow for more electric vehicle charging. As a result of the action, San Diego will add up to 117 public charging stations on City-owned property.

San Diego currently is ranked 16th of the 21 cities hosting charging stations in the nation based on its ten public charging stations, and the City will move to the top ranking with the addition of the new spaces.

Responding to the environmental consciousness of District Three residents, 33 of the new stations will be in neighborhoods represented by Councilmember Todd Gloria.

- Five in Balboa Park (East lot adjacent to Park Blvd.)
- Four in North Park (4044 Idaho St.)
- Five on-street near Texas St. and El Cajon Blvd.
- Five on-street at 35th St. and Adams Ave.
- Five on-street near Normal St. and University Ave.
- Five on-street near Goldfinch St. and W. Washington St.
- Four in the North Park Parking Garage

Other locations for the new charging stations include the Carmel Mountain Library, Skyline Hills, and two parking garages downtown. The charging stations will be installed by ECOtality, which is using \$850,000 of its federal grant funds for the expansion. Through the agreement, the City will be reimbursed by ECOtality for electricity used at the charging stations. The charging stations are expected to be installed by the end of 2012

I know that by increasing publicly available charging infrastructure, electric vehicle adoption will increase in San Diego, which will further improve our environment and our quality of life.

responsibility for certain projects as well as the debt service support for Petco Park and the last Convention Center expansion. Finally, the economy remains a question mark. The housing market is still uncertain, as is the strength and duration of the recovery. The full outlook and power point are available online. Our Independent Budget Analyst will do a comprehensive review of the Mayor's projections and report back to the Council with her thoughts and recommendations on November 26.

CIP Budget Calendar for FY 2014

As Chairman of the City's Budget and Finance Committee, Councilmember Gloria is constantly seeking ways to enhance the budget development process. In response to concerns raised about certain elements of the City's approach to its Capital Improvement Program (CIP), he vowed to work with community members, the Mayor, and the Independent Budget Analyst to improve the process and increase the public's role in developing the City's infrastructure funding priorities. As work is underway to prepare next year's budget, public involvement and transparency in identifying or prioritizing needed capital projects is increasing. Councilmember Gloria invites public participation.

August – September: Education and outreach to the public via the Community Planners Committee (CPC)

October – November: Community Planning Groups develop requests for CIP projects and submit to CPC by November 7. CPC compiles and submits to City staff by November 21.

October – January: Task force of staff from asset-owning departments and Engineering and Capital Projects assess projects requested by the public. Asset-owning departments submit proposed projects and requested funding to Financial Management (FM). FM confirms availability of requested funds. Capital Improvement Projects Review and Advisory Committee (CIPRAC) reviews proposed projects and funding requests, may make adjustments, and submits for Mayor's approval.

January – March: FM works with asset-owning departments and prepares the proposed budget.

April 15: Mayor releases Proposed Budget to the public.

May: City Council holds public budget hearings, including a separate CIP hearing. Council may recommend changes to the Proposed Budget. Mayor's May Revision to the Proposed Budget released.

June: City Council reviews final modifications and approves budget.

July 1: New Fiscal Year begins.

Community Connection: The Todd Squad is Working for You

Strengthening Public Safety

- Official complaints were filed with San Diego Police Department on behalf of a citizen concerned about a motel in University Heights.
- Streetlights were repaired on Canterbury Dr., Argos Dr., and on the Talmadge Circle in Kensington.
- The speed limit on Cedar St. between Fern St. and Gregory St. will be changed from 30 mph to 25 mph in January.
- A red "emergency only" curb will be installed at the intersection of 36th St. and Orange Ave. by the end of December.
- A parking citation given to a neighbor parked at a newly created space on Meade Ave. was overturned and the old red curb was removed to decrease confusion.
- A tree in the 4100 block of 36th St. which was deemed a hazard was removed.

Improving Infrastructure

- The condition of freshly slurry sealed pavement near the 1900 block of 32nd St. was found to be acceptable after City staff investigated a neighbor's concerns.
- Multiple large potholes were filled in an alley off Adams Ave.
- Final resurfacing on Dwight St. is anticipated to be complete by mid-November following completion of a water infrastructure job.
- The sidewalk in the 3600 block of Curlew St. was patched by the Street Division's urban forestry forces to alleviate tripping hazards.
- A large pothole was repaired in an alley between Maryland St. and Cleveland Ave.
- A curb damaged by City contractors on 33rd St. in Normal Heights was repaired.
- The sidewalk on University Ave. near Dove St. was patched.
- The lifted parkway in the 3500 block of Park Blvd. was ramped with asphalt materials. Permanent repairs are the responsibility of the abutting property owner.
- The lifted sidewalk at the corner of Sixth Ave. and Juniper St. will be removed soon and patched.



Todd makes his final official visit to the Azalea Park Neighborhood Association before the area becomes part of Council District 9 in December.

Community Character

- The 805 Gateway Public Art Installation was unveiled on October 12. Some of the artwork is pictured below left.
- The City issued a Notice of Civil Penalty to a property management company for failure to comply with its Conditional Use Permit at a location in the 3900 block of 33rd St.
- An illegally constructed apartment building that had troubled Kensington neighbors for decades was taken down.
- The Todd Squad arranged donated dumpster services for Talmadge Community Council's successful October 13 cleanup.
- A boat trailer left unattended for weeks in the Uptown community was cited by City staff.
- Additional watering was done for ailing palm trees near Alabama St. in University Heights.
- A dirty bus stop on Fairmount Ave. near El Cajon Blvd. was cleaned by Urban Corps.
- A shopping cart chained to a post in the 2900 block of Date St. was removed.
- A City Heights resident who had her water service turned off was assisted in getting her water service restarted, which allowed her to keep her housing assistance status.
- Planters on Juniper St. broken during a car accident were removed expeditiously.
- Several code violations were found in the rear dumpster area of a property in the 4200 block of University Ave. A notice of violation was sent to the property owner.

Fun Casework Fact: Because the office of Councilmember Todd Gloria is contacted by so many people, the Todd Squad often learns some interesting things when researching responses to constituents. This month, a constituent contacted the office to find out how she might get one of the City's old card catalogs from the library. This is what we learned: If a library no longer needs the card catalogs, they are first offered to the other branch libraries. It is then offered to other City departments. If there are still no takers, they are set aside in storage for an upcoming City auction.



Parking Improvements Possible for Golden Hill and Hillcrest

Vermont Street Parking: The City Council approved angled parking on Vermont St. between Pennsylvania Ave. and University Ave. in Hillcrest. The transition to angled parking will result in a net increase of seven parking spaces.

Golden Hill Parking Changes: The Land Use and Housing Committee recently commended approval of reverse angled parking on 25th St. between Broadway and B St.

Reverse angled parking is proposed for this segment as part of the 25th Street Renaissance Project. 25th Street between Parking is critical to the corridor as the current parking is configured for on-street, parallel parking. The project increases parking by reducing the

Satisfactory Slurry Sealing

As the City has increased its investment into infrastructure, the office of Councilmember Gloria has received some concerned calls about the quality of some of the slurry sealing work. The following information is meant to help provide neighbors with realistic expectations, and explain what conditions may be unacceptable and worth reporting so corrections may be made.

Slurry Seal coating consists of asphalt emulsion, sand and rock which is applied to the street surface at 3/8 thick. This cost effective maintenance treatment extends the life of streets already in good condition.

Streets in worse condition receive asphalt resurfacing or overlay, which consists of installing a brand new layer of asphalt on top of the existing street surface at a thickness of one to three inches. Streets are ground down at the curb line before resurfacing so asphalt will not build up at the edge of the gutter.

The slight surface scuffing and impressions due to vehicle turning movements is a normal occurrence and does not create a detriment to the effectiveness of the slurry application.

Type II slurry is an effective preventative maintenance material. The intention of applying this type of slurry is to preserve the street pavement and provide for the safe and efficient movement of traffic.

Loss of gravel is a normal short-term occurrence after slurry has been applied. A small percentage of aggregate does not adhere completely and eventually becomes loose. New slurry seal can initially lose up to 10% of its aggregate, a process called raveling. Minor scuffing will occur for up to 60 days until the surface has fully cured. Over time, the scuffed areas will re-compact with minimal aesthetic impact.

If the areas of concern appear to peel off and expose the existing pavement, please have the constituent call 619-527-7500 to report it.

roadway to two travel lanes with left turn lanes, providing enough space for reverse angled parking along the east side of the roadway in addition to other project features such as Class II bike lanes and intersection curb extensions (pop-outs).

Reverse angled parking offers safe access for all users, including bicyclists, pedestrians, and motorists, and along with other project design features, establishes the corridor as a complete street. Although this is the first time this parking concept will be used in San Diego, cities such as New York, Portland, Seattle, Vancouver, Washington DC, San Francisco, Salt Lake City, and many others have used it and have seen accident rates dramatically decrease due to the change. Reverse angled parking requires a motorist to first indicate that they wish to park by using their turn signal, drive just beyond the parking stall, and then back into it. Although this type of parking is different, it actually may be easier to maneuver than parallel parking and provides additional benefits. It provides the motorist an unobstructed view of oncoming traffic by simply looking left before pulling out. Safety goes beyond simply pulling out of the parking spot. Loading and unloading children into and out of the car is safer. Additionally, loading and unloading of the back of a vehicle takes place on the sidewalk as opposed to a busy street.

The proposal will next be considered by the City Council, likely this month.

Get Involved!



**THE ANNUAL
SCOTT CARLSON
Community
Thanksgiving Dinner**
provided free of charge

**Thursday, November 22, 2012
11:30 until 3:00 p.m. at The Center**
(Short program from 11:30 to Noon)

To make a financial contribution, to volunteer or for more info:
Kaiden "Blue" Montana - (619) 674- 1476, Kaiden_Boi@yahoo.com

The annual Scott Carlson Community Thanksgiving Dinner will be a significant event for District Three neighbors. Please consider donating funds and time to ensure that everyone in our community is able to celebrate this holiday season.

Community Wrap Up and Upcoming Events

The Return of City Tree Trimming

One of the many City services impacted by previous budget challenges was tree trimming. Council District Three certainly felt the effect of the service's discontinuation. As part of the current year's budget, the City Council allocated \$257,000 for tree services. It has been determined that the funds will be used to trim approximately 7,500 palm trees citywide, nearly 25% of the total planted within the public right-of-way. City staff will determine the appropriate schedule and route for the trimming. Councilmember Gloria looks forward to a day when our City's financial strength again allows for a more centralized and robust urban forestry program, but welcomes the upcoming palm tree trimming as a start.

New Health Resource for City Heights Kids

The Monroe Clark Health and Wellness Center is now open. This new center will benefit more than 2,000 City Heights children at Monroe Clark Middle School and three other schools in the neighborhood by providing access to no cost and low-cost comprehensive medical services provided by the San Diego Family Care Mid-City Community Clinic and La Maestra Family Health Centers.

Yard Waste Recycling Update

Many green-minded folks have contacted Councilmember Gloria to advocate for expansion of the City's yard waste recycling program. The Environmental Services Department's (ESD) goal is to expand

the greenery collection program citywide. Unfortunately City finances, fuel costs, labor shortages, and lack of equipment restrict ESD from expanding the program to any additional areas in the foreseeable future. The City's financial situation has resulted in either maintenance or, in some cases, consolidation of a variety of City services and programs especially since the 2008-2009 timeframe.

The yard waste collection program currently serves 190,000 homes citywide. The service was first extended to areas of town where ESD felt the quantity of greens materials significantly impacted the amount of waste placed in the trash. These areas of town usually have many single family units with larger sized lots that are more likely to have a great deal of landscaping. The last expansion to this program was in 2004.

Yard waste recycling is an important component of the City's overall plan to meet the mandated landfill diversion rate. The greenery section at the Miramar landfill uses the yard waste to produce a number of items including mulch, compost, and wood chips. These products are available to residents for a small fee, and mulch is available free.

City Heights Mini Park Update

The City Council took action in October to keep the City Heights Mini Park project moving forward. The Council allocated \$200,000 to replace or substitute for the \$198,905 in redevelopment bond proceeds which will only be used in the event the State does not approve the redevelopment bond expenditure as part of the winding down of redevelopment activities. The project should be in the award phase November 2012 through January 2013. Construction should begin in February 2013, with the park opening by Fall 2013.

Homeless Services *Continued from page 1*

neediest neighbors to keep their self-respect and their few precious belongings. Further, it empowers them to find jobs and get training that would otherwise be next to impossible if they showed up to an interview with a cart full of stuff. The impact we get with a very small contribution is huge. The center's current site will soon be lost to develop much-needed affordable housing units, and a new site is in the works. If you share my desire to help, please visit www.girlsthinktank.org.

Much more needs to be done to assist our neighbors and decrease impacts on our communities, and securing these funds was a necessary and positive step forward.

The Housing Commission recently produced a report on Options for Additional Housing and Homeless Service Facilities. You might be surprised to know that the greatest number of homeless reside in the beach communities, followed by Downtown, Mission Valley/Kearny Mesa, then Mid-City neighborhoods. Creating new facilities with emergency shelter beds, transitional housing, supportive services, and permanent affordable units to fully address homelessness will take more resources than are available in the foreseeable future, but recognizing the extent of our needs is helpful and brings added significance to the contributions recently made.

Upcoming Events

Utilizing Technology in Business

Saturday, November 10, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Celebration Hall at the Joe & Vi Jacobs Center, 404 Euclid Ave. Yelp and Accion are teaming up with the NYSE Big Start-Up to host this free event that features seven experts presenting information on utilizing technology to market and grow your business. In this round robin, participants will attend three 40-minute intensive presentations on the topic most relevant to your current business needs. Free continental breakfast is included. Register at www.accionsandiego.org/roundrobin.html.

McKinley Elementary Joint Use Field Public Input Meeting

Monday, November 26, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

McKinley Elementary, 3045 Felton Street

The North Park Recreation Council Meeting in November will feature a design charrette for the planned McKinley Elementary Joint Use Field. Members of the public are encouraged to attend and provide input to ensure the project reflects the needs and desires of the neighborhood.

Tracking Todd



Top left: Todd celebrates the opening of Community Housing Works' new resident service office in City Heights.

Top right: The City Council, led by Todd, honored the work of the American Cancer Society and proclaimed October 16 "Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Day" in San Diego.

Far right: Todd celebrates Coach Bill Whittaker's 66 amazing years of service as a City employee.



Above: Todd graciously accepts the award for being voted San Diego's Best Elected Official by CityBeat's readers



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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