

Friends,

Our meeting this week was held Wednesday afternoon/evening rather than our regular Tuesday meeting day to allow Mayor and Council to join Councilmember Regina Romero in celebration of D de San Juan in her Ward in a festival near the Santa Cruz River. It was a fabulous event! This festival celebrates the beginning of the monsoons and it worked! One day later, we enjoyed heavy clouds, rain in the air, and today the heavens opened up! The monsoons are here!

Here's my take on some of the actions and discussions that took place this past Wednesday:

- **Certificate of Occupancy Disclosure Ordinance:** During Study Session, I re-presented the Certificate of Occupancy Disclosure Ordinance and it was a rousing success! Not only was it unanimously approved to move forward by Mayor and Council, but it also had strong support from our business community. I thank my colleagues on M&C for their substantive input at last week's Study Session ? and the extra efforts of City staff and key stakeholders in many meetings, phone conversations and emails this past week. [More thanks below] The result was an ordinance that achieves our desire to protect small businesses by letting them know they'll need a C of O. But it also took substantive steps forward in resolving issues that have plagued landlords, tenants and leasing agents alike - roadblocks that made it harder to do business in Tucson. There is more to do and this truly is only a first step, but we will continue to work with stakeholders to address Land Use Code issues that are no longer relevant, to facilitate the adaptive reuse of older buildings, to protect health and safety of occupants, and to simplify and clarify the process. We'll all win with each step forward!

A few specific kudos: I am grateful for the fine work of Jessie Sanders, deputy director of Development Services, who drove the effort to create the C of O ordinance and the related changes. Jessie's supervisors - Development Services Director Ernie Duarte and Assistant City Manager Karen Masbruch - as well as my Chief of Staff, C.T. Revere, also did yeoman's work to keep this important effort on track. It could not have succeeded without guidance and insight from the more than two dozen commercial property owners, brokers and architects who participated in a series of stakeholder meetings. Of particular assistance were Michael Guymon of the Metropolitan Pima Alliance, The Marshall Foundation's Tom Warne and Mike Hammond of PICOR, and property owners Daryl Burton and Rob Glaser.

- **English Language Learner Resolution:** Our Council unanimously backed the Metropolitan Education Commission's resolution in support

of greater local control of ELL programs. Underfunded state mandates set to go into effect next school year will segregate ELL students 4 hours every day and make it impossible for local districts to adapt programs to best meet students' needs. One interesting bit of information that emerged during our conversation at the table is that three of us on the Council are first generation Americans' and another is a naturalized citizen! For both Karin Uhlich and Regina Romero, English is their second language. And I shared an anecdote from my father from when he was a 6 year old Russian speaking child newly arrived in the country. He told me the first English words he learned when entering school were: You're it! Tag, played in the school yard, served as his instructor. We need to find the right way to help each student, including immersion with English-speaking classmates. Our community benefits in both the long and short runs!

- Foreclosures and Predatory Lending: These two issues plague our community. The reports we received were not encouraging, but we've asked staff to come back to us with options within our purview to better protect our community. I'll keep you posted.
- Four year contract with TACE/CWA: This union represents many of our professional staff. Reaching a 4-year contract with them speaks volumes for efforts on both sides. Of interest as well: at last week's Call to the Audience, representatives from TACE/CWA, Tucson Fire Fighters Association and AFSCME each spoke in solidarity with the City, expressing their understanding of the current financial plight and their willingness to work with us until things turn around. We are so lucky to have so many quality people working for the City - and the community!

Two other matters of importance:

- City Manager Mike Hein: While certainly there are communications issues and other concerns that need to be addressed, I believe Mr. Hein is an excellent City Manager. He can be credited with helping us create our sustainability approach to budgeting that has and will continue to pay dividends for years to come [think 80 additional police officers and 74 firefighters, approximately 33 square miles of neighborhood streets resurfaced, and significant improvements in parks facilities in the last two years]; he managed to create a City budget for next year in very difficult economic times that did not include any layoffs, which so many other cities had to; he has helped us implement our emphasis on green and sustainable growth; he

led the way in extending our TIF program to fund downtown redevelopment; and so very much more. Mayor and Council will be meeting in executive session next Tuesday to discuss concerns, approaches and next steps. My sincere hope is that together we can find a way to resolve past and present issues and work together to build trust for our future. I believe our current Mayor and Council along with Mr. Hein comprise a strong team that will help our community move forward with balance, intelligence and creativity in the coming years.

- Rio Nuevo Financing: We are at a critical point with many major Rio Nuevo projects, but in order to proceed we need to construct a Capital Improvement Plan so we can move into active development phase. I've asked for this matter to be addressed at the July 8th Study Session. My hope is we can put together an aggressive funding plan that will allow us to move forward quickly on all the projects we've approved. Not only will this build confidence that Rio Nuevo is real and is happening, it could serve as our own local jobs program and economic stimulus package, reaping additional benefits for our community.

On a more personal note, there is a passing I'd like to note:

Our community lost a unique, loving, giving friend this week. Myron Morris was a community activist, advocate, and philanthropist. I first came to know Myron through community work we both were doing on behalf of people living with HIV/AIDS. He was tireless in his efforts with TIHAN as a CarePartner, board member and donor. Morris was a gentle, generous soul whom I was proud to call a friend. He died Monday, June 23, 2008. The world was a better place for his having been among us. As always, I welcome your thoughts and feedback. I'll be in touch again after our meeting on July 1st.

Nina

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