

Friends,

Last Friday was challenging: an eight year old boy from Green Valley died during the monsoon storm while at Reid Park. He was there with his family to watch his big brother play in a baseball tournament. I had been on patrol with a police officer that evening, learning more about the realities of day-to-day work of the people who protect us day in and day out, when the call came across the radio. I visited the scene that night, returning the next morning to assure the father that the City is almost as eager as he and his family are to find out exactly what happened. That investigation with an independent forensic electrician begins Thursday. In the mean time, the coroner has determined the boy was not struck by lightning. The rest remains to be determined. I'll keep you posted.

Earlier last week I spent time riding with one of our environmental services staff picking up recycling in our Ward. Trust me, it is a very BUMPY ride! I enjoyed watching Alvaro maneuver that large truck around beautiful curbside trees to pick up recycling containers left UNDER those trees without harming the them. [Please, don't put your trash or recycling container under trees or other obstructions.] There were also smooth moves around parked cars, next to mail box posts, and trying to slide the large forks of the lift between containers that were touching each other. A rule of thumb: allow at least two feet between containers.

As you may know, Council only meets once each month during July and August, but we did have an amazing Rio Nuevo Subcommittee meeting last week that I'd like to tell you about! Our focus was largely on the Arts, Culture and History portions of our downtown revitalization:

- Warehouse Arts District: Transportation Director Jim Glock provided a detailed overview of who owns what property within the District. Much is held by the Arizona Department of Transportation. We're still working with ADOT on how the properties will be transferred so we, as a community, can determine the future of this important area. Our goal is to create a vibrant arts district that encourages artists, attracts art lovers and is a boon to the city as a whole. We're delighted that the Warehouse Artists Management Organization is stepping up to partner with the City in this effort, along with other private sector individuals.
- Workforce and Affordable Housing: Last month we received a report on the current availability of housing. Now a series of forums will be held to seek community input on how best to address this need before a final plan is submitted to Mayor and Council in October.

- Tucson Pima Arts Council Cultural Plan: Executive Director Roberto Bedoya gave us a quick overview of the breadth and depth of this approach to supporting and planning for the arts in our community. There is so much substance in the report we've asked Roberto to come back next month and focus only on Artist Live/Work Space to complement our work on Workplace and Affordable Housing.
- Tucson Museum of Art: We heard from Executive Director Robert Knight on some of the amazing projects and programs underway at the TMA. We are, of course, hopeful they'll remain at their site in downtown. Our primary role in that is securing adequate parking for them across the street. As a city, we've worked with them to assure we uphold that commitment; even when a private developer takes over that land, a specific number of spaces will be built into the project. We'll be looking forward to an update next month as the Board weighs plans for expansion to house their collections. We'll also be working with TMA to get better signage guiding folks to the Museum. [Their Museum School is getting recognition nationwide, and I've heard their current exhibition, Mexican Photographers Today, is quite spectacular. I hope to have the chance to see it later this month!]
- El Ojito: The land that may be the site of the old Springs that fed our community is for sale. We asked staff to do additional research on the location and explore the possibility of securing that land to serve as a focal point for that element of our history. We also asked staff to look at the old Elysian Grove Market - another piece of our history - which is also up for sale.
- Mariachi Conference: What began as a spirited fundraiser for La Frontera has become an internationally recognized conference. And it's critical that the Mariachi Conference continue! Tucson's was the first such conference. Now Texas, New Mexico and others have followed suit. In a sense, they've become a victim of their own success! City staff members have met with Conference volunteers to provide guidance on how they can remodel their business approach so they can meet their current challenges. And we're working with them to help secure corporate sponsors so la musica can continue for generations to come!

As I said, a lot of information over a two and a half hour meeting! But spending an evening immersed in the rich culture of our community was invigorating!

A few parting thoughts:

- Register to Vote! If you've not yet registered to vote ... or if you've moved ... August 4th is the deadline to register for the September 2nd Primary Election. If you need information, call 740-4260 or go to [www.pima.gov/elections](http://www.pima.gov/elections) .

- GO GREEN III !!!: Mark your calendars for September 10th from 4:30 to 6:30 for our Third Annual Go Green!!! Learn about sustainability, resource and water conservation, alternative travel options and green building techniques. Become part of the solution! I hope we'll see you there.

That's it for now. I'm off to South Dakota for a long weekend to help my dear mother-in-law celebrate her 98th birthday! Happy birthday, Clara!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nina".

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