

Friends,

It's been an exciting few weeks! We've made progress on several important fronts for the benefit of the community. Let me run through a few of them for you ... in no particular order:

- Kids in Cars Ordinance Moves Forward! At Study Session Tuesday, Mayor & Council unanimously and enthusiastically supported a measure that makes it illegal to leave a child under 10 unattended in an automobile. A similar ordinance protecting pets has been on the books for years, but nothing for children. This issue came to my attention earlier this summer when I met Deona Ryan, whose 1 year old daughter, Aslyn, died after her caretaker left her in a car for far too long. Let me be clear: *our police and firefighters have never hesitated to save a child they thought was at risk. Ever.* But those same public safety individuals also have had to face considerable static from angry parents saying the child was not in danger ... how dare the firefighter/police officer break the window. Officers did so under state statutes relating to child endangerment. But there was always a gray area: when is a child in danger?! This ordinance removes any doubt ... and it mandates a \$1,000 fine, which can be dismissed on first offense by attending a parenting education program. The goal: no child in Tucson ever again dies of hyperthermia because he/she was left in a vehicle. The method: community awareness/education, but with a fine, if necessary.

The final ordinance is scheduled to be formally adopted on September 23rd.

- Madden Media is moving downtown! The historic MacArthur Building is about to be renovated inside and come back to life as home to Madden Media, a nationally renowned publishing house. Their 80 employees will be moving into their new digs next year, now that the City has come to agreement on purchase terms. [Background: We put out an RFP seeking bidders to purchase the building. The Council's instructions were that the Downtown Tucson Partnership was to handle the transaction on our behalf and that the purchase price must be at least its appraised value of \$1.7-million.] Madden was selected and negotiation to finalize the arrangements began. Last Friday, an agreement was reached. The basic terms are:
  - Madden will pay the City of Tucson \$1.7 Million for the building. (They will also be spending approximately \$1.5-million of their own

money in renovation costs.)

- For 10 years, Madden will lease the "triangle" next to the building for parking purposes. The land lease will be based upon the rate of \$10/stall/month. We estimate that 50-60 stalls can be accommodated on the lot.
- Madden has the option of leasing additional stalls (approximately 20-30) in the Pennington Garage for operating costs (right now \$30/month) for 10 years.
- At the end of 10 years, Madden's land lease for the 'triangle' ends and per space rent at Pennington reverts to market rate.

This is a major win for downtown. I believe it's the first major Tucson company that has chosen to move downtown in recent years. The purchasing power of Madden's creative-class employees will provide a boost to the many wonderful businesses throughout downtown...and maybe a few of the employees will choose to move there themselves! Many wonderful options are opening up, most recently One North Fifth. Mayor & Council still must approve the final agreement ... hopefully in the next few weeks.

- The Big Pour! It was choreographed in a way that would make Balanchine proud! The last Thursday in August, cement trucks approached the 4th Avenue Underpass from two sides, dumped their loads into a giant hopper on each side, then backed into a rinse area while another truck came in to empty its load, then returned to home base to pick up the next load of concrete. Giant vacuum-like hoses pushed 1,000 yards of concrete into the frame atop the north half of the underpass in a 6 hour period marking the half way point of the construction. One year from now, our new underpass should be complete! Next step: In November, the railroad shoo-fly will detour trains from the main track over the new side of the underpass, allowing the south end to be torn down and rebuilt.
- Additional Water Conservation Efforts Are Underway! Council received an update on a program funded by the new water conservation fee [2-cents per ccf]. Thanks to this fund, low income homeowners will be able to replace their inefficient toilets with High Efficiency Toilets [HETs], saving them money on their water bills ... and the city's precious potable water supply. Thanks to the UA Plumbers & Pipefitters Union for their volunteer hours in support of this project.
- Go Green! Tonight [Wednesday] is our third annual Go Green at Ward VI. More than 30 groups will offer information and practical how-to's, alternative fuel vehicles will be on display, volunteers will finish up a

fabulous passive water harvesting system now gracing the north and west sides of our office ... and everyone will walk away with a free CFL [courtesy of Home Depot] and reusable shopping bag [courtesy of Safeway]. There are so many simple things we each can do that will make an incremental difference in our world. I'll tell you more about how the event went next week. [First time I've ever hoped the pending storm will pass us by ... at least until 7PM!]

That's it for now! As always, please stay in touch and let us know your thoughts/priorities/concerns.

*Nina*

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