

It's been a few weeks since we 'talked', so let me step back first to last week with a thank you.

Lest we ever forget:

Thank you to the Tucson Fire Department for its caring and poignant remembrance of the impact 9/11/01 had on us all. Honor Guard, Drum and Bagpipe Corps, firefighters of every rank from across this great City took the time to focus us all on what happened 8 years ago, and help us all recommit to the values we hold so dear - as individuals, as a City and as a Nation.

### Wednesday, September 9th

Mayor & Council returned to our regular schedule of weekly meetings. Let me catch you up on a few highlights from the VERY lengthy agenda!

- **The Links:** During Study Session we had an amazing presentation on the next steps in planning this business roadway that will finish off the western end of Barraza-Aviation. Please remember: the Links is NOT a highway, but a 4-lane road with a low speed limit appropriate for a residential/business/arts district. The opportunities in the three identified areas are myriad ... and exciting. Corky Poster's presentation helped us all get a better feel for the possibilities this roadway - more than 20 years in the making thus far - holds for our community. As soon as the on-line link is available, I'll try to let you know.
- **Warehouse District Properties:** We decided to move forward with four requests for qualifications/proposals for the four properties the City will acquire, three for sale and one property over which we'll have an extended easement. This gives us the flexibility to find the best possible group/entity/individual for each of the properties. One modification I suggested that was accepted was to assure there SHALL be a reversion clause in any agreement to assure that timelines and goals the winning groups set are achieved ... and while we are

always hoping for success, this assures the City is protected no matter what.

- **Work Plan and Management Expectations:** This was the first of several conversations we'll be having to assure that City Management, through our City Manager, remains focused on the priorities established through public process by Mayor & Council. It's an efficient way to manage the 'business' of government.
- **Infill Incentive District:** This modification of the Land Use Code creates a special overlay that will encourage adaptive reuse of older buildings and help revitalize our City's core, from Grant and Oracle through Downtown and south along 6<sup>th</sup> to South Tucson.

### Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>

Here's what took place this past Tuesday:

- **During Study Session** we heard an update on the Convention Center and Hotel. Since the Hotel will be located exactly where the current main entrance to the TCC is located, we heard details for renovation of the East Entrance into a new, permanent entrance befitting our Convention Center expansion. Expanding the concept adds about \$1-million to the price tag, but it also gives us something permanent, as opposed to spending \$3-million on a temporary location. If all goes well, the new Main Entrance will be ready for the Gem Show and will really show our visitors we're serious about updating our Convention Center and building our Hotel. Actual Hotel construction should begin as soon as the Gem Show closes. During the regular meeting that evening, Council unanimously supported bonds to pay for the new Main Entrance and finalization of plans for the Hotel and Garage. The Rio Nuevo District Governing Board had approved the funding earlier that day. This kind of investment requires approval from both bodies.
- **Budget Update:** We were presented a realistic, and somewhat bleak perspective on what next year's budget figures may hold for us.

[http://www.tucsonaz.gov/budget/docs/BudgetRevenuePresentation\\_Sept15.pdf](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/budget/docs/BudgetRevenuePresentation_Sept15.pdf) We will continue to monitor revenues ... and continue keep tight rein on expenses. I'll keep you in the loop ... and hope you'll join us for our Community Dialogue coming up in October so we can get your input. [see below]

### Go GREEN!!!

Our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Go Green is THIS THURSDAY at the Ward VI office from 4-6PM. This year, we've chosen to focus on possibly the most critical issue of our region: WATER. We'll experts and displays from nonprofits, local businesses, several jurisdictions, all with the focus on water issues in our desert home. Please join us!

Other upcoming Forums at Ward VI:

September 30: Crime and Fraud Prevention from 6-7:30PM with Attorney General Terry Goddard

October 5: Proposition Forum from 6 - 7:30PM. Come hear the facts on each of the four issues on which you will be voting.

October 7: Community Key Services Dialogue from 6-7:30PM. This is your chance to talk with City Manager Mike Letcher and me, along with other key individuals about your priorities and ideas for next year's City budget.

That's it for now! It's almost sundown, the beginning of Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year. To all of that faith, L'Shana Tovah! I love all New Year celebrations. They offer us all the chance to think about the year past, and envision our hopes and goals for the coming year.

Happy New Year....and we'll talk again soon.

Please do stay in touch.

*Nina*

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