



Richard Fimbres
Councilmember
Ward 5

Ward 5 Council
Office Staff

Chief of Staff
Mark Kerr

Council Aide
Lupita Robles

Council Assistant
Mary Kuchar

Staff Assistant
Gabriel Holguin

IN THIS ISSUE:

Councilmember Fimbres
Letter

Thank You Front Line
Workers

Rigo's Restaurant
Community Food Bank

Changing Hours
COVID-19 Vaccine
Update

U of A Tech Park Update

Ward 5 Business Update
Buffalo Soldiers Memorial
Update

Cherrybell Post Office
Survey

James Christopher
Ready Set Rec Launched!

IMPORTANT
PHONE NUMBERS &
CONTACT
INFORMATION

City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

February 2021

Dear Friends:

It has been an honor and privilege serving as your Councilmember for Tucson's Ward 5.

During my time on the Council a lot has happened and we have faced challenges but as I have said, "when times are tough, Tucsonans roll up their sleeves and come together to solve the challenge."

It has been a pleasure working with my colleagues on the Council as well as with the constituents, neighborhoods and businesses in Ward 5, the City of Tucson, Pima County, the State of Arizona and our national elected officials.

Our work continues to bring Tucson through the dark economic tunnel that we've been in since the Great Recession and now with the COVID-19 health pandemic and economic fallout.

My work is not done and we must continue the work to get Ward 5 and Tucson through the COVID-19 health pandemic and economic fallout and continue the Renaissance of Ward 5 and the Southside.

When I was sworn into office, I heard the message voters sent in terms of what was needed: reforming city government, economic development and creating jobs.

During my time on the Council, we have accomplished much of this, drawing new businesses to Ward 5, helping other businesses expand their operations, annexing property and fighting to ensure that barriers to economic development are addressed, and that doors for new businesses are open.

What we have done, thanks to these efforts, has created much needed economic development and has led to the Renaissance of Ward 5, the South Side and the whole City.

Through the great working relationships with Ward 5 Neighborhood Associations, we have achieved a lot for Ward 5. I thank them for working with me on the many projects that have occurred in the Ward.

I have held meetings, Business and Community Forums, and have updated constituents on issues of concern as well as through Email, Facebook and our newsletter. I have worked hard to try to keep you informed of what is going on and to make Ward 5 a better place.

My efforts also included how the City of Tucson government works and to improve how your taxpayer dollars are spent.

While on the Council, I have brought changes to the Certificate of Occupancy Process and the Land Use Code which has resulted in hundreds of new businesses opening their doors, employing many Tucsonans and generating hundreds of millions in revenue.

For Tucson to succeed, the City government must spend its limited dollars wisely, and with that, I brought forward changes to how the City spends its money for goods and services.

I have led the effort to change how the City purchases materials by utilizing the P-Card, instead of writing checks, ensuring accountability and saving the City millions and now getting a rebate check of over \$1.0 million dollars, thanks to using the P-Card.

Working with the private sector, I formed the campaign to "Bring Back the Splash," which raised \$100,000 in sponsorships and opened eight city swimming pools that were to be closed due to budget cuts.

I brought forward a proposal to end the restrictions on advertising on Sun Tran buses. My proposal generated more than \$800,000 in advertising revenue for Sun Tran and more than \$200,000 for Sun Link.

I brought forward the proposal to have the City of Tucson to go with all-vote-by-mail elections, which has increased voter turnout, ended voter intimidation and saved the City \$600,000 to \$1,000,000 each City election cycle.

I worked to finish the World War II Memorial that is in Armory Park, an 8 ½ year project that honored those 400 Tucsonans, from the Greatest Generation, who paid the ultimate sacrifice and didn't come back.

I brought forward the proposal to change the City of Tucson's impoundment vehicle process that brought in millions for the City for cost recovery. Prior to this proposal, the City was getting nothing in return for the impounded vehicles that had been abandoned by their owners.

New ideas, new approach, proven results.

I have led the fight to keep the Cherrybell Post Office and Processing Center open and my efforts have taken Cherrybell from being closed in 2011 to still operating ten years later. Cherrybell serves 1.5 million people in Southern Arizona and 26,000 businesses. Seniors get their pension checks in the mail and Veterans, Seniors and others get their prescriptions through the mail from Cherrybell. It is important that Tucson and Southern Arizona's post office and processing center remains open. It is important for further growth in Southern Arizona.

I helped to secure funding for the annual Tucson Veterans Day Parade. Every Memorial Day and Veteran's Day, I take thank you cards and letters, made by school children from Ward 5, to the Southern Arizona V.A. Hospital to present to Veterans at the Hospital to thank them for their service.

I helped to secure funding for the annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day March that has been held on the holiday honoring the work and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I am working with city staff and developers to build more affordable housing, including the Rio Viejo, Rio Mercado, affordable senior and veteran housing at Allen Hall and a project at Drexel and Country Club, naming three of several in Ward 5.

I created the Tucson Homeless Work Program (HWP), an effort that helps to clean roadways, streets, traffic circles, alleys, and parcels while getting the homeless who are doing this work into services and housing. This is not a government program, but a partnership between the private sector, service providers and city and county government which has shown results.

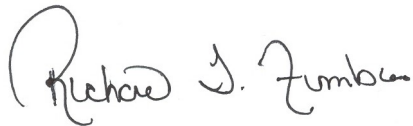
I created the Tucson Homeless Coalition, like I did for the Pima County Reentry Coalition, and helped solve the issues dealing with blankets, shelters and other issues at hand.

With the opening of many new businesses at the Bridges and across Ward 5, this has resulted in the creation of more than 13,000 new jobs in Ward 5. Thanks to my work with the neighborhood associations, Ward 5 has opportunities for jobs, business development and to work and raise a family, something these neighborhoods had long advocated for.

New businesses, new jobs, new opportunities for our community and our future.

During my time on the Council, a lot has been accomplished to get Tucson back on its feet, but there is work still to be done and is something I look forward to continue doing.

Thank You.



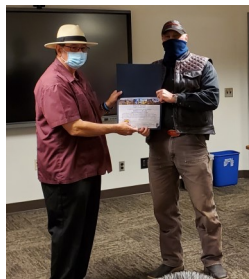
Your Ward 5 Councilmember.

THANK YOU FRONT LINE WORKERS AND FIRST RESPONDERS: I want to thank the City of Tucson front line workers and first responder employees for their work and commitment, especially during these times.

With this health crisis ongoing, our City has worked to provide the core services needed.



Our City's front line workers and all the first responder employees have done so much for the good citizens of Tucson during these times dealing with the COVID-19 health pandemic. They have continued to work, with some coming down with COVID-19.



With some city services, unable to operate due to COVID-19, such as Parks and Rec Centers, they have had to transfer to other needed jobs to keep the City running

I and my office have given Ward 5 Certificates of Appreciation and Ward 5 First Responder Coins to all these employees who have worked for the good citizens of Tucson and for our City, to thank them for their commitment and service.



RIGO'S REESTAURANT: Rigo's Restaurant was an iconic place that served Tucson for more than two decades with fine food and entertainment. Rigo's Restaurant was even more than a place for fine dining. Over its storied history, Rigo's was the place many important community meetings and events took place. Many Tucson Mayors and Councilmembers, as well as members of the Pima County Board of Supervisors, State elected officials, Members of Congress, Governors of the State of Arizona, University of Arizona Presidents and Cabinet Members visited Rigo's, along with officials from Mexico and the Mexican State Governments.



Rigo gave new mariachi groups, their first opportunity to showcase their music. Rigo's was a great meeting place and the food was excellent and the staff were personal and friendly. It is sad that Rigo's has closed along with El Indio, another iconic restaurant on Tucson's south side. Both are sorely missed.

COMMUNITY FOOD BANK CHANGES HOURS: Slight changes are being made to the hours the Community Food Bank distributes emergency food. According to a news release, Tucson residents can still receive food three times a week, but the new times will be 8:00 am to 11:00 am. Food will be distributed every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at the Food Bank's warehouse at 3003 S. Country Club beginning Tuesday, March 2. Food distribution continues to operate in a drive-through manner to follow COVID precautions. People are asked to bring a photo ID. Volunteers and National Guard service members help to load the non-perishables, produce, bread, and other items directly into people's cars. There is also a provision for people walking, using public transit, or riding a bike.



COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE - The CVS Pharmacy and Drug Store, located at 1900 West Valencia, will be the first location to offer the COVID-19 vaccines. This is the first location to offer the vaccine and will be free of charge. If you have health insurance, they will ask for your insurance

card. If you don't have insurance, they will ask for other identification. For more information, please call 800-746-7287.

UA TECH PARK UPDATE: On January 28, I had the privilege of signing the final beam, for the University of Arizona Tech Park at the Bridges in Ward 5.

The construction is on the building called The Refinery, the main building that will be at the Bridges Tech Park.

The Renaissance of Ward 5 continues with this project.



WARD 5 BUSINESS UPDATE: I want to thank my colleagues on the Council for their support for the rezoning for a new development at Dorsett and Ajo Way in Ward 5. 8.5 acres at the SE corner of Ajo Way and Kino Parkway / I-10, West of Kino Veterans Ballpark. This project will have 40,000 square feet of retail shop space, restaurants, and a gas station. It will be a Great infill site to attract local businesses and create employment opportunities and committed tenants, as of this writing, include: Rudy's BBQ and Raising Cane's.

BUFFALO SOLDIERS MEMORIAL UPDATE: The Buffalo Soldiers Memorial will be located at the Quincie Douglas Center. The Buffalo Soldiers Memorial Project construction work began in October and will be completed in late April.

The 10,000 pound granite stone monument is currently being engraved in Georgia and will be transported to Tucson in April for final installation in the front courtyard. Last December, the concrete walkway was installed around the existing artwork in the front plaza to serve as a gathering place for future Buffalo Soldier ceremonies. Metal stands for the information plaques have been installed, and concrete paving and sitting walls are currently under construction. This work will continue for the next few weeks until the courtyard paving and hardscape is complete.



Above to shade the courtyard. A ribbon-cutting ceremony is tentatively planned for April 30, pending successful delivery of the monument. Please note that COVID-related health concerns may delay the ceremony date to when it is safe for public gathering. We look forward to seeing you for this historic occasion. Once the granite monument is set into place with a crane, two large shade sails will be installed.

CHERRYBELL POST OFFICE SURVEY: For the past ten years, I have fought to keep Cherrybell, Tucson and Southern Arizona's Post Office and Processing Center open and fully functioning.

I have reported to you on the efforts, which began with my office showing the importance of Tucson and Southern Arizona having a post office and processing center, and the jobs there and how it would negatively impact on our community if it closed.

Cherrybell serves the Tucson and Southern Arizona communities, as well as 26,000 businesses, our postal workers, our Veterans, our Seniors, those who get their prescriptions in the mail, and the Tohono O'odham Nation and the Pascua Yaqui Tribal Nation too.



We have fought closure. We have fought privatization. We had won those battles but this continues now with another effort to privatize the Post Office and closing Cherrybell.

I convinced our Mayor to put together a survey, for which the results will be sent to our Arizona Congressional Delegation on the importance of Cherrybell to our community.

I want to thank Senators Kristen Sinema, Mark Kelly, House Members Raul Grijalva, Ann Kirkpatrick, Tom O’Halloran, Greg Stanton, Ruben Gallego, as well as State Senators, Sally Ann Gonzales, Victoria Steele, Kristen Engel and Representatives Andrea Dalessandro, Andres Cano, Alma Hernandez, Daniel Hernandez, to name several in the Arizona Legislature who have helped, spoke out and support Cherrybell.

The postal centers are the number one hiring of our Veterans. Seniors get their checks through the mail, which is comfortable for those who lived through the Great Depression Era and previous recessions. People get their needed medications through the mail and our businesses rely on Cherrybell to help them earn a living.

I am asking you again to speak about the importance of the Postal Service and Cherrybell to our community.

Iowa, Vermont and Wisconsin, have four to five postal processing centers, while Arizona would have one and Arizona is a much bigger state in growth.

Please fill out the survey and thanks to our Mayor for creating this survey:

<https://docs.tucsonaz.gov/Forms/Protect-Cherrybell-Request-for-Testimonials>

JAMES CHRISTOPHER: On Thursday, February 18, a Ward 5 resident was honored for his work for our community.

James Christopher serves as the President of the Pueblo Gardens Neighborhood Association Martin Luther King Junior Breakfast Committee.

The Pueblo Gardens Neighborhood Association is the only neighborhood that annually honors the work and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



The Breakfast Committee raises funds for youth education scholarships for children in the surrounding neighborhoods.

James Christopher, through his own funds, has created a Black History Museum.

James serves on the Board of the Dunbar Pavilion and has served on several city committees.

I honored James Christopher with a Ward 5 Certificate of Appreciation, The Ward 5 Medallion of Hope and Ward Coin of Freedom.

Mayor Romero issued a City Proclamation honoring James Christopher and marking February 18, 2021, “James Christopher - Pueblo Gardens Historian Day.” I want to thank Mayor Romero for honoring James and his service to our community.

READY SET REC!: On February 25, the Ready Set Rec! Program began and Ward 5 had the first roll-out in Rodeo Park. There will be six Ready Set Rec vans, one for each Ward to provide safe recreational activities under COVID protocols.

I want to thank City Manager Michael Ortega, Parks and Rec Director Lara Hamwey and the staff at Parks, as well as Kaneen who made this become a reality, I want to thank my colleagues for their support of my motion for this program and look forward to everyone having the opportunity to Ready Set Rec!



Tucson and Pima County

Eviction Prevention/Emergency Rent and Utility Relief Program

This program provides support for residents struggling to pay rent or utilities due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information on the program requirements and details, visit: tucsonpimaep.com



CITY OF TUCSON



Eviction Prevention Program Administered by the



Important Numbers
and
Contact Information

Ward 5 City Council Office
4300 S. Park Avenue
Tucson Arizona 85714

Phone: 520-791-4231
Fax: 520-791-3188
Ward5@tucsonaz.gov

Stay Informed!
Visit our other
information outlets:



**HTTP://
WWW.TUCSONAZ.GOV/
WARD -5**

**Help those who are in
need.
Give to the
Community Food
Bank.
For more
information call:
520-622-0525**



Frequently Used Phone Numbers

Emergency Services

Tucson Police Department or Tucson Fire Department—DIAL 911

Permits

Planning and Development Services Department
791-5550

Housing Assistance

City of Tucson Community Services Department
791-4739

Tucson Convention Center

791-4101

City of Tucson Code Enforcement

791-5843

TPD Red Tag Unit

837-7318, Email: redtag@tucsonaz.gov

Graffiti Removal

792-CITY (2489)

TPD Non Emergency

791-4444

Trash Pick Up & Environmental Services

City of Tucson Environmental Services Department
791-3171

DTM Street Maintenance

791-3154, Email: tdotconcerns@tucsonaz.gov

Tucson Water Department

Billing - 791-3242, Public Information - 791-4331

Park Tucson

791-5071

Pima Animal Care

724-5900

University of Arizona Neighborhood Hotline

520-282-3649

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Ward5@tucsonaz.gov and include the word *unsubscribe* in subject line.