

REGINA ROMERO

Tucson City Council - Ward I

Westside : Southside : Downtown

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A MESSAGE FROM COUNCILOR ROMERO

OCTOBER 24, 2013

Hello Ward 1 Neighbors and Friends,

Last week we wrapped up National Hispanic Heritage Month, a celebration of the histories, cultures and contributions of Latino/as and their ancestors to our great nation.

On October 11th, the University of Arizona celebrated the 10 year anniversary of the Cesar E. Chavez Building on the UofA campus.

Cesar Chavez was a southern Arizona native who fought for the rights of migrant farmworkers alongside Dolores Huerta. Together Chavez and Huerta founded the United Farm Workers union, and established a tradition of non-violent civil disobedience through boycotts, hunger strikes, and direct action that brought dignity and prosperity to the agricultural workers of the southwest. This legacy, as important to the labor movement as it is to the Latino/a community, is one that should never be forgotten. Thank you to the Chicano/Hispano Student Affairs Center for reminding us of the shoulders we stand on.

This month has also seen a lot of community activity and a packed policy agenda for Mayor and Council. Here are some highlights:

- SB1070
- Golf
- Halloween Fun
- Watershed Management Group
- WIFA / Pima County Flood Control
- Westside Parks Cleanup
- Midvale Park 18th Annual Fall Festival

In Community,

Regina Romero



MAYOR & COUNCIL

SB1070

As you may have heard, recent community protests and incidents involving the Tucson Police Department and Border Patrol have again thrust SB 1070 into the local spotlight. These incidents pushed me to request a study session agenda item on November 13th to discuss Tucson Police Department practices in relation to SB 1070.

I have made no secret of my opposition to this unjust law. SB1070 institutionalizes racial profiling and pushes local law enforcement onto the front lines of a federal policy issue.



Testimony at Mayor & Council—AZPM

The majority of this council has also expressed disagreement with SB1070. In 2010 I pushed for the City of Tucson to file a lawsuit in opposition to the law, which passed by a 6-1 vote. Last year the council voted on the Immigrant Welcoming City resolution, again passing by a 6-1 vote. These efforts demonstrated a commitment by our city to take real action against the law, and codified our interest in celebrating diversity within our community.

While advocates work to document the unlawful detentions that will eventually overturn SB1070 in court, we have a crisis of confidence developing in our city. Tensions, fear, and frustration have eroded confidence between our community and law enforcement. Despite claims suggesting we are at the mercy of state law, there are a few things we can do (working within the confines of SB1070) that will mitigate some harm and start to rebuild trust with local police. Here are just a few:

Stop questioning victims of crime and witnesses about their legal status. Flagstaff has already implemented this policy in order to maintain a level of trust among residents and law enforcement.

Officers should not extend any detention solely to await a response from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). This is especially true in minor traffic incidents, where cite and release is regular police procedure. The practice of extending detention to await DHS response is illegal and officers should be trained on why this practice needs to be discontinued.

Stop questioning juveniles about their immigration status without the presence of an attorney, parent or guardian.

Stop questioning passengers about their immigration status absent any suspicion of criminal activity.

In the interest of brevity I have only included a few suggestions of a much longer list made by community organizations including the ACLU. These recommendations have been developed by attorneys familiar with the law, and several have been adopted in other Arizona jurisdictions.

Making these common sense changes, which are within the confines of the SB1070, will benefit our entire community. The culture of fear and distrust of law enforcement fueled by SB1070 makes all Tucsonans inherently LESS safe, and it is in our city's best interest to address these issues head on.

MAYOR & COUNCIL / EVENTS

GOLF

I have been working to bring accountability to the golf fund within the city for well over a year. Mayor and Council have already voted unanimously to direct staff to come up with a plan to make golf pay for itself.

As I have said before, this status quo is unacceptable. One of the concepts currently being explored by staff is a search for private management firms with experience operating golf courses. I asked – and have been asking – for the city manager to bring back a report on the status of the RFP and a general overview of accountability in golf. This includes an update on past action by Mayor and Council and steps being taken by staff to realize past direction. That is happening on November 6th.

HALLOWEEN FUN

The City of Tucson is celebrating this Halloween in style! The HALLOWEEN BOO BASH is this Saturday, October 26th at the Clements Center, and our Environmental Services department will host a behind the scenes tour of our trash & recycling facilities on Thursday, October 31st... Details below!

HALLOWEEN BOO BASH - OCTOBER 26

City of Tucson Parks and Recreation, Pima Community College East Campus, and Tucson Water present the Halloween Boo Bash for a fun filled night of tricks and treats. Admission includes a wristband, haunted house, hay ride, entertainment, face painting, carnival games, storytelling, art projects and a costume contest.

Who: Everyone

Cost: \$3/person (Free for children 3 and under)

When: Saturday, October 26, 4 p.m.-8 p.m.

Where: William Clements Center, 8155 E. Poinciana

For more info please call the Clements Center at 791-5787

ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES TOUR – LOS REALES LANDFILL & MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY

This Halloween, City of Tucson Environmental Services (ES) is offering a tour of the Los Reales Landfill and the ReCommunity, Inc. Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). Participants will get a 'behind the scenes' view and learn how ES operates the landfill and how recyclables collected in the blue barrel are sorted and marketed.

Tour participants will meet in the upper level parking lot at 4004 S. Park Avenue on Thursday, October 31, 2013 at 8:30 a.m. The tour will be complete by 12 noon. Those who join the tour should wear long pants, closed-toe shoes, hats and sunscreen. Drinking water will be provided. The tour is available on a first come basis. We promise no "tricks" but participants will get a "treat." To reserve a seat, call ES at 791-3175.



MAYOR & COUNCIL / EVENTS

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT GROUP

Watershed Management Group is a wonderful nonprofit that works to educate our community on green infrastructure and water conservation. This month the team hosted their 3rd Annual Home-scape tour, which included the Ward 1 council office as a demonstration site.

WMG is also offering a community lecture series for those interested in learning more. Check it out at www.watershedmg.org

Joanie & Joe at the Ward 1 Council Office on the WMG 3rd Annual Home-scape tour. Thanks for helping out!



WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY (WIFA)

On a related and very happy note, we have been awarded a \$35,000 green infrastructure planning grant!

Watershed Management Group partnered with my office to apply for a Water Infrastructure Finance Authority (WIFA) grant to do green infrastructure planning in some of our most flood-prone neighborhoods. This follows an effort out of my office to request that Pima County Flood Control begin addressing some of the major flooding issues affecting the southwest neighborhoods of Elvira, Barrio Nopal, Sunnyside, Rose, and Sunset Villa.



Following last year's appeal for support, Pima County Flood Control agreed to do a study of area watersheds to determine potential fixes for the flooding in neighborhoods abutting I-19. Study outcomes will be used to help determine where green infrastructure can make a difference. We hope to better plan for flooding relief while we appeal to ADOT to improve drainage and expedite improvements to Interstate 19.

Above is a picture of some of the extreme flooding that occurs in Elvira Neighborhood, near Valencia and Santa Clara.

MAYOR & COUNCIL / EVENTS

WETSID PARKS CLEANUP

On Saturday October 19th, the Tucson Arizona West Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints participated in what I believe to be the largest EVER single-day Parks and Recreation cleanup project. About 300 volunteers gave their Saturday morning to clean up the Santa Cruz riverbed and 12 Westside parks.

At last count, the volunteers had pulled six TONS of trash from the Santa Cruz river, including shopping carts, tires, and miscellaneous trash. All Ward 1 parks also got a facelift, with volunteers picking up trash and removing landscape debris. After the cleanup, volunteers gathered at Christopher Columbus Park for a celebratory barbeque. I want to extend a GREAT BIG THANK YOU to the LDS church for their wonderful volunteer work. We look forward to partnering with them and our local parks jurisdictions in the future!



MIDVALE PARK NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION 18TH ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

It's a beautiful day in Midvale Park! That's the motto of the hard working neighbors of Midvale Park, who have organized their 18th Annual Fall Festival this Saturday from 11am – 4pm at Grijalva Park (Drexel & Oaktree).

Residents always put on a great event, and this year it will be at a local park that has seen two recent improvement phases totaling more than \$1.5 million in investment. This includes shared use facilities with Grijalva Elementary, a playground, walking path, skate park, adjacent pedestrian infrastructure improvements, and more.

This is always a fun event with food, games, music, entertainment and more. We hope you can check it out and enjoy a fun day with the family.



Midvale Park Neighborhood Association 18TH ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

Grijalva Park

SATURDAY OCTOBER 26, 2013

11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

This annual Fall Festival is a celebration of another year in beautiful MIDVALE PARK!

Come meet your neighbors and support YOUR neighborhood!

This year a Halloween theme will be incorporated, so bring the kids in their kooky costumes and be ready to have a haunting good time!

- COSTUME CONTEST
- KIDS ACTIVITIES
- YUMMY FOOD
- GREAT DISPLAYS & INFO
- FRIENDLY NEIGHBORS

Businesses: Join these fine sponsors and reserve your booth space TODAY!!! A great marketing opportunity! Walmart, Midvale Park HOA, Food City, Goodwill, Grijalva Elementary School, Barbara LaWall, The Woods Apartments, and more to come....

