

REGINA ROMERO

Tucson City Council - Ward I

Westside : Southside : Downtown

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VICE MAYOR ROMERO PUSHES FINANCIAL STABILITY PLAN WITH NEW CITY MANAGER MIKE LETCHER

APRIL 2009

Dearest Neighbors & Friends:

Spring is in full swing! The weather is warm, the beautiful desert foliage is beginning to show its bloom, and summer is on its way. This is a perfect time to get out and enjoy all that Tucson has to offer. The coming weeks will offer the Tucson Folk Festival, Arizona International Film Festival, and the La Frontera Tucson International Mariachi Conference. I hope to see you there.

There have been many changes recently in our community. I want you to know I feel confident that Tucson is moving in a new and positive direction. City Manager Mike Letcher has refreshing new ideas to make government more transparent and accountable. His draft budget is a blueprint to financial stability. Please know we are doing everything we can to move downtown's revitalization efforts forward and retain our Tax Increment Financing (TIF). I agree with the State Legislature that Rio Nuevo needs to be reformed, and I am committed to transparency. Mayor and Council adopted a plan and budget for Rio Nuevo last year and we will continue moving forward. We are also working to secure funding for the modern streetcar to connect the east and west sides of Downtown. Transportation Director Jim Glock and Mayor Bob Walkup are traveling to Washington, DC to meet with Federal Transportation Director Ray LaHood to secure funds for Tucson.

Your voice is important as we work to adopt a financial stability plan. Please come to the first of three public budget hearings. **The first is April 28 at 5:30 pm at the Tucson Convention Center.** We will have two additional meetings on May 5 and June 9 at 5:30 pm at City Hall—255 W. Alameda.

In Community,

Regina Romero

PS— Happy Mother's Day to everyone! I invite you to attend the El Presidio Historic Promenade and Garden Tea on May 9. Proceeds benefit the Pima County-Tucson Women's Commission. For more information please contact www.pimatucsonwomen.org or 624-8318.



Tucson High youth joined more than 60 volunteers for Beat Back Buffelgrass and Cleanup Day with Ward 1. More than 1500 buffelgrass and tons of trash filled 150 huge garbage bags along Mission Road.

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IN THE COMMUNITY

Chávez March & Rally- A Call to Action for Education

On Saturday, March 28, hundreds of people honored a true leader by participating in the 9th Annual César E. Chávez March & Rally.

Vice Mayor Romero and other civic leaders kicked off the event. Leaders recalled past civil rights struggles, and noted there is much work to still be

done. Xochipilli Centeotl, an indigenous ceremonial dance group, led the marchers as they made their way from Pueblo High School to Rudy García Park. Young and old carried signs praising Chávez and calling the ceasing of horrific cuts to state education funding.

Once at the park, Richard Chávez and longtime local civil rights activist Betita Martinez spoke about the importance of education. Information tables from local social justice and educational organizations were on hand to promote their programs. Los Gallegos played as people danced in the warm spring sun.



Vice Mayor Romero with Richard Chavez at the César Chávez March & Rally.



Party on the Westside! Fiesta Grande Street Fair

Last weekend's Fiesta Grande kept Grande Avenue from Speedway to St. Mary's closed to traffic and open for fun as friends and families gathered to celebrate and have a good time.

This year a petition to save Rio Nuevo funds got the attention of residents from all over

the city. The Friends of Tucson's Birthplace collected 750 signatures to send to Arizona Legislators to secure funds for the 1999 voter-approved Tucson Origins Heritage Park, which recreates Tucson's history and culture.

Live music kept

everyone moving to the beat and the Grande Avenue restaurants and local food vendors offered their specialties, keeping the crowds coming back for chili dogs, burritos and roasted corn.

Thank you to all the volunteers who made Fiesta Grande a success.



Richard Kessler, ENA President and Corky Poster, Director of Drachman Institute.

Future Bright in Elvira Neighborhood

Recently the Elvira neighborhood received a Drachman Institute planning grant. Graduate students from the Institute worked with the neighborhood to create a neighborhood master plan that included beautification and infrastructure improvements.

Elvira neighborhood master plan includes a park, street lights, child-friendly sidewalks, traffic mitigation, native trees, flood control, bicycle and walking paths, and a community peace garden. Thank you Drachman Institute & students for your efforts.

Partnership Brings New Park

Vice Mayor Romero will celebrate the opening of St. John's Park in a formal ribbon cutting ceremony on May 20 at 2 pm. An underused field at St. John's Catholic Church has been repurposed as a neighborhood park. The park is a collaboration of St. John's Church and the City of Tucson and will bring the neighborhood families a new place to play and picnic.

PCC Community Day One Stop for Info

Pima Community College Desert Vista Campus will hold a free Community Day May 2 from 12-5 pm. The event is free and open to the public. Community Day seeks to educate the public to provide information on a variety of topics. (continued on page 4)

IN ACTION

Vice Mayor Romero Pushes to Improve Transportation

Vice Mayor Romero continues to champion finding common sense solutions to transportation challenges in our city. She has been working with the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) to identify projects to improve choices. The following projects are already underway or completed:

- Silverbell Road from Ironwood Hills Road to the city limits (applications for Task Force soon!)
- 22nd Street from I-10 to Tucson Boulevard
- Downtown Links roadway related neighborhood enhancements—lights, art, paths
- Mission/Starr Pass intersection improvement
- St. Mary's/Silverbell intersection improvement
- Drexel/Liberty HAWK signal installation
- Grande/St. Clair HAWK signal installation
- 12th Avenue/Alvord HAWK signal installation
- Railroad crossing safety improvements in Downtown
- El Paso & Southwestern Greenway (a 6 mile trail from St. Mary's and I-10 to TEP Ballpark)



Horses are still used for transportation along the Santa Cruz River. Ward 1 is working with the owners of Downtown's Corrales Menlo, located on Grande just south of Congress, to maintain access for this Westside cultural tradition.

Vice Mayor Romero has also identified other projects that would greatly improve accessibility for Ward I:

- Improving congestion at Irvington Road near I-19 (Join us May 21 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. for an Open House at the PCC Desert Vista Campus, Ocotillo Room)
- Improving sight visibility along La Cholla Boulevard near Cholla High School
- Completing the river park system along the Santa Cruz River from the Rillito River to Grant Road and from 29th Street to Ajo Way
- Transit service along Greasewood Road from Pima Community College West Campus to Cholla High School
- Transit service along Anklam Road and Starr Pass Boulevard to the JW Marriot Starr Pass resort



Vice Mayor Romero at Public Safety Town Hall.

Public Safety Town Hall Spurs Dialogue on Police

On January 17th Vice Mayor Romero hosted the first of her four annual Town Halls and Cafecitos. The topic was Public Safety and it was held at the El Pueblo Senior Center with more than 100 attendees. The panel included Attorney General Terry Goddard, Assistant City Manager Richard Miranda, TPD Chief Kermit Miller, TFD Chief Patrick Kelly, and other government and public safety representatives. Vice Mayor Romero has consistently supported a designated revenue stream for public safety. Would you vote to

create a designated funding source for police and fire? Contact us with your thoughts at ward1@tucsonaz.gov or 791-4040.

2nd Town Hall and Cafecito with Vice Mayor Romero May 27th

Vice Mayor Romero invites you to meet your neighbors and learn more about the budget at the 2nd of four annual Town Hall and Cafecitos with Vice Mayor Romero. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, May 27, Wednesday, July 29 and Wednesday October 28 at 5:30 pm at the City of Tucson Community Resource Building located at 310 N. Commerce Park Loop, Sentinel Building (on the West side of I-10, off Bonita Avenue, between St. Mary's Road and Congress Street). Refreshments will be served. For more information please contact the Ward I Council Office at 791-4040.

Darlane 'Lane' Santa Cruz

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Ward I Word Search

Vice Mayor Romero has four Council Aides who are assigned to different neighborhoods in the Ward. The phrases listed below are segments of the community that Council Aide Lane Santa Cruz represents. Find the phrases hidden in the word search.

- CITYTEAMSOUTH EDUCATION ELVIRA
 KIDCO LANE MIDVALEPARK
 REGINAROMERO ROSE SENIORS
 SNAPP SUNNYSIDE SUNSETVILLA WOMEN**

Social Work in the Council Office



Toni Lopez, Ward I Council Office Intern.

As a graduate social work intern, I wondered what my professor had in mind when she recommended the Ward 1 Council office. How does the City Council have anything to do with social work? After three months on the job, I have realized that social work and Vice Mayor Romero’s work have everything to do with one another.

The International Federation of Social Workers (2000) defines social work as a profession “that promotes social change, problem solving in human relationships and the empowerment and liberation of people to enhance well-being. Social work intervenes at the points where people interact with their environments.”

Vice Mayor Romero’s goals to secure funds for neighborhoods, have safe and secure streets, and invest in seniors, children, and families each fit within the definition of social work. The Vice Mayor and her staff carry out these goals everyday. The staff employ a strong social work ethic: to enhance the welfare of people.

Through their work, they have taught me how decisions made at the government level affect every single one of us as individuals. When our neighborhoods are safe, our children are free to learn and play. With human service programs in place, our families and seniors can access important resources. Like true social workers, Vice Mayor Romero and her staff ensure our well-being with every decision they make.

PCC Community Day (Continued from page 2)

Workshops will include:

- Admission to PCC
- Foreclosures
- Elder Care
- Financial Literacy
- Job Training.

For more information please contact Matt Matera, PCC Student Life Program Coordinator at 206-5026, mmatera@pima.edu .



City Councilors Nina Trasoff and Karin Uhlich and Vice Mayor Romero believe teamwork is the key to getting things done.