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WARD 2

June 20, 2014

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PAUL'S NOTE

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- * Save-A-Life classes to include low cost CPR class and pet CPR, See page 3

This week, Mayor and Council delved into the thorny issue of how to deal with state mandated changes to how the city can collect sales taxes. I voted against the solution presented by staff, but I wanted to explain to all of you what is going on.

First off, what you and I call sales tax is officially called the Transaction Privilege Tax or TPT. The congress passed a bill called the Marketplace Fairness Act that required the states to streamline their collection of taxes like the TPT. What the governor and the legislature came up with was called HB 2111, and it was passed last year.

There were many problems with HB 2111. Our lobbyists and the League of Cities and Towns were among those who got the legislature to fix some of the troubles with it, but the law still has some serious flaws that need to be revisited.

Under the old system, there were what were called programmed cities. These cities, mostly small-

er communities, had the state collect and audit their share of the TPT. Non-program cities, such as Tucson, collected their own revenue. Under the new law, that will be handled by the state for all cities. Essentially, the state collects the TPT and periodically writes the city a check.

The city opposed the bill because this removes a great deal of control over our own revenue. There is also a question about how the state is going to implement this new system. Our states largest cities, Phoenix, Tucson and Mesa among others, are now added to the Department of Revenue's portfolio (tripling the amount that they are collecting) with little extra resources to cover the personnel and technology to implement the system. It is worth remembering that DOR was particularly hard hit by layoffs during our most recent budget troubles.

The law includes a change in the way contractors are taxed. Tucson is not hit as hard by this change as

some other cities, but it still will result in a loss of \$1.6 million. The bureaucratic changes that will have to be made in a hurry, this is going to have to be ready by January, leave many in the city wondering if the state will be able to get us our money in time to meet our budget requirements. Plus, our finance department isn't clear yet on how they will be allowed to oversee how this works.

On top of that is the nagging fear I have of how future legislators will use the fact that this money will sit with the state for a time before we get it back to our community. The habit of "sweeping" funds and using them for other purposes, like what's gone on with gas tax revenue, gives me worries.

There isn't a whole lot we can do about most of this, but that \$1.6 million can be made up for with a state-authorized annual municipal tax license fee of up to \$50 charged to local businesses. Several cities in Maricopa County have implemented this for the

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full \$50.

City staff recommended that we pass smaller fee of \$20. I voted against it. Yes, it isn't as high as some other cities in the state are doing, but I thought charging businesses \$20 to, in essence, collect taxes for us is a bad message to send.

It passed anyway, and I don't fault by colleagues for voting for it. The legislature, once again, has left us with a bad set of choices.

FIREWORKS AND SOCCER

Head to Kino Sports Complex on the Fourth of July for fireworks and catch soccer fever!

Watch FC Tucson take on Albuquerque Sol FC and get a glimpse of what makes our local soccer team the top team in the Mountain Division and Premier Development League nationwide.

The match will kick off at 7:30 p.m. The 4th of July Blast presented by CenturyLink is scheduled to begin roughly 30 minutes after the game concludes.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

The Tucson/Pima County Household Hazardous Waste Program has changed the 2nd Saturday Outreach Collection to a "mobile" event. Every month, the collection event will be in a different neighborhood so that more Tucsonans will have easy access to the program. The 1st Saturday collection at the Eastside Service Center, 7575 E Speedway, will still continue. The collections run from 8 am to noon. For more information, visit www.tucsonaz.gov/hhw or call 888-6947

IMPORTANT: Do not drop off household hazardous waste at the Ward 2 Council Office. We have no way of storing it. Please wait until a scheduled monthly drop off.

1st Saturday: Eastside Service Center, 7575 E Speedway. Enter site by turning north on Prudence.

2nd Saturday: June: Clements Regional Center, 8155 E Poinciana Dr.

HOUGHTON ROAD UPDATE

Broadway Intersection Improvements: Intersection work started November 1, 2013, and was originally anticipated to wrap up in June 2014, but is now expected to be substantially complete in July 2014. Final wrap-up is expected in August 2014.

The Park & Ride facility will start at the end of this month, when you see the construction trailer near the banks (north west side of intersection) moved, you will know construction is starting here. This work should be completed within 4 months or less.

The Broadway to 22nd segment utility relocation is in progress, and full construction is anticipated start in July or August and this should be an 18 month construction process.

The two entrances to Safeway off of Broadway will be closed, one at a time, once the sewer work is approved (see below). The entrance to the dry cleaners will be closed periodically during the day to install a storm drain. There are other entrances available, and we encourage you to continue to patronize your local businesses.

We are in the process of shifting traffic over off Broadway east of Houghton. During this shift we will periodically have the left lane closed what a storm drain is installed. You will be allowed to turn left, but it will be from the trough lane, and traffic might be backed up a little during this short time.

Water line work is completed. The new sewer installation is completed, and we continue to wait the final approval from the Wastewater Department. All the paperwork is submitted, and once it is approved we will remove the old sewer lines and close up the area. Storm drain and catch basin work is ongoing in areas where traffic is not traveling. We have five additional catch basins to complete, as well as a few additional storm drains. We are waiting on the completion of the sewer work to install a precast box culvert.

Landscape irrigation is ongoing.

Street light pole installation is on hold, pending some work by Tucson Electric Power.

Broadway Boulevard to 22nd Street: Utility relocations are in progress. Team Fischel is relocating for Southwest Gas, and they are about 50% complete.

Tucson Electric Power and TriCon are relocating for TEP. They are 100% complete on their transmission line relocations, 70% complete on the distribution lines, and haven't started on their underground work yet.

Kleven is relocating for CenturyLink. They are about 95% complete.

All barricading for utility relocations has been coordinated with our contractor, Borderland Construction, to keep traffic moving smoothly and with the least amount of confusion possible. We have asked utilities to be diligent with their dust control, and keeping their sites clean.

SAVE A LIFE

The Ward 2 office continues to host Save-A-Life CPR and first aid classes. The classes cost \$50. To register, call Save-A-Life at 623-8484

June 30, 12 pm—5 pm

July 14, 12 pm—5 pm

August 19, 12 pm—5 pm

Special July Class

On July 19, Save-A-Life will host a special community CPR and pet CPR class for only \$15.

UDALL SENIOR CENTER

The Eastside Senior Club will host its annual Red, White and Blue event on Wednesday, July 2nd. The event will include hamburgers, games and prizes.

The Carol West Senior Addition will host a Movie Matinee on Thursday, June 19th at 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$1.00 and space is limited.

Seniors will have an opportunity to participate in a trip to Mt. Lemmon on Thursday, June 26th. Departure from the Udall Center is 9:30 a.m. and return is at 3:00 p.m. The cost is \$6.00. Space is limited.

For more information or to sign up for any of the senior activities, contact the Carol West Senior Addition, 791-4121.

PARKS PROGRAMS

2014 Summer Track and Field Road Races: The Parks and Recreation Department will host the annual Summer Track and Field and Road Races through June and July. Track and Field is every Tuesday, June 3 through July 15. The Track and Field events take place at the Drachman Stadium located at 501 S. Plummer Avenue. Registration begins at 5:45 p.m. and events start at 6:30 p.m.

Road Races are every Thursday, June 5 through July 15. The Road Races take place at various locations. Registrations begins at 5:45 p.m. with races starting at 6:30 p.m.

The cost for the events are \$3.00 for youth ages 17 and under, and \$4.00 for adults. Ribbons will be given to the top finishers.

For additional information call the Sports Unit at 791-4870.

SAACA and Cox Communications Movies in the Park: The Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliance (SAACA) and Cox Communications will host Movies in the Park at Reid Park (900 S. Randolph Way) throughout the summer. The events will include fun and games for the entire family including food vendors, live music, jumping castles, balloon twisters, arts and crafts, non-profit exhibits and more. Free admission and all movies begin at dusk (approximately 7:00 p.m. or 7:30 p.m.). Attached is the flyer with additional information or call 797-3959. You may also visit http://www.saaca.org/Cox_Movies_in_the_Park.php

Tucson Pops: The Tucson POPS concert series are also winding down and the last concert will take place on June 15 at the DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center in Reid Park. The concert will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Udall Field Closures: The Udall Soccer fields are closed for annual maintenance beginning through June 19. We thank the public for their patience during this time.

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Remember to like
Paul on Facebook!

Please bring these items to the Ward 2 Office
for the following charities:

**THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK—Non Perishable
Items**

**DIAPER BANK OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA—
Infant/Child/Adult Diapers**

**TIHAN - Personal Care Items for Individuals
and Families in Need**

LIONS CLUB—Eye Glasses

**DANCING IN THE STREETS ARIZONA—Ballet/
Dance Equipment**

CASA MARIA—Plastic bags

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The next Mayor and Council meeting will be on Tuesday, July 8. Regular Session starts at 5:30 pm following an afternoon study session. There is always a short call to the audience before the business portion of the meeting. Council chambers are located downtown at 255 W Alameda.

The agendas for the meetings are posted online at <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/clerks/mcdocs>

