



# PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

Sept 16, 2016

**WARD 2 COUNCIL OFFICE  
7575 E SPEEDWAY  
791-4687  
WARD2@TUCSONAZ.GOV**

## PAUL'S NOTE

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Vaccine clinic	3
Candidate Forum	3
Parks Programs	4
What to Drop Off	5

As I sit writing this week, I know people have questions about bus fares. Probably one of the toughest tasks we have as a council is setting forth transit policy. Most people are not in the weeds when it comes to transit policy, I often get a look of bewilderment when I inform a constituent the bus system is subsidized by the general fund. In other words, every time we invest into public transit, it competes for money with Parks & Recreation, Roads, Police, Fire, economic development and human services. A general misconception is that the transit system pays for itself, unfortunately it does not, far from it, in fact, the city invested over 44 million dollars

from the general fund into transit last year. Transit is not limited to the bus system, after expenses that include paratransit for the disabled (SunVan), the bus (SunTran) and the modern streetcar (SunLink), the total expenditure is over 90 million dollars.

When we adopted our budget in June we programmed in a fare increase to the bus to meet our expenditures for this fiscal year. Every department made cuts and sacrifices and explored more revenue streams, transit was included in this process. We are going to be discussing bus fares at our meeting this Tuesday. I've got a proposal on the table, but I wanted to let you know a bit

about the thinking behind it.

We are the only city in the entire country with a low income fare. In fact, we have the lowest price paid for boarding in the country. The national average is about 1.21, the average for cities like Tucson is 89 cents. The average for Tucson is 61 cents. People who pay 15 dollars a month pay as low as 16 cents a boarding which isn't even enough to cover 5% of the ride. We need to continue to make the bus accessible to lower income riders, but we also need to keep our system economically viable.

I also want a fare structure that is understandable and balanced. My fare

## PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED

plan would, for the first time, tie all the fares together by making them multiples of the base fare. That means that should there need to be an increase in the future, the increase would be spread across all riders without the usual pitting of one group against another.

So, what is it that I am asking for, exactly?

First of all, I don't raise the base fare, at least not initially. It will remain at \$1.50 until 2018. That base fare will be for those who pay through stored value cards. I do raise, however, the cash fare paid for one time riders to \$1.75. The economy fare would be \$.60, up a dime from \$.50. The various other fares, including express, SunVan and college passes would all be calculated as a result of the base fare.

I phase in the increases over two years. Although my proposal generates almost \$180,000 more in revenue in 2017 than the City Manager's plan, after 2018 the two plans are nearly identical. It is important to me that the increases be phased in so that people that have to use the bus can have time to budget accordingly.

I didn't make up this fare proposal on a whim. I met with over 50 bus riders and discussed possible options. I took parts of the City Manager's plan, the Mayor's and the recommendations of the Transit Task Force. I personally conducted a study comparing our fare schedule with peer cities and cross indexed them with nation reports available at The National Transit Database (NTD). I feel this course of action is the most fair and equitable way to handle this issue. I know that it makes a bad soundbite to raise the low income fare, but most people don't know we are the only system that has one. Most people don't know we collect a substantially lower amount than the National Average, and most people don't know that unlike other cities, we have only raised the fare once in the past 14 years.

I have gotten a great deal of feedback from you over the last couple of weeks, and I am happy to hear more.



***Rose Mofford***

***1922—2016***



## VACCINATION CLINIC

The Southern Arizona Humane Society and I are sponsoring a vaccination clinic for dogs at the Ward 2 office (7575 E Speedway) on September 17 from 8 am – 10 am. Dogs will receive a free rabies vaccine, and distemper/parvo vaccinations will be available for \$12. This is a dog only vaccination event, and dogs must be three months or older to receive a rabies vaccine.



There will be a 150 dog limit and be ready to wait in line with your dog. For more information, call the Humane Society of Southern Arizona at 881-0321.

## CANDIDATE FORUM

Among the offices elected this year will be the County's Superintendent of Public Instruction. A lot of people don't know much about what the office does, but the person in that office has an important role in supporting our county's school districts.

The Metropolitan Education Commission and the League of Women Voters are sponsoring a candidates forum with the two nominees for superintendent. It will be next Wednesday, September 21 from 6 pm – 7:30 pm at Pima College Downtown Campus (1255 N Stone Ave) in the Amethyst Room.

The Pima County Superintendent of Schools Candidates Forum is an opportunity for the community to listen to and ask questions of the two candidates for the Pima County Superintendent of Schools position. The Forum is open to the public.

Other organizations helping to host the event are: Arizona School Administrators Association, Arizona School Boards Association, Southern Arizona Leadership Council, Tucson Education Association, Tucson Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and the Youth Advisory Council/ Tucson Teen Congress of the MEC.

## CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

**Health and Wellness Fair:** The Health and Wellness Fair will be on Thursday, September 29 from 11 am to 1 pm. There will be vendors, presentations, raffle, prizes and more.

**Fall Potluck:** Fall potluck on Wednesday, September 21 at 11:30 am. Cost is \$1.00 per person. Sign ups for activity are taken at center front desk.

*Please contact the Carol West Senior Addition, 791-4121 for questions.*

---

## PARKS PROGRAMS

**Fall Program Guide and Parks and Recreation Leisure Classes:** The Tucson Parks and Recreation Fall Program Guide has been published, and registrations have started. The Fall Leisure classes for Session I will run until October 15. Session II of classes will run October 23-December 10. For class and program availability, call Registration Services at 791-4877. Visit [www.ezeereg.com](http://www.ezeereg.com) for additional information.

**City Softball:** The City Softball League season begins August 15. Walk-in registrations are currently taking place at the Sports Unit located at 8155 E Poinciana Drive. Registration ends August 5.

**The Arizona Symphonic WINDS- Concerts:** The WINDS concert series will take place at the Lazslo Veres Amphitheater in Udall Park (7200 E Tanque Verde Rd) on September 17, 24, and October 1, and from 7 pm to 9 pm. Please bring a chair or blanket. For more information visit: <http://azwinds.com/>

*Call 791-4877 for more information or questions.*

---

**PAUL CUNNINGHAM,  
CITY COUNCIL, WARD 2**

Eastside City Hall  
7575 E Speedway  
Tucson AZ 85710

Phone: 520 791 4687  
Fax: 520 791 5380  
E-mail: ward2@tucsonaz.gov

Tucsonaz.gov/  
ward2

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, September 20**. 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>

