

City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 7

January 2016

Dear Friends:

I hope this first month of the New Year has been a good one so far for everyone.

The work continues for your Ward 5 Council Member and staff to make our Ward and City a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Since I last wrote, the Mayor and Council, and the City Manager have had discussions about next year's budget.

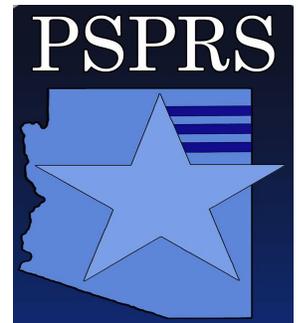
I want to thank City Manager Michael Ortega for beginning the discussions in December, so that the Mayor and Council can review the situation and potential options and make the decisions needed to deal with the projected budget deficit and go forward for our community.

Some people have said that the City is insolvent, that it will file for bankruptcy. Tucson City Manager Michael Ortega has said the City is not bankrupt or insolvent. The Mayor and Council will need to take actions to balance the upcoming budget and make the structural changes needed to proceed forward for our community.



Since I began my service as your Ward 5 Council Member, I have not seen a budget that didn't have a projected deficit. For the last two years alone, the majority of the budget deficit has been a result of the Public Safety Personnel Retirement System (PSPRS) and the contribution rate the City has had to provide to it.

PSPRS is overseen by the Arizona Legislature and the pension contribution rates by towns and cities in Arizona were changed as well by the Legislature in 2012. Lawsuits were filed against the Legislature and were successful. Cities and towns had to pay more in funding to PSPRS. Tucson had to pay an additional \$18 million this fiscal year and will have to pay an additional \$27.3 million in the upcoming Fiscal Year and if the third lawsuit that was filed is resolved, more than \$30 million for the following Fiscal Year.



Richard Fimbres
Council Member
Ward 5

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The Mayor and Council have dealt with budget deficits and are prepared to take action to deal with the projected budget deficit for Fiscal Year '17 and to make the changes as needed.

But there is a light at the end of the tunnel, an article in January 12, 2016 edition of Inside Tucson Business stated that businesses are cautiously optimistic for the New Year. We have worked hard to continue the renaissance of Ward 5 and the South side with progress on the construction for businesses and new stores opening their doors.

The opening and expansion of businesses, jobs being created gives Ward 5 more opportunities in terms of living, working and raising a family. All this generates sales taxes and revenues that go to the city to provide the core services families and neighborhoods expect and need.

Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild has referred to Ward 5 "as the economic hub for the City." It is something we work hard for and continue to do so in 2016 and will see growth with the CenturyMark 14 Theatre (60 jobs), Fed-Ex Ground (160 jobs), Creative Machines (35 jobs) and the HomeGoods Distribution Center (910 jobs at capacity), Lands Buffet (50 jobs) and Dave and Buster's (75 jobs), to name the most recent six that will open their doors this year in Ward 5 and were featured in the Mayor's Two-Year Progress Report.



Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard G. Fimbres".

Richard G. Fimbres
Your Ward 5 Council Member

City Sees Significant Growth in PCard Program

The City of Tucson recently received a rebate of more than \$849,000 for its participation in the JP Morgan purchasing card (PCard) program. The PCard program allows the City to purchase items under \$10,000 through a credit card instead of the traditional purchasing process of issuing a check. The City receives a percentage of total spending as a rebate at the end of the year. The rebate contributes to the City's General Fund, which is used for public safety, parks, and other services.

The City has greatly expanded its use of the PCard since its implementation and extended the use of the PCard



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program contract to other public sector groups. The 2015 PCard rebate represents an increase of more than \$500,000 over the rebate the City received in 2011. Ward 5 Councilmember Richard Fimbres has asked for updates on this program since 2011.

In the past four years, the City has more than doubled the amount of money spent on goods and services through the PCard program, from \$28.0 million to \$60.7 million in 2015. According to a J.P. Morgan study, the PCard transaction process costs \$20 per each transaction while the traditional process of issuing a check costs \$92 per each transaction.

"I am proud to say that my Chief of Staff Mark Kerr and I have led the charge to get all City departments and its partners to utilize this program," said Council Member Richard Fimbres. "The PCard program allows the City of Tucson to spend its limited dollars more efficiently. I want to thank Procurement Director Marcheta Gillespie and PCard Coordinator Marie Sena for their work on the program, as well as City staff working to further implement the PCard program and saving tax payer dollars."

The implementation of the PCard program has reduced the need for the City to write checks by 75 percent. The City of Tucson had over 66,000 transactions in 2015, for which the cost savings from last year was more than \$4.5 million.

Welcome Creative Machines to Ward 5!

At the January 5, Mayor and Council meeting, the first incentive in the Global Economic Development District (GEDD) was approved for Creative Machines. Creative Machines will be moving into a bigger, 65,000-square-foot space at 4141 E. Irvington Road, east of South Alvernon Way, formerly Southwest Fiberglass, located in Ward 5.

The company "designs and fabricates sculptures and interactive museum exhibits for clients all over the world," owner and president Joe O'Connell said at the Mayor and Council meeting, adding "We currently have to turn away work because we don't have enough space to make everything." Creative Machines bought a bank-owned building for \$1.56 million and plans to spend \$850,000 to repair and improve it.

They applied for a waiver of the \$10,000 city permit fee under the Global Economic Development District incentive program, which was meant to attract small factories to the airport area and interstate corridors who do business internationally.

Creative Machines plans to use this GEDD incentive for job training for employees to build a better business. Creative Machines has 29 employees and will be hiring up to ten more people. The jobs pay \$35,000 to \$72,000 a year.



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Creative Machines will activate an empty building, adding jobs for engineers, artists and fabricators. I met with the company leaders and was impressed with their internships and mentoring opportunities. They do business all over the world and this is a promising venture.

HomeGoods Distribution Center and Fed-Ex Ground Hub Updates

Construction continues on both the HomeGoods Distribution Center and the Fed-Ex Ground Hub, both located in Ward 5 on Corona Road, between South Alvernon Way and Country Club.

The HomeGoods Distribution Center is a \$75 million dollar project being built on 100 acres. When completed this facility will distribute HomeGoods products to their stores across the Western United States and will employ 910 people. This Distribution Center was relocated from California and is a win for Ward 5 and Tucson.



The Fed-Ed Ground Hub is a \$20 million dollar project and will employ a total of 200 people, an expansion of the workforce by 160. This is part of Fed-Ex's investment for more than 70 expansion projects. Tucson's new Ground Hub will help accelerate FedEx Ground delivery by one day or more.



Bridges Project Update

I want to welcome the new Verizon Wireless store and the Starbucks Coffee location to the Tucson Marketplace at the Bridges and Ward 5. More than 20 jobs were created by the new Verizon and 35 for the Starbucks Coffee location. This is putting people back to work. The construction for the CenturyMark 14 Theatre is ongoing and will hire more than 60 people when the doors open. Recently, it was announced that a Dave & Buster's will start construction this year, hiring more than 50 when completed, as well as Lin's Grand Buffet, with 30 new jobs at the Bridges. It is great to hear of new businesses coming into the Bridges and in Ward 5.



Tucson Homelessness

For the past several months, I have been chairing meetings of a task force, consisting of officials from the Mayor's Office, the City Manager's Office, the Ward 1, 3 and 6 Council offices, Pima County government, Cenpatico, the new RHB, the Diocese and the Bishop, the Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness, the business community, non-profit service providers, the faith based community, concerned citizens and members of the homeless/houseless community. In these meetings we've gotten a consensus about the complexity of the problem.

This group is working to break down the complex problem into workable parts: coordination of feeding sites, coordinated efforts for intake and communication, downtown restroom facilities, de-

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veloping more low barrier shelter options and figuring out alternative solutions in regard to criminal justice.

The meetings have been participatory and that the general feeling of those taking part, is that progress is being made. I want to thank Matt Pate, who is working as an Intern at the Ward 5 office for his work, exhaustive research and knowledge of the issues at hand. Matt currently is working for his Master's Degree at the ASU School of Social Work and also works for COPE Community Services. Matt's work has been instrumental on this, and has helped to get this effort to the point of where it is at.

I want to thank Vice Mayor Karin Uhlich and Councilmember Regina Romero for their participation and support. I also want to thank former Deputy City Manager Martha Durkin, for her work and support on this effort. As well as City of Tucson Housing and Community Development Director Sally Stang for her efforts. I also want to thank Karla Avalos with the Mayor's Office and Brianda Torres from the Ward 3 Council Office for their work on this.

I also want to thank Dr. Francisco Garcia, the Director of the Pima County Health Department, Linda Leatherman Efrain Romero and Pam Moseley with Pima County for their efforts with this. I also want to thank Tom Litwicki, the CEO of Old Pueblo Community Services and Cliff Wade of Old Pueblo for their work and support. I want to also thank Brother David for his contributions to the Task Force and his commitment of services to those in need.

Sonoran Corridor Update

The Sonoran Corridor is a multilevel, multistep, multiyear economic development initiative and is located in Ward 5.

The Corridor is best described as an area surrounding the Tucson International Airport that includes some of the region's largest employers, among them Raytheon Missile Systems, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Tucson International Airport and the University of Arizona Tech Park.



Tucson's Mayor and Council approved the annexation agreement with the Tucson International Airport, which helped to provide a buffer of land so Raytheon has the potential to expand its operations. The Mayor and Council also approved the changes to the Major Streets and Routes Plan for Aerospace Parkway. Recently, the Mayor and Council approved an agreement to allow Tucson Water to expand their Santa Cruz treatment facility, to begin the process of constructing the infrastructure for future expansion in the area. The Mayor and Council gave a unanimous vote on all three of the motions I made for these.

The Sonoran Corridor will be an economic driver for Ward 5, Tucson, Pima County and Southern Arizona and the City of Tucson is playing its part to help to create a region.

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City Charter Review Committee Update

In the November general election, the voters of Tucson approved two charter measures, giving the Mayor a full voice and vote and having City Department Directors serving "at will." I want to again, thanks the good citizens of Tucson for approving these proposals. With the successful vote, the City of Tucson Charter Review Citizens Advisory Committee are meeting again and discussing potential measures to bring forward for Mayor and Council consideration. The committee is to complete their next phase of work by April.



Potential City Special Election

With the City Charter Review Committee currently meeting and the Mayor and Council having budgetary discussions, the potential of a special election to be held by the City of Tucson this year is potentially increasing.

In 2015, the four incumbents were reelected as well as the two Charter ballot measures were approved. Voters in 2012 had approved Proposition 409, the road repair bond measure. There are needs pending for the City's core services: police, streets, fire and parks. Thanks to the votes of Tucson residents, we are able to repair more streets thanks to Proposition 409 and stretch the bond funding further to work on other streets too.



There will be polling conducted to gauge the support or opposition for potential financial measures for parks, transportation, police and fire. I want to hear from Ward 5 constituents on this, whether they are supportive or not and why. You can call the Ward 5 office at 791-4231, or send an Email to ward5@tucsonaz.gov, subject line "Potential City Election. So please let me know what you want to see for our community.

Welcome Chief Magnus!

Chris Magnus is now on Board as the Chief of the Tucson Police Department (TPD) and has been meeting staff and speaking with reporters. The former police chief of Richmond, California has been booked with meetings, reaching out to community and neighborhood leaders and has already begun meeting his command staff, officers, and the community to learn more about Tucson. Our new Police Chief said that once he learns about the department's strengths, resources and challenges, he will be in a stronger position to set priorities, establish goals and address needs. We welcome Chief Magnus and look forward to working with him.



Welcome Director Thomure!

Following a national recruitment and competitive selection process, City Manager Michael Ortega chose Timothy Thomure as the next director of Tucson Water, effective Feb. 15. Thomure is a water professional with 21 years of experience in the public sector, private industry, and consulting. He

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comes to the City from HDR Engineering, Inc., where he has worked since 2007 as an area water operations manager and water reuse practice lead. During a previous stint at Tucson Water, Thomure played a key role in the Clearwater Program and the planning, design, and construction of the Central Arizona Project recharge and recovery infrastructure. I would like to congratulate Director Thomure on the new position. We look forward to working with you!

Avra Valley Solar Facility Naming for Former Ward 5 Council Member

In 2009, former Ward 5 Council Member Steve Leal suggested to Tucson Water to have their plant located in Avra Valley install a solar power generating facility, which has helped to save electrical costs for the plants operations. On February 9, the Mayor and Council will consider a measure to name the Solar Array after the former Council Member for this, which has helped to save taxpayer dollars in the cost of providing the power to the Avra Valley water plant.



Announcements

The Gem Show is Here!

Download the Official Tucson Gem Show Guide app for iOS and Android. The new app has everything you need to know about all 45 shows that take place Jan. 30-Feb 14. You can find expanded show listings, dining options, shuttle, parking and streetcar information, and maps to help maximize your experience. Tucson's Gem, Mineral & Fossil Showcase is the world's largest event of its kind.

Also during this year's Gem and Mineral Show, Sun Link and the City of Tucson offer the GoTucson mobile app, allowing Gem Show attendees the option to purchase SunGO passes to pay for transit and pay for any Park Tucson meter parking fees with their smartphone devices. Sun Link provides an ideal transit option for Gem Show vendors and customers, as multiple Gem Show events will take place near the streetcar route, and offers a convenient way to explore Tucson's entertainment districts.



Sun Link connects riders to five unique districts along its 3.9-mile route: the University of Arizona, Main Gate Square, 4th Avenue, Downtown and Mercado San Agustin. Convenient stops allow riders to visit more than 150 shops, 100 eateries, 30 plus bars and clubs, and more than 30 museums and galleries. Gem Show attendees can park once and not worry about finding parking again while Sun Link takes them where they want to go.

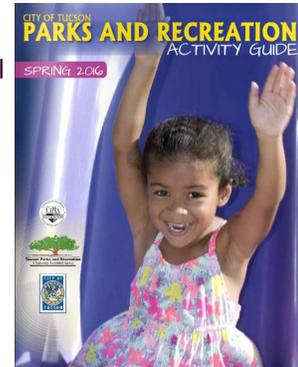
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To learn more and download the free mobile app visit www.gotucsonapp.com. For additional Sun Link information and for trip planning assistance, call the Customer Service Center at (520) 792-9222 (TDD: 520-628-1565).

App information and download links: <http://bit.ly/1OPucXB>
Tucson Gem, Mineral & Fossil Showcase: <http://bit.ly/1ldOWP8>

Parks and Recreation Spring Activity Guide Available Now!

Tucson Parks and Recreation's Activity Guide for spring 2016 is available at all Parks and Recreation facilities, including district offices, centers and pools. Copies also will be available at the Family Festival in the Park event on Saturday, Nov. 21, at Reid Park, or can be viewed online at the link below. The Activity Guide contains information on leisure classes, KIDCO, aquatics, sports programs, registration and the Discount Program. Registration will open this Saturday for City residents and next Monday for non-City residents.



View guide and register for classes: <http://bit.ly/1u7q4db>

Parks and Recreation Offer Discounts

City of Tucson Parks and Recreation offers discounts that allow low-income residents to pay a 50 percent discounted fee for KIDCO, Jr. Leadership, In-Betweeners, Learn-to-Swim, and therapeutic programs. There also is a 25 percent discount for annual/quarterly passes at recreation centers and for a Senior Activity Card. To qualify for the discounts, you must be a City of Tucson resident, provide identification, household size, address verification, and be able to prove your income falls within the discount guidelines. You can apply at any Parks and Recreation office. For more details on the requirements for the discounts, call Registration Services at (520) 791-4877.

Parks and Recreation discounts: <http://1.usa.gov/1D6qPCu>
Parks and Recreation website: <http://1.usa.gov/1ua6RJt>

Rodeo Camp at Reid Park Zoo

Are you looking for something for your children to do over next month's Rodeo break? Reid Park Zoo is offering a two-day camp (Feb. 25-26) for kids in grades K-5. Participants will be able to enjoy a couple of days visiting the animals behind the scenes, while also taking part in games and activities. Registration for the fee-based camp is required at the link below.

Reid Park Zoo Rodeo Camp 2016: <http://bit.ly/1WMLzvg>
Reid Park Zoo: <http://bit.ly/1dJgCDh>



Announcements

Watch for Tax Scams

The Tucson Police Department's (TPD) Financial Crimes Unit is offering daily tips on the TPD Facebook page to provide fraud prevention strategies related to taxes. Today's tip is a reminder that the IRS will never call to demand money or threaten arrest. This is a common, nationwide scam that includes Tucson residents among the victims. Scammers often will provide a phony case file number or agent identification number to sound official. The IRS will send letters regarding any tax issues and will not make threatening phone calls. Residents who receive these calls are encouraged to report them to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at the link below.



Report tax scams: <http://1.usa.gov/20pabwo>

Tucson Police Department Facebook page: <http://on.fb.me/1esjxOr>

Adopt a Crosswalk Sign

Perhaps you've seen new signs at some crosswalks that remind motorists to yield to pedestrians. The signs can be placed at marked crosswalks on roadways with speed limits of 25 mph or less in the downtown area. Do you know of a crosswalk that would benefit from a sign? Individuals, businesses, or organizations can "adopt" a crosswalk sign. By adopting the sign, the adopter agrees to pay \$272.50 to have the sign installed at the crosswalk of their choice. The adopting entity also agrees to replace the sign if it becomes damaged. For more information, please contact Diahn.Swartz@tucsonaz.gov or (520) 837-6661.

Educators Can Learn About Recycling

If you teach Grades 1-5 in the City of Tucson, sign up to schedule a free classroom presentation on recycling. If you're a middle school teacher, the Talking Trash in Tucson curriculum is available for download at the link below. The goal of the instruction is to increase participation in recycling in Tucson (Do More Blue) and reduce contamination in the blue barrels. If you'd like more information on either program, please contact the Environmental Education Exchange's Outreach Education Coordinator at outreach@eeexchange.org.



Schedule a classroom presentation/download materials: <http://bit.ly/1MZAIf>

Do More Blue: <http://1.usa.gov/1MRbHkE>

Alvord Court Apartments Now Open!

Community Living for People with Disabilities, 1 and 2 Bedroom Apartments, Monthly Rent \$534.00-\$641.00, Minimum Monthly Income Requirement \$667.50—\$801.25. They are located at 5901 South Park at the southeast corner of Alvord Road and South Park Avenue, south of Drexel. For more information, call 398-5057 or 272-1821.

Announcements

Los Reales Landfill Tour

On Friday, February 12, the City of Tucson Environmental Services Department (ES) is offering a tour of the Los Reales Landfill and the ReCommunity, Inc. Materials Recovery Facility (MRF). Participants will get an exclusive 'behind the scenes' view and learn how ES manages waste diversion in Tucson. Tour participants will also gain an in-depth understanding of how recyclables collected in the blue barrels are sorted and marketed. Tour participants will meet at the Los Reales Landfill at the Administrative Office, back patio at 8:30 a.m. The tour will be complete by 12:00 noon. Those who join the tour should wear long pants, closed-toe shoes, hats and sunscreen. Drinking water will be provided. A minimum of 15 participants is needed. The tour is available on a first come basis. If you don't have any plans, take yourself out for a treat by doing something completely different! To reserve a seat, call City of Tucson Environmental Services at 791-3175 by Friday, February 5.

Congratulations and Thank You!

Ward 5 Holiday Party

I want to thank everyone who came out for the Ward 5 Holiday Party that was held on Monday, December 21. It was great to see Ward 5 neighbors, constituents and friends to celebrate the holidays. I also want to thank Costco and Los Jarritos for their food donations for the event.

26th Annual Pueblo Gardens MLK Breakfast

I want to thank everyone who turned out for the 26th Annual Pueblo Gardens Neighborhood Association Martin Luther King Breakfast held Saturday, January 16, at the Holmes Tuttle Boys and Girls Club. It is the only neighborhood in the City to honor Dr. King's legacy with such an event. I want to congratulate James Christopher and the planning committee for their successful event. More than 300 were in attendance, including Tucson Mayor Jonathan Rothschild and Ward 4 Councilmember Shirley Scott.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way

On Monday, January 18, 8:00 am, Tucson became the 731st location to honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with a street. At the street naming ceremony, Nobel Way at the UA Tech Park at The Bridges was renamed in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

I also want to thank the NAACP for approaching the University with the idea of the renaming of the street for Dr. King and the committee for their work, for which my office was also involved, in which

Congratulations and Thank You!

many meetings were held and their work is culminated by the naming of the street.

The renaming of the street is the first component in the development of the Heritage Path at The Bridges. Following the ceremony, the annual MLK March took place from the U of A Tech Park to Reid Park, where a celebration of Dr. King's life and legacy was held.



Tucson Ranked as City with Active Lifestyle

Tucson is ranked the 7th best city in a WalletHub study of "2016's Best and Worst Cities for an Active Lifestyle." WalletHub's analysts compared the 100 most populated cities based on 24 key metrics to identify those that help their residents stick to their health goals. Items taken into consideration include the average monthly fitness club fee, number of sports clubs per capita, percentage of residents engaging in physical activity, and more. Read the survey: <http://bit.ly/1O71Mbk>





Deadline January 31, 2016!

Reserve your time slot! Visit
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Appointments Strongly Recommended

Certified and Licensed Marketplace Assisters will be able to help you go through your eligibility determination and answer questions about how the Health Insurance Marketplace Open Enrollment works.

You may be eligible for discounts or subsidies. Documents needed are:

- Picture ID
- Social Security Card for all people enrolling
- Proof of income (*Bring either, 2 months most recent pay stubs, 2014 W-2s, or 2013 Tax Return*)
- Enrollment letters for your current coverage (*if you have it*)
- Benefit award letters (*if you receive benefits*)

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Questions? Contact Debra Johnson at (520)903-3950



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

Code Enforcement & Graffiti Removal

792-CITY (2489)

Trash Pick Up & Environmental Services Abandoned Shopping Carts

City of Tucson Environmental Services Department
791-3171

Street Maintenance and Potholes

Tucson Department of Transportation
791-3154

Tucson Water Department

Billing - 791-3242
Public Information - 791-4331

ParkWise

791-5071

Loose or Dead Animals

Pima Animal Care Center
724-5900

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

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

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Community Food Bank

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