

# City of Tucson Ward 5 Newsletter

Tucsonaz.gov/ward-5

July 2020

**Richard Fimbres**  
Councilmember  
Ward 5

**Ward 5 Council  
Office Staff**

**Chief of Staff**  
Mark Kerr

**Council Aide**  
Lupita Robles

**Council Assistant**  
Mary Kuchar

**Office Assistant**  
Gabriel Holguin

## IN THIS ISSUE

Letter from  
Councilmember  
**MaskUp Tucson A Success**  
Capt. John Strader  
Asst. Chief Carla Johnson  
Ward 5 Crime Stats  
6th Avenue & Veterans  
Fill Out Your Census Forms  
Budget Vote  
Tucson Water Low  
Income Assistance Program  
Other Assistance  
Phone Numbers

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

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

WWW.TUCSONAZ.GOV/  
WARD -5

Dear Friends:

According to the Arizona Department of Health Services, there are now more than 163,000 reported positive cases and more than 3,300 deaths, resulting from COVID-19 in Arizona.

The Pima County Health Department has reported more than 15,000 cases and more than 400 deaths, resulting from COVID-19 in Arizona.

Our community and state has seen a spike in the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths.

We are all affected by this virus. We have lost family members, friends and co-workers to COVID-19. Many attended Mother's and Father's Day events, Birthdays, Weddings and other gatherings and got family members sick and some lost their lives.

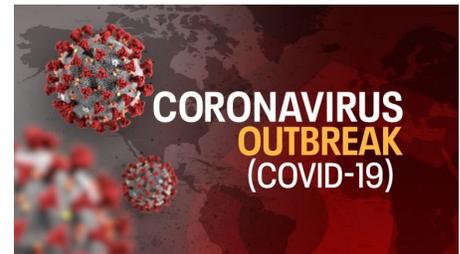
We must take this seriously, so be safe and healthy, practice social distancing. Keep six feet apart in public, thoroughly wash your hands and wear a mask when social distancing can't be practiced.

Many businesses are requiring customers to wear masks in their stores. This is about our lives and protecting our families.

My office has held two events to give out free masks, with the most recent being during Mask-Up Tucson on July 18, where Ward 5 distributed 8,000 masks to the community.

A total of 10,000 masks have been distributed so far and I am in the process of obtaining more masks for our community.

If you need a mask, please call my office at (520) 791-4231. Be safe and healthy!





The 2020 Primary Election will take place Tuesday, August 4. If you have received your ballot in the mail, please fill it out and drop off your ballot. The deadline to send your ballots by mail is Wednesday, July 29, so please call the Pima County Recorder's Office, (520) 724-4330 for information on where to bring your ballot in.



The 2020 General Election will take place Tuesday, November 3. If you have not signed up for the Permanent Early Voting List, you can do so for the upcoming General Election. Go to the Pima County Recorder's website at: <https://www.recorder.pima.gov/BallotByMail> and fill out the form. If you have further questions, please call (520) 724-4330.

Be counted. If you have not filled out your 2020 Census Form, you must do so. Last time, Tucson lost \$64 million in federal funds due to an under count and we can't afford to do that again. For more information, go to [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov).

Be Safe, Be Healthy, Be Heard & Be Counted.

Richard G. Fimbres  
Your Ward 5 Councilmember

### MaskUp Ward 5 A Success!

As stated earlier, on Saturday, July 18, MaskUp Tucson took place where free masks were distributed to Tucsonans.

Ward 5's site was the parking lot at the El Pueblo Senior Center and we distributed the 8,000 masks allotted. Thanks to the work of city staff, my office and volunteers MaskUp Tucson was a success.



I would like to thank the city staff who were involved in the setup, coordination and mask distribution at the Ward 5 site: Manager's Office: Andy Squire, Lane Mandle and Martha Lockhart. Parks: Tim Thomure, Terry Nierzwicki, Lupita Johnston, Ray Parkman, Miguel Sandoval and Julissa Galindo. Tucson Fire: Mike Garcia and Fire Chief Chuck Ryan. EGSD: Rene Romero and David Vivaldo. PIO Team: Lety Bazaruto and Michael Colaiani. Move Tucson: Mallary Rae Parker.

I also want to thank City Manager Michael Ortega for getting these masks for distribution to the good citizens of Tucson. These will help save lives.

I want to thank staff members from the Southern Arizona office of the 2020 U.S. Census for their help with the Ward 5 Maskup event: Maria Vianey Valdez-Cardenas, Guillermina Zamarron, Nha Nguyen, William Ward. I also want to thank Bill Finch for his time helping distribute masks.

I want to thank my Ward 5 staff, Mark Kerr, Lupita Robles and Mary Kuchar for their work on this event, with community outreach and helping to staff the event and distribute the 8,000 masks.

I want to thank everyone who came to the Ward 5 event and got masks. This is the second effort I have done to give out masks, prior to this another 2,000 were distributed to the good citizens of Ward 5. If you need a mask, please call the Ward 5 Council Office, (520) 791-4231.

### **CAPTAIN JOHN STRADER & ASST. POLICE CHIEF CARLA JOHNSON**

TPD Operations Division South (ODS) Captain John Strader is someone that I, along with my staff, have worked with on many projects, events and issues in Ward 5. When my office had constituent calls of concern, Captain Strader and his officers were there to help Ward 5 and the neighborhoods.



Congratulations to Captain Strader, who was recently promoted and will be working at TPD headquarters in downtown Tucson. A process to name our next Captain is underway.

Reflections from Captain John Strader on his time working at ODS and Ward 5.

Serving the southside has been one of, if not the greatest assignments I've had in my career! We have a process underway to select the next Captain and I believe we are holding off on selecting who will take over ODS until that process is complete (likely within a couple of weeks).

We've celebrated many successes as a division and as a community during my three year tenure as the divisional commander of Operations Division South. The men and women of this team worked hard and achieved a reduction in crime, a reduction in collisions with injuries, found innovative ways to handle calls for service, and creatively engaged the community. Some examples of how we have improved our strong partnerships with the community have included the following:

Initiating the Command Post in the Park program to increase our visibility and help ensure families felt comfortable using our city's parks. Creating Officer Hours in Community Program for Divisional staff to engage different areas of the community in order to make ourselves more accessible for those in need. Creating Community Survey Teams by partnering with neighborhood leaders and other city service providers to proactively identify key issues of concerns for our community.

Instituting squad-based problem solving projects to address long-term issues or concerns for our neighborhoods. Perhaps as a result of these initiatives, the greatest success we've had is fostering strong relationships with our community members and ensuring that they know they have a partner with their officers, community service officers and that this police department belongs to them.

I want to congratulate Captain Strader on his promotion and wish him the best in his new endeavor. I want to thank him for his and ODS efforts to lower the crime rate in Ward 5. We will miss having Captain Strader across the parking lot from us at the Ward 5 Council Office.

**Assistant Police Chief Carla Johnson** has done so much for our community. In her 34 year career with TPD, she has worked in all Divisions, served as TPD's Human Resources Director as well as the City of Tucson's Human Resources Director, Chief of Staff for the Police Chief and was promoted to Assistant Chief in 2015, and currently, she is the Commander of the Administrative Support Bureau. Carla serves on many Boards of community organizations and has been recognized for her work and efforts with TPD. I presented Assistant Chief Johnson the Ward 5 Medallion of Hope and Certificate of Appreciation for her work. Her knowledge, expertise and leadership will be missed by our community. Congratulations Assistant Chief Johnson on a stellar career and enjoy the next chapter of your life.



(Crime stats in Ward 5. According to the Uniform Crime Report, Ward 5 has seen a drop in the following categories: Sexual Assault is down by 42.9%, Robbery is down by 44.1%, Aggravated Assault is down by 33.0%, Burglary is down by 39.1%, Vehicle Larceny is down by 12.5% and Grand Theft Auto is down by 20%.)

#### **IMPROVEMENTS MADE TO INTERSECTION OF SIXTH AVENUE AND VETERANS BOULEVARD**

Ward 5 Councilmember Richard Fimbres, in partnership with the Veterans Affairs (VA) Hospital and the Department of Transportation and Mobility (DTM), has recently made improvements to increase safety at the intersection of Sixth Avenue and Veterans Boulevard.



Staff evaluated the intersection and determined it was warranted to include left turn arrows for the westbound to southbound movement and the southbound to eastbound movement at the intersection.

These improvements will also help alleviate traffic backups as people enter the VA Hospital. This traffic signal improvement was installed on Thursday, July 9, 2020.



I want to thank the Veteran Affairs (VA) Hospital and the Department and Transportation and Mobility and my office staff, for working together and resolving this issue in a timely manner. I hope it will reduce the number of injuries and fatalities in the area.

Crews also recently installed high visibility crosswalks, which are two-foot-wide white bars that run perpendicular across the roadway enhancing the crosswalk. This helps drivers detect the crosswalk at a further distance as an extra safety measure due to high pedestrian traffic in this area.

Two Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessible shaded bus shelters with benches are scheduled to be installed at the south entrance of the VA Hospital for eastbound and westbound routes along Ajo Way at Second Avenue. These bus shelters are scheduled to be installed in Spring 2021 and are funded with a Community Development Block Grant.

Furthermore, as part of the Prop 101 Tucson Delivers Better Streets Program, Sixth Avenue from Benson Highway to Ajo Way is scheduled to be repaved. The 2.68 miles of roadway is currently in design and scheduled to go to construction in Fall 2020.

**FILL OUT YOUR U.S. CENSUS FORM AND BE HEARD AND BE COUNTED!**

Be heard and be counted and fill out your 2020 U.S. Census questionnaire.

This helps our community to receive our fair share of federal funds as well as help to make decisions for roads, schools, hospitals and public programs.

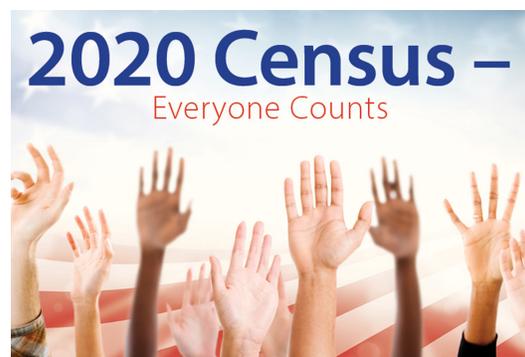


Responses are confidential that are received by you and other homes across Tucson is compiled to produce statistics for Tucson.

The City of Tucson's response rate to filling out the 2020 U.S. Census still has room for improvement. Be heard and be counted.

If you have filled out your Census form, go find 10 friends and family members and get them to fill out their Census forms.

For more information, go online to [2020census.gov](https://2020census.gov).



### BUDGET VOTE

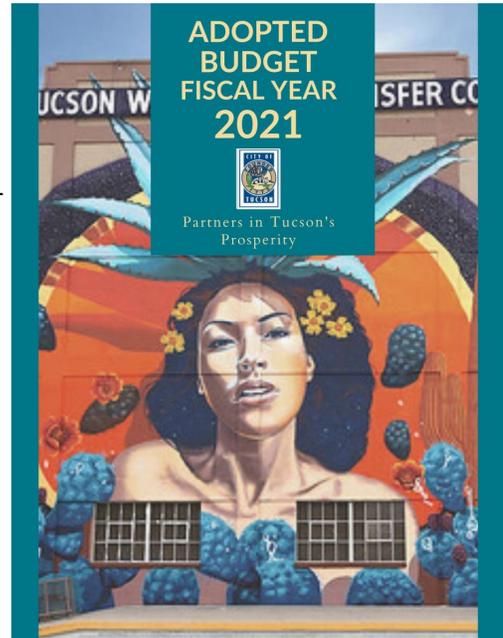
At the July 21 meeting, the Mayor and Council voted 6-1 to approve a budget for the City of Tucson for the new Fiscal Year.

With the COVID-19 pandemic and its financial impact to our economy, the Mayor and Council, working with the City Manager and staff will be reviewing financial figures for the budget each month, making adjustments as needed.

The last two years, the City has had a structurally balanced budget, thanks to economic conditions and the work of the City Manager and his staff.

The COVID 19 pandemic has changed this process and how the City is operating.

The City of Tucson has made changes to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic but face questions as our community deals with this health crisis and the economic ramifications from this.



Under the state constitution and state statutes, cities are required to approve a tentative budget and a final budget. There are time frames listed for cities to accomplish this. The City of Tucson approved the tentative budget on June 30 and the adopted final budget on July 21. This is something the Mayor and Council were required to do, but also can make changes as needed to the budget. The Tucson Mayor and Council, in 2009, had to make changes to that year's budget due to a \$33.5 million dollar budget shortfall.

Questions were raised about the budget, in terms of funding for the Tucson Police Department. There were some calls by the public to defund Tucson Police.

Under the Tucson City Charter, there are four core services: police, fire, parks and streets, for which the Charter mandates the Mayor and Council to provide coverage on each for the city residents.

Any changes to these four services, such as ending the police department and defunding, ending the fire department (if the city contracted out through Rural Metro as an example), ending the Parks Department (through a consolidation with another governmental entity, such as Pima County or the State of Arizona), or ending the Transportation Department (through consolidation with Pima County or privatizing the work), requires a vote of the people, in the form of a ballot measure on a general election ballot for consideration.

To note: The Tucson Police Department's budget was reduced by \$11.6 million in 2016. Tucson is the only City in the U.S., that has voluntarily met the requirements of the 8 Can't Wait effort to reduce police and violence. The actions by three officers, who did not follow policies and procedures, does not reflect on the entire Tucson Police Department.

In addition, in 2017, voters in the City of Tucson approved Proposition 101, the 1/2 cent temporary sales tax to purchase public safety equipment and road work. This measure is good for five years. Proposition 101 is a binding agreement between the City and its residents. Any financial measure, under the Tucson City Charter, must go before the voters to be approved. Any potential action by the Mayor and Council raises legal questions about the vote and the funds used for fire, streets and even for the police.

The Mayor and Council approved the draft Community Safety Pilot program proposed by Mayor Regina Romero, which includes more social workers (under the direction of the City Manager's office), enhance the TC-3 program and to have the Citizens Police Advisory Committee with enhanced duties and independence from the police department, as well as strengthening the role and duties of the Independent Police Auditor, as well as making the position independent from TPD. The Mayor and Council have taken steps, but they must work to put these in place with a firm foundation, review other proposals and ideas from other cities and make the decisions needed to make progress on this.

#### **TUCSON WATER'S LOW-INCOME ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

The City of Tucson offers a discount to qualified customers for water charges on their monthly utility statement through Tucson Water's Low-Income Assistance program.



Eligibility is primarily determined by household size and income; other guidelines do apply. Eligible customers can receive the discount for up to three years from the approval date. Call (520) 791-5443 for more information, or visit [tucsonaz.gov/cares](http://tucsonaz.gov/cares) to learn more about this and other assistance programs offered by the City of Tucson.

Here is some more information and phone numbers for those in need.

#### **Utility Companies**

Southwest Gas, (877) 860-6020, Water Department Emergency (520) 791-3242 and Pima County Sewer Emergency (520) 724-3400.

#### **Rent & Utility Assistance**

Pima County Community Action Agency (520) 724-2667, Monday – Friday 8:30am – 10:30am.

Interfaith Community Services (520) 297-6049, Address: 2820 W. Ina Road Tucson, AZ 85714, Monday – Friday: 9:00am – 4:00pm.

The Project PPEP rental assistance phone number is (520) 741-4397 and the utility assistance phone number is (520) 806-2506.

Tucson Electric Power (520) 623-7711 , Lifeline Program (\$15/month discount) - <https://www.tep.com/customer-assistance>; Lifeline Online Form - <https://account.tep.com/MyAccount/UserValidationLifeLinePlan>; Emergency Short-term Assistance - <https://www.tep.com/short-term-assistance>.

## 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

### Tucson Convention Center

791-4101

### City of Tucson Code Enforcement

791-5843

### TPD Red Tag Unit

837-7318

### Graffiti Removal

792-CITY (2489)

### TPD Non Emergency

791-4444

### Trash Pick Up & Environmental Services

City of Tucson Environmental Services Department

791-3171

### Transportation & Street Maintenance

Tucson Department of Transportation

791-3154

### Tucson Water Department

Billing - 791-3242, Public Information - 791-4331

Park Tucson

791-5071

### Pima Animal Care

724-5900