Dear Friends:

Recently, there have been things said that Tucson has only talked about homelessness and little progress has been made on dealing with it, which is simply not true.

I have been holding community meetings on a monthly basis, on the issue of homelessness. These meetings are and have been open to the public and over 175 individuals, businesses, service providers and faith based organizations and other governmental entities have been present at these meetings since their inception.

These meetings have been forum for our community to have a frank discussion on homelessness and what various government, faith-based, non-profit, faith based and advocacy groups are doing to address homelessness in Tucson.

Unlike what the paper reported, we have had successes in several areas which I have detailed below but we still have work to do and will continue to hold meetings to improve the conditions for all Tucsonans.

**Tucson Homeless Work Program**: I, along with Mark Kerr and Matt Pate, have held meeting with dozens of community stakeholders and helped to develop the Tucson Homeless Work program (HWP). The HWP has been operational since December 6th, 2016. Since December 6th every Tuesday and Thursday the HWP has taken out a crew of 6 workers to clean City and County property, of which:

90 different people have participated in the program (some have worked 2 or more times); 74 locations have been cleaned in addition to 32.5 miles of roadway; more than 14,500 pounds of trash and waste have been cleared; 10 people who have participated in the HWP have found stable housing; 13 participants found permanent employment or are enrolled with the Sullivan Jackson Employment Program; 6 program participants have enrolled with behavior health treatment providers through the HWP and additionally, we have had participants screened and approved for health insurance.
Additionally, HSL Properties provided a contribution that matched both the City and County at $50,000. Shortly afterwards our business community stepped forward with additional contributions, those businesses include Wal-Mart ($10,000), Cox Communications ($5,000), Southwest Gas ($2,500) and Tucson Medical Center ($3,000). Cenpatico has made in-kind staff donations totaling $58,000. I want to offer my sincere appreciation for these companies supporting a program that makes our community a better place for all its citizens.

I also want to give special thanks to Tom Litwicki, Terry Galligan and Mike Thomas with Old Pueblo Community Services for stepping up to administer the Tucson Homeless Work Program, and DeAnna Barber with Catholic Community Services for her work as the navigator for the program.

I also want to extend a special thanks to all the partners, they include: City of Tucson (Transportation Department, Environmental Services, Parks and Recreation and the Ward 5 Council Office), Pima County, Old Pueblo Community Services, Assurance Health, Cenpatico Integrated Care, Linda Shmyr and DeAnna Barber with Catholic Community Services, Salvation Army, Emma Hochenberg with the Primavera Foundation, Nancy Johnson with the El Rio Community Health Center, Kristen Culliney Caridad Community Kitchen and Ruth Ann Smithrud with the St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church.

The Tucson Homeless Work Program is not a government program. It operates entirely through a partnership with our local non-profit and faith-based community.

**Housing:** The last two reports on homeless in Tucson and Pima County showed that there were people still homeless on the streets and yet, many service providers and organizations have beds, housing and vouchers available.

I led the effort to get the City of Tucson to follow the federal Housing First model, to get people into housing without self imposed barriers set by service providers. The City changed its RFP process to including the federal Housing First model. Pima County also followed suit on Housing First after I spoke with the Deputy County Administrator Jan Lesher and Margaret Kish.

I want to thank Sally Stang, the City of Tucson Housing and Community Development Director and her staff for their work on this.

**Tucson City Court:** Starting in November 2016 we began having housing navigators from several non-profits in the mental health courtroom at Tucson City Court.

This resource has been highly beneficial to both court staff and people going through the court system. In March 2017 this effort was expanded and a housing navigator was placed in veteran’s court.

This effort also cuts down on jailboard costs and saves taxpayer monies. I want to thank Tucson Presiding Judge Tony Riojas, Judge Michael Pollard and Judge Susan Shetter, Rudy Trinidad with CBI, Keith Jeffrey with Primavera and South Tucson Magistrate Albert Lassen for their work on this.
**Winter Blankets:** In December 2016, I was informed that our shipment of federal emergency blankets for the homeless had been diverted for disaster relief. Working with the Tucson Pima Collaboration to end Homelessness (TPCH) our community came forward with almost 5,000 blankets.

In addition, I reached out to Congresswoman McSally and Congressman Grijalva’s office, who were able to get a federal shipment of 11,000 blankets for our community.

**Winter Shelter:** This low demand shelter operated this winter, located at Sacred Heart Church, the shelter provided safety and shelter to up to 70 men a night. I want to thank Carl Zawatski and Father Jim Hobert for their willingness to take on this task and maintain a project that was long-run by Brother David Buer. This shelter is a shining example of how a shelter should operate as far as being stewards of the surrounding neighborhood. When the shelter needed assistance, my group on homelessness stepped up and got the materials they needed.

**Helping Homeless Women:** I facilitated meetings with neighborhoods and business leaders to calm concerns about the Sister Jose shelter move into a facility located in Ward 5.

Sister Jose’s had tried to move into another neighborhood close to the University of Arizona but that neighborhood came out against Sister Jose’s. This shelter for women is an asset to our community and in their new location will be able to help more women experiencing homelessness and help them back into housing.

**Feeding Sites:** The task group was able to improve communication between the County Health Department and the City’s Parks & Recreation departments. This culminated in a two-sided sheet that helps groups wanting to feed our homeless population in an easier and safer manner.

I want to thank Mike Hayes with the City of Tucson Parks and Recreation Department, David Ludwig with the Pima County Health Department, Allison Miller with the Ward 6 Council Office and Ward 1 intern Katlyn Monje for their work on feeding sites.

**Heat respite:** Last summer and again this summer we have been expanding the number of locations around town where people can escape the heat. I want to thank Settle Madden with the Tucson Pima Collaboration to End Homelessness (TPCH) for coordinating the heat respite program.

**Outreach:** I have been working with law enforcement, business groups and non-profits to develop better communication and service delivery. This effort really highlights the compassion our community has and willingness to work on the hard problems. Thank you Pam Moseley with Pima County and Cliff Wade with Tucson Veteran’s Serving Veteran’s for your work on this.
Tucson Change Movement: We are working closely with the Tucson merchant community on getting the Tucson Change Movement (TCM) off the ground.

TCM will consist of 20 turquoise-cobalt blue donation stations (repurposed parking meters) placed around town.

This initiative is going to allow our community to have a greater collective impact and help sustain programs like the Tucson Homeless Work Program. We are anticipating that this program will be launching in May. I want to thank Donovan Durband with Park Tucson, Fred Ronstadt with the Fourth Avenue Merchants Association and John Jacobs and Craig Sumberg with the Downtown Tucson Partnership, and Bonnie Allin with the Tucson Airport Authority for your work and collaboration to make the Tucson Change Movement a reality.

Bathrooms: Ronstadt Transit Center has been opened 24 hours for a little over a year with very few incidents. Community Bridges Inc. (CBI) opened earlier this year and has stated their main lobby restroom at 250 S. Toole is also open 24 hours. We continue to look at other public restroom options as our downtown business and residential community grows. I want to thank Tucson City Manager Michael Ortega for giving permission for opening Ronstadt and CBI for opening their main lobby to help.

At the February 22 Mayor and Council meeting, my group on homelessness was tasked with looking at the potential of a permitted overnight shelter pilot. On March 28, Matt Pate from the Ward 5 staff, facilitated the first meeting where groups passionate about this agreed to put together a proposal for organizations willing to host the pilot. To date no faith-based, non-profits or private landowners have come forward with a desire to host a pilot program.

The work has continued on the issue of homeless and the next meeting of the Homeless Coalition is Thursday, April 12. 3:30 pm., at City Hall, 255 West Alameda, in the first floor conference room and are open to the public, as all these meetings have been

Thank you.

Richard Fimbres
Your Ward 5 Councilmember
Red Tag Ordinance Update

At the Mayor and Council March 21 meeting, the Mayor and Council gave final approval to changes to the City’s unruly gathering ordinance, also known as the “Red Tag” ordinance.

Those who receive a second red tag notice within 180 days will have to pay the city for the costs of responding police officers. The extra fine is capped at $1,000 per incident. The fines for unruly gatherings are $500 for the first red-tag offense and $1,000 for a second violation — but the new recovery fee, adds to the overall cost. A red-tagged property must display the city notice in a visible location for 180 days. I want to thank TPD, UAPD, the City’s legal department, the U of A Dean’s Office, many of the property owners and neighborhood association’s for their work on this.

Hand-Held Devices

At the March 21 meeting, the Mayor and Council also considered a proposal dealing with people driving and using hand held devices while operating their vehicle. The Council, at the table, made changes to the fines and structure of the proposed ordinance and taking out any public educational component for this. The vote was 5 to 2.

Under the new ordinance, Tucson’s first offense fine is $250 for those cited and for not causing an accident, and $500 for the second offense. The Town of Oro Valley, which has a similar ordinance, the fine is $50 for the first offense and $100 for the second offense. The City of Tempe’s fine for their ordinance is $100 for their first offense and $200 for their second offense.

Tucson’s ordinance is a secondary offense, along with Tempe’s.

In California, the fine is $20 for the first offense and $50 for the second offense. Colorado is $50 for the first offense, $100 for the second offense. California and Colorado’s are primary offenses.

Tucson’s new ordinance’s fine is more than the fine for not wearing your seatbelt ($10) and DUI/Speeding $185. Statistics show non-seat belt usage and DUI/speeding cause more accidents, injuries and fatalities.

During the discussion, the Council used the term “distracted driving,” for this. The definition for distracted driving includes the following: Texting, Using a cell phone or smartphone, Eating and drinking, Talking to passengers, Grooming, Reading, including maps, Using a navigation system, Watching a video and Adjusting a radio, CD player, or MP3 player. These are not part of the Tucson ordinance.
Congratulations Fred Acosta Graduates
On Friday, March 10, I had the privilege of being the Keynote speaker of the Winter 2017 graduation for the Fred G. Acosta job corps, which is located in ward 5.

I want to thank Steve Ramirez and the administration and staff of Fred G. Acosta job corps for giving me the opportunity to speak again to the graduating class. Congratulations to the students and their families and friends who helped them to graduate from Fred G. Acosta. Education is the key to success.

Tucson Rodeo Parade Committee Celebrates!
I want to congratulate the Tucson Rodeo Parade Committee Chair, Diane Culin, and the entire parade committee and volunteers on a successful 92nd Tucson Rodeo Parade which had more entries, big crowds and great weather. On Saturday, March 11, the Tucson Rodeo Parade Committee had their appreciation dinner and celebration on the Rodeo Grounds. A good time was had by all for a job well done.

Greyhound Dedicates New Terminal
On Tuesday, March 14, I had the privilege of cutting the ribbon on the new greyhound bus terminal located at 801 east 12th street in ward 5.

Twenty jobs were created with the new terminal. This new facility was the result of the collaboration between the Rio Nuevo District, the City of Tucson, the Ward 5 Council Office and the Barrio San Antonio neighborhood association.

Barrio San Antonio worked with Rio Nuevo on the design, the traffic flow and other details, resulting in the facility in the shopping center on the southwest corner of Park and Euclid.

I want to thank the leadership and neighbors from Barrio San Antonio who came to the table, and worked with the City and Rio Nuevo on this project.

St. Patrick’s Day Parade
I took part in the 30th Annual Tucson St. Patrick’s Day held March 17. I want to thank the parade committee for another successful event and everyone who turned out on St. Patrick’s Day for the parade.
Community Forum Held On Half Cent Sales Tax Ballot Measure

More than 50 people turned out for the ward 5 community forum on the proposed half cent tax measure on Wednesday, March 15, at the El Pueblo Senior Center. I want to thank City Manager Michael Ortega, Chief Financial Officer Joyce Garland, Assistant City Manager Albert Elias, Tucson Police Chief, Chris Magnus, Tucson Fire Chief Jim Critchley, Transportation Director Daryl Cole, as well as Parks Director Joan Stauch, and Development Services Director Manjeet Ranu.

I want to thank those who attended, who represented many neighborhood associations in the area, including South Park, Sunnyside, Midvale Park, Pueblo Gardens, Cherry Avenue, Barrio Nopal and Las Vistas. Members of the Sunnyside School Board, Tucson Fire Fighters Association, the Police Officers Association and LULAC are present for the forum. They asked many good questions about the May 16 ballot proposal. For more information about the half cent sales tax ballot proposal, please call the city clerk’s office, (520) 791-4213 or go online to tucsonaz.gov/prop101. As a City, we can’t rely on federal or state dollars to help, so we must do it ourselves and this bond measure, if approved by voters, could be a good first step.

Charlie Salaz Remembered

I attended on Sunday, March 19, the celebration of life for Carlos “Charlie” Salaz at American Legion Post 68. Carlos graduated from Pueblo High School, served his country in the U.S. Navy, worked for BHP (Magma) Copper Co. And was a member of the United Steelworkers Of America. He served his community as council member for the City Of South Tucson. Carlos had a passion for people, politics, and charities. He was a very active member of the community and involved with numerous organizations and causes. I was proud to call Carlos my friend. He will be missed. My condolences to the family and friend.

Spice Update

Our City has had the issue of Spice and its usage and selling at smoke shops across Tucson. The Mayor and Council recently had discussions about Spice and the sale of this, as well as getting an update from Tucson Police, about their work with Pima County and federal law enforcement authorities have taken actions and conducted raids to close down those who sell Spice, which is the slang term for synthetic cannabinoids. Spice produces adverse effects which lead to hospitalization or referrals to poison control centers.

The Arizona Legislature has passed legislation updating the state statutes dealing with Spice and the Governor has signed into law, dealing with its production and distribution, for which now the City Council will soon have an ordinance to help our law enforcement deal with Spice.
Valencia Road Update

Road work and repair along Valencia Road, from 12th Avenue to Alvernon Way is in progress. The road work and repair came thanks to lobbying from Tucson Ward 5 Councilmember Richard Fimbres.

Crews have been installing underground electrical conduit, lowering manhole covers and water valve covers and will followed by milling (removing asphalt) and repaving.

“Valencia Road is the Gateway to downtown from the Airport,” Councilmember Richard Fimbres said. “For our city to grow and succeed, Valencia Road must be able to carry all car and truck traffic.”

Funding for the Valencia Road Project came from Proposition 409, the voter approved, $100 million, street bond program.

Southern Arizona Paving and Construction is the company doing the road work, through a contract with the Tucson Department of Transportation. The construction crews have been working both day and night shifts to meet the mid-February deadline for completion.

“Through their efforts and savings, the Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT) were able to have additional funding from Proposition 409 to complete road projects, such as Valencia Road,” Councilmember Richard Fimbres said. “I want to thank TDOT Director Daryl Cole and staff for their efforts, resulting in Valencia Road work that is being done.”

In addition to the road work on Valencia, a crossing HAWK was also installed near Bruker Nano and Modular Mining, VXI Industries and Alorica on Valencia.

With the opening of the HomeGoods Distribution Center and the addition of 1,100 jobs, the construction of the Fed-Ex Ground Hub which is adding an additional 160 jobs, the expansion of Alorica with another 200 jobs, the Valencia Road project is an important part of the Renaissance of Ward 5 and the South Side.
Reporting Potholes

Jesse Lugo is my appointee to the Proposition 409 Citizens Bond Advisory Committee and helps to report potholes in his neighborhood to the Department of Transportation to get them fixed.

Jesse is creating an effort to have neighborhoods to also get more involved and has created a form to use to help neighborhoods to get potholes called in and repaired.

Lugo would like neighbors to do the following:
“When you call, 791-3154 to report a POTHOLE to be repaired in your neighborhood due to a concern of public safety, write person’s name and date that you spoke with. Give the location (address or cross streets) where the issue is of concern. If POTHOLE is not repaired within a week then call the TDOT office once again.

“If you choose to email the City of Tucson (TDOT) attach a photo or video of the POTHOLE location as this procedure is highly recommended.

“The best way is to use your cell phone, take the picture or video then forward to TDOTSR@TucsonAZ.gov with the location (address or cross streets) in order for City of Tucson maintenance crew to find it.

IMPORTANT: Please also request that the neighborhood streets in your area be scheduled for resurfacing or maintenance for 2017 calendar year.”

Jesse’s form is part of this month’s newsletter that neighbors can use. It is also on my Facebook pages and available at the Ward 5 office.
Dave and Buster’s Opening
The Renaissance of Ward 5 and the Southside continues with the ribbon-cutting, Monday, April 3, for the new Dave and Buster’s, located at the Bridges in Ward 5.

This is the first location for Dave and Buster’s in Tucson and Southern Arizona. More than 230 jobs were created with this new business and I want to welcome them to Ward 5.

LULAC Youth Leadership Conference Being Held
On Friday, March 31, the 28th Annual LULAC Youth Leadership Conference is being held at the Pima Community College West Campus, 2202 W. Anklam. More than 1,200 students (9th through 12th grades) are taking part. LULAC’s Youth Leadership Conference has striven to promote, develop, and enhance leadership skills among youth in Pima County.

The philosophy behind the Youth Leadership Conference for the last twenty-eight years has been to encourage and motivate students to remain in school, set goals and reinforce education as the key to success. Another key factor has been to expose students to an environment that fosters positive relationships among peers, teachers and the community.

I want to congratulate Rene Pacheco and Mary Fimbres, the Youth Leadership Conference Co-Chair’s for their work and success for this event, benefitting the youth in Tucson and Pima County.
City of Tucson - Ward 5

Report Potholes in Your Neighborhood

Contact City of Tucson Department of Transportation (TDOT)

Call: 791-3154

Email: TDOTSR@TucsonAZ.gov

When you call to report a POTHOLE to be repaired in your neighborhood due to a concern of public safety, write person’s name and date that you spoke with. Give the location (address or cross streets) where the issue is of concern. If POTHOLE is not repaired within a week then call the TDOT office once again.

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IMPORTANT: Please also request that the neighborhood streets in your area be scheduled for resurfacing or maintenance for 2017 calendar year.

Document the following Information:

Person you spoke with: ________________________________
Date & Time: ________________________________

Person you spoke with: ________________________________
Date & Time: ________________________________

Person you spoke with: ________________________________
Date & Time: ________________________________
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

**Code Enforcement & Graffiti Removal**
792-CITY (2489)

**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**
243-5900

Help those who are in need.  
Give to the Community Food Bank.  
For more information call: 520-622-0525

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Ward5@tucsonaz.gov  
and include the word unsubscribe in subject line.