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Ward 6 Newsletter

TUCSON FIRST

February 5, 2015

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LOLA

BY TODD CLARK



It's not quite her 90th, but I'm opening this newsletter wishing my bride a happy birthday. We'll celebrate this Valentine's Day at Laff's Comedy Theater.



As promised, here's an update on the roll-out of the CEASE Network. That's the Demand Abolition effort that kicked off in Phoenix and in ten other cities nationwide this week. The acronym stands for Cities Empowered Against Sexual Exploitation. It aims to reduce the demand side of the prostitution equation. No buyers = no sellers, and women's lives aren't exploited as they are.



Important Phone Numbers

Tucson Police Department
911 or nonemergency
791-4444

Water Issues
791-4133
Emergency: 791-4133

Street Maintenance
791-3154

Graffiti Removal
792-2489

Abandoned Shopping Carts
791-3171

Neighborhood Resources
837-5013

SunTran/SunLink
792-9222

Environmental Services
791-3171

Park Wise
791-5071

Planning and Development Services 791-5550

Pima County Animal Control
243-5900

Pima County Vector Control
Cockroach: 443-6501
Mosquito: 740-2760

Continued: A Message From Steve

The data show nearly 300,000 children are at risk of being commercially sexually exploited every year in the U.S. That figure comes from a 2011 FBI report that was done on Human Sex Trafficking. To drive home the point that this isn't a victimless crime or a career choice, the Cook County Sheriff's Office has kept its own data and has found that on 'National Day of John Arrests,' they make more arrests for commercial sexual abuse of a minor, pimping, rape, kidnapping, drug trafficking, and possession of illegal firearms, too.

The message is clear – when you buy sex, you're supporting the physical, chemical and psychological exploitation of our young people.

Big cities were selected for the roll-out. I'm in touch with Ann Lovell, one of the movers in the CEASE effort, and we're discussing ways that Tucson can also play a role in catalyzing this work locally. To be successful, it'll take the work of law enforcement, survivors, business leaders, and other community groups. Based on the involvement we see for Project RAISE, I'm not at all concerned that we won't be able to mount a strong public effort. More coming.

Background Checks and Public Events



A couple of years ago, we took the lead to ensure that background checks were required by policy when guns were sold on City property. The State pre-empts us from adopting an Ordinance to that effect, but we made it a condition of leasing or renting space on City property – the same as requiring payment for custodial services or broken tables and

chairs after an event. Now the State is taking aim at that policy. Here's the language of a Bill that's currently moving through the legislature:

HB2527

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 13-3118, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to
3 read:

4 **13-3118. Possession, transfer or storage of firearms;**

5 **restrictions prohibited; exceptions**

6 A. Except for the legislature, this state and any agency or political

7 subdivision of this state shall not enact or implement any law, rule or

8 ordinance relating to the possession, **TRANSFER** or storage of firearms other

9 than as provided in statute.

Ours is a "rule". In the same manner that they changed one word in another law to prevent gun buy-backs, they're doing the same with this so our background check policy would be

unenforceable. We take a step in the direction of community safety and they undo what we've accomplished.

I've included the Bill number in case you'd like to share your thoughts with your State Representative.

They're taking this one step further. *HB2320* will allow people who have a concealed carry gun permit to bring weapons into any public building, including collegiate athletic and other events held on public property, unless there is an electronic weapon screening device or security personnel at every entry to electronically screen each person who enters. This made it all the way to Governor Brewer last term. She vetoed it based on the cost to the localities for the equipment and personnel it would require. Private employers would be exempt.

The effect of these two Bills is that person-to-person gun sales at the TCC would not require any knowledge of whether the purchaser had a criminal history, and we'd be forced to allow guns into public events.

Would we be a safer community for it?

Here's some contact information for the folks who sit on the committee that'll be hearing these Bills:

House Military Affairs & Public Safety Committee:

Eddie Farnsworth	(R District 12)	efarnsworth@azleg.gov	602 926-5735
Sonny Borrelli, Chair	(R District 5)	sborrelli@azleg.gov	602 926-5051
Richard Andrade	(D District 29)	randrade@azleg.gov	602 926-3130
Anthony Kern	(R District 20)	akern@azleg.gov	602 926-3102
Noel Campbell	(R District 1)	ncampbell@azleg.gov	602 926-3124
Mark Cardenas	(D District 19)	mcardenas@azleg.gov	602 926-3014
Mark Finchem	(R District 11)	mfinchem@azleg.gov	602 926-3122
Stephanie Mach	(D District 10)	smach@azleg.gov	602 926-3398
Franklin Pratt	(R District 8)	fpratt@azleg.gov	602 926-5761

And did you know that our Legislature has also Codified this:

A person commits misconduct involving weapons by knowingly:

6. Defacing a deadly weapon;

If we were to do another gun buy-back, the State has made it illegal for me or anybody to take a sledge hammer or a drill-press to a gun before turning it over to the police.

As with so much of the Ducey budget, these are examples of the priorities coming at us out of Phoenix.

More on Public Safety

Credit Mike Christy / Arizona Daily Star for photo

When Judge Bury ruled a few weeks ago that what you see in the photo is "protected speech", I have to believe that even he didn't do the forward thinking he should have to anticipate the impact that decision would have on the clean and safe environment we're building in the



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jeff Flake (R)
520-575-8633

Congresswoman Martha McSally (R)
(2nd District)
(202) 225-2542

Congressman Raul Grijalva (D)
(3rd District)
520-622-6788

Governor Doug Ducey (R)
602-542-4331
Tucson office:
628-6580

Mayor Jonathan Rothschild
791-4201

ZoomTucson Map
<http://maps.tucsonaz.gov/zoomTucson/>

downtown core. These structures are now strewn around downtown, on sidewalks and in public rights-of-way, in a manner that impacts the safety and health of both the occupants and passers-by. The Downtown Tucson Partnership cleaning folks have advised us that they're no longer going to clean in the areas around the pods. They are being threatened, and the debris they're finding isn't your run-of-the-mill trash.

Given the Judge's ruling, our options are limited, but they're not zero.

To that end, I called together multiple merchants, representatives of non-profits, the Downtown Tucson Partnership, our City Attorney, and Mayor to talk about options.

First, you should know that we have an Ordinance that prohibits "aggressive panhandling". We've received plenty of reports from businesses and residents that they're being harassed by some of the people camped out – and just as Judge Bury gave the campers rights, you have yours, too.

Here's how the Code defines "aggressive":

- (1) Intentionally or recklessly making physical contact with or touching another person in the course of the solicitation without the person's consent;
- (2) Approaching or following the person being solicited, if that conduct is intended to or is likely to:
 - a. cause a reasonable person to fear imminent bodily harm or the commission of a criminal act upon the property in the person's possession; or
 - b. intimidate the person being solicited into responding affirmatively to the solicitation;
- (3) Continuing to solicit within five (5) feet of the person being solicited after the person has made a negative response, if continuing the solicitation is intended to or is likely to:
 - a. cause a reasonable person to fear imminent bodily harm or the commission of a criminal act upon property in the person's possession; or
 - b. intimidate the person being solicited into responding affirmatively to the solicitation;
- (4) Intentionally or recklessly blocking the safe or free passage of the person being solicited or requiring the person, or the driver or a vehicle, to take evasive action to avoid physical contact with the person making the solicitation;
- (5) Intentionally or recklessly using obscene or abusive language or gestures intended to or likely to:
 - a. cause a reasonable person to fear imminent bodily harm or the commission of a criminal act upon property in the person's possession; or
 - b. words intended to or reasonably likely to intimidate the person into responding affirmatively to the solicitation.

If any of this happens to you, call 911, or, if you're fortunate to see a cop at the time, flag down the officer.

To that point, I requested that our Police Chief temporarily shift a couple of people into downtown, at least while the Gem Show is here. I used that time frame based on having been told by some of the people camped out that they travel here specifically for the Gem Show – we'll see if the numbers dwindle after the Show moves on.

The response from the Chief was that he doesn't have the staff to move anybody to where we're seeing these issues, due to budget and staffing constraints. That conversation isn't over.

We were told that if we identify an alternate site for the campers, we could engage an Ordinance change to prohibit sleeping on sidewalks. Here's the text of an email I sent to our City Attorney, Police Chief, and Mayor after the meeting we held with the business owners:

Just as what we're addressing in policing the current sidewalk behavior is not addressing 'homelessness,' it's also not 'speech.' We should quit treating it as if it were.

If the court compels that conclusion until some undefined line is crossed, we can kill two birds at the same time if we:

- a) Amend our Ordinance to prohibit sleeping on sidewalks.*
- b) Provide an alternative site inside of Presidio Park where we allow sleeping.*
- c) Solicit the private sector and faith based community to fund an overnight security officer to sit in the Council Chamber entry to allow use of the two restrooms (t-shirt security is less than \$20 p/hour on overtime/overnights).*
- d) Designate Presidio as a Free Speech Zone simultaneously with allowing it as a sleeping alternative (two years ago Occupy wanted a Speech Zone - this'd give them that).*
- e) Engage the County to monitor and enforce all relevant health codes in the park.*

Give overnight security one of our radios so they can contact TPD if needed.

Chief, Lee did a very good job representing you and the Dept tonight. What's clear is that we need to seriously engage on redirecting some staff into the downtown area as a way of protecting the public, and business interests while the influx of out of town transients are here disrupting the free flow of commerce and running visitors away. The reality is that this problem doesn't exist in other parts of town, so assigning on a temporary basis more officers into this area is a justified management decision.

The further reality is that what we're seeing does not accurately reflect the diverse 'homeless' population that we have, and that truly needs and will take advantage of our community services.

We have given the downtown business operators the tools and the instruction to call immediately if aggressive panhandling is occurring. We've also alerted the DTP security people to do the same. With this emphasis on sending the message that we're not tolerating nuisance or criminal behavior, more officers in the immediate area is a necessary temporary component of making the message effective.

I've already begun the larger discussion of how we address true homelessness. That's largely not this. I'll continue those meetings and invite all who are cc'd into this, and others you want to include, to participate in efforts to find solutions to that very complex issue. We won't solve it all, but we must continue to deliver the message that we're a caring city - and taking the measures to prohibit the behaviors we're right now experiencing does not run counter to that reality.

Let me know if you want to engage on that larger issue.

My proposal of using Presidio Park as the Free Speech Zone won't fly without County approval. But there's always an easy way to get to "no", and we seem to major in that as a knee-jerk response in too many instances. We can find alternative sites – and we need the police presence – and the Court needs to get a reality check that what we're seeing is not "speech". If it were, every neighborhood in the City would be subject to seeing an accumulation of these sleeping pods on the right-of-way outside their homes, as long as a 5' walkway existed. Clearly that's not a rational interpretation of what's going on and our City Attorney needs to be about the work of making that case – literally.

In the meantime, I'm looking into some outside legal thoughts on actions we can take and not run afoul of the curious 1st Amendment decision the Judge arrived at.

I've stated this in previous newsletters and in the media. The true "homeless" are not what we're seeing in these pods. As I stated in the email cited above, we are a caring City, and we do a ton to address the needs of those among us who reach out for services. The City has a Housing and Community Development staff through which millions of grant dollars flow out into the non-profit community. Similarly, Federal dollars flow out to the working poor to assist with rent, utilities, and other living expenses. For those who have asked "what is the City doing for the homeless", there are millions of dollars of examples.

We also have a compassionate non-profit sector, made up of people who reach into the lives of the needy among us on a daily basis. We have volunteers who walk the dark alleys and parks looking for homeless youth, offering them food and clothing. We have the Community Food Bank, One Stop, Primavera, La Frontera, Our Family, and multiple other service providers who are working to reach into peoples' lives.

And we have a couple of guys who seem to think that by lining the downtown sidewalks with sleeping pods, they're making a positive contribution to the discussion – and to the vitality of our community in general.

I'm going to continue to work on the City bureaucracy to find ways to a "yes" on a legitimate site for the needy, a rational interpretation of the "speech" decision, policing where it's needed, and making sure our downtown core is safe, clean, and inviting. We've invested too much getting this far into the redevelopment of the area to let this continue.

More on Speech and Democracy

The State Liquor Board holds hearings on liquor license applications when individuals file a timely protest with the Board. There are seven citizen members who sit on the Board, each of whom is appointed by the Governor for three year terms. Bill DuPont, from Colonia Solana (Ward 6) is one of those members.

The rule is that anybody who wants a liquor license (to manufacture, sell or distribute) has to apply to the Arizona Department of Liquor for one. Right now there are just under 12,000 active licenses in the State. At the time of the application, any person who lives, owns, or leases property within a one mile radius of the proposed location may file a protest. When that happens, the Board holds a hearing (usually up in Phoenix) to decide on the merits of the protest. In the majority of cases, license applications that are protested after

having been approved by a local jurisdiction are approved by the Board. There are narrow criteria for a successful challenge.

Right now, there is a Bill moving through the State House that's obviously intended to limit the speech opportunity of people wishing to protest liquor license applications. The Bill would change the rule for protesting from "any aggrieved party" to "5% of the" people who live, own, or lease within a one mile radius of the site. Here's the exact language in the red-line version that shows what's being stricken, and what's replacing that language:

HB2359

E. On receipt of an application for a spirituous liquor license, the
 25 director shall set the application for hearing by the board on a date
 26 following the expiration of the time fixed for the submitting of the
 27 certified order by the governing body of the city or town or the board of
 28 supervisors. If the city or town or the county recommends approval of the
 29 license no hearing is required unless the director, the board or **any**
 30 aggrieved **party requests PARTIES THAT MAKE UP AT LEAST FIVE PERCENT OF**
THE
 31 **NATURAL PERSONS WHO RESIDE, OWN OR LEASE PROPERTY WITHIN A**
ONE-MILE RADIUS OF
 32 **THE PROPOSED LOCATION REQUEST** a hearing on the grounds that the public
 33 convenience and the best interest of the community will not be substantially
 34 served if a license is issued.

The State Legislature wants to limit your voice when it comes to gun safety, and it's also trying to limit your voice when it comes to speaking in protest of liquor license applications in your back yard. Let them know if you object.

...after all of that, do you need a Beer?



Well, I don't drink, but the thought flows from the issues I've touched on so far in the newsletter.

There's a State-wide event I'm just learning about. In fact, Tucson is just learning about it. Arizona Beer Week is coming this week, and the 1st Annual Tucson Craft Beer Crawl will take place on February 21st downtown. The tasting event will run from noon until 4pm. Multiple Tucson breweries will participate.

We have other, similar events around town during the year (Brew at the Zoo and Art on Tap at the Tucson Museum of Art, for example,) but this one's a new downtown-centric chance to appreci-

ate the work of local brewers all in a close knit area. Some of the participating venues will be Hotel Congress, R Bar, Borderlands, Tap & Bottle, Thunder Canyon Brewery, Dragoon Brewing, and Playground. You'll need ID of course. Check in is at Connect Coworking lab (33 S 5th Ave). There you'll receive a personal 5 oz tasting glass, a wristband, and a map of the participants.

The event will be fun, but its also in support of a good cause. Some of the proceeds will be donated to Watershed Management Group. On Friday, Amy and I joined the Mayor in meeting with WMG's Executive Director and Senior Program Manager, a Senior Associate at Ecosystem Economics, and a representative from a regional non-profit called American Rivers to talk about an initiative that's beginning, the goal of which is to restore Tucson's rivers. Some of the Beer Crawl money will go into that work. I'll be sharing more about it as things develop, but for now you can be a part by being a part of supporting our local breweries on the 21st.

All of the activity is close to the Streetcar line, so if you don't have an alternative, let that be your designated driver. To get an early peek at the river restoration project, you can check it out at <http://watershedmg.org/tucson-rivers>



C2ETM Speaking of watering holes, we're entering the grant application window for Conserve2Enhance (C2E) dollars.
conserve to enhance



Atturbury Wash before (left) and after (right) Tucson C2E enhancement efforts.
Photo Credit: Kendall Kroesen, Tucson Audubon Society

You can see some of the work those grants have funded in the shots shown above. The C2E program is about linking water conservation efforts to watershed restoration and enhancement. Our own Palo Verde neighborhood will be dedicating a neighborhood pocket park on March 14th that benefited from some of this money.

The way it works is that you can earmark a part or all of the money you save by conserving water at your home to the C2E fund. That can be done through the check box on your paper water bill or through the C2E dashboard, which you can sign up to participate in here: <http://conserve2enhance.org/join>. Those funds then filter out into the community through these grants to protect and enhancing open spaces, riparian areas, and some of our urban washes. They've allocated nearly \$60K in funds through the program to date. Here's a link to the C2E website if you'd like to check into it further:

Conserve2Enhance website: <http://conserve2enhance.org/tucson>

Grant applications are available right now. They'll be due in April, and the awards will be announced in June. If you'd like some pointers on what's eligible and how to fill out the grant forms, there'll be a workshop on Wednesday, March 4th from 5pm until 6:30pm in the Ward 6 Community Room. Come on by and you'll have all the right people there to answer any questions you've got, either about applying for funds or for earmarking your water savings to the program. We won't be serving Craft Beers, but the information flow will be worth the trip.

Broadway Project

We've been in a bit of a hiatus on the design discussion relative to Broadway. As a refresher, the public meetings have resulted in wide expression of support for these goals:

- a) Promote the notion of a sense of place along the corridor
- b) To the extent possible, preserve structures that exist, and that constitute the tax base along the corridor
- c) Enhance the business climate – small businesses are our economic generator
- d) Promote alternative modes of travel
- e) Enhance the aesthetic appeal of the corridor
- f) Increase functionality of people movement with multiple modes of transit
- g) Design a fiscally sound project

Those goals also appear at the front end of work put together by a group of citizens' calling itself the Broadway Coalition. It's made up of business owners, residents, transit advocates, urban planning professionals, and plenty of others. It's diverse, and the group has been engaged in this since we held the kick-off rally out on Campbell and Broadway to protest the initial 150' proposed design three years ago. We're now close to seeing the fruit of lots of peoples' work.

City staff has published a rough timeline for the rollout of the proposed alignment. Some tentative alignment drawings are due to be released on about February 19th. That'll open a public comment period which will end around March 9th. The Citizen Task Force will receive those comments, have about a week to study them, and then will meet for their next open, public meeting during the week of March 16th. I'll let you know the exact date/time/location when it's decided.

In anticipation of the alignment release, I thought I'd share some contemporary urban design thought. A while back the City contracted with the Urban Land Institute to advise us on how to move forward with downtown development. The fact that we invested some big bucks in their counsel indicates that staff values their perspectives. Here are some:

URBANLAND

THE MAGAZINE OF THE URBAN LAND INSTITUTE

In Building Size and Age, Variety Yields Vibrancy

By *Edward T McMahon*

August 7, 2014

...neighborhoods containing a mix of older, smaller buildings of diverse age support higher levels of economic and social activity than areas dominated by newer, larger buildings. In a

nutshell, the study suggests that diversity breeds vitality.

And this -

While results differed slightly from city to city and from neighborhood to neighborhood, the overall study supports the following conclusions:

Older, mixed-use neighborhoods are more walkable and vibrant.

Nightlife is most alive on streets with a diverse range of building ages.

Older business districts provide affordable, flexible space for entrepreneurs.

The creative economy thrives in older, mixed-use neighborhoods.

Older, smaller buildings provide space for a strong local economy.

Older commercial and mixed-use districts contain hidden density

Their findings correlate with those of urban planner Joseph Minicozzi – also cited in the article. He has published a series of studies entitled “**Smart Math of Mixed-Use Development**”. In his analysis Minicozzi demonstrates that a typical acre of mixed use land in a downtown area yields \$360K more in tax revenue than an acre of strip malls or big-box stores. It’s that mixed-use idea, preservation along with the vibrancy of creating the walkable ‘district’ that you’ll see in both the Broadway Coalition report and in the ULI findings shown above. We’ll see if it’s also reflected in the proposed alignment that comes out in a couple of weeks.

This all began with a proposed 150’, 8 lane roadway. After a bunch of work, by a bunch of people, we’re closing in on what will presumably be a much more rational, and forward thinking creative solution to how the roadway works (a concept that includes the surrounding businesses and residences,) while incorporating the capacity to adapt to opportunities as they present themselves over time.

Transit – Safety on Sun Tran

A couple of years ago, one of the Teamsters reps told me that the Sun Tran drivers were routinely being assaulted – verbally and/or physically – on busses. I asked our then Sun Tran director to get me the data. After several attempts, and nothing ever coming, I moved onto other issues.

At the November 18th Call to the Audience last year, some Sun Tran employees came and reiterated their concerns over driver safety. I’d add to that “rider safety”, as if there’s an altercation involving the driver, everybody on board is placed at risk. In response, the entire M&C asked to see the numbers. We also wanted some legal advice on the extent to which we can impose restraining orders on unruly customers. Here are the data provided to us by Sun Tran:

Sun Tran Critical Incidents – FY 2012 through FY 2015 YTD

	Total	Driver Assaults	Transit Centers	All Other Incidents
FY 2012	74	12	18	44
FY 2013	74	15	11	48
FY 2014	53	22	9	22
FY 2015 (YTD)	35	8	12	15

While we'd all like to see zeros in each column, given the number of hours the busses are operating, I think it's fair to conclude that people are not being placed at risk when riding Sun Tran. But the fact that we do have incidents means we should have protocols and training in place for the times things occur.

All new operators receive training on how to appropriately deal with situations when they arise. The first thing drivers are instructed to do is stop the vehicle when a passenger gets out of line – and call dispatch and/or TPD for assistance. Every bus has a radio that allows the driver to call directly to dispatch, and each of those radios has an emergency button that puts the call to the top of the priority list. They also have a covert alarm that allows dispatch to listen in on the exchange that's going on in the bus.

Sun Tran also contracts with off-duty police officers and has them stationed at both the Ronstadt Transit Center and at the Laos Transit Center. They're there around mid-afternoon. There's a private security firm on site at Tahono, RTC, and Laos during the night hours.

It should also be noted that the customer incidents seem to cluster on just a few routes. To address that, Sun Tran is using some police on Routes 8 and 16 – two of the busiest routes system-wide – and the response from both the riders and drivers has been positive. It does us no good to promote and market our transit system if the perception is that the busses aren't safe. The data demonstrate that it is in fact very safe to ride on our bus system, and to address those pockets where an occasional incident occurred, Sun Tran management has worked to put a security presence in place so any concerns customers and operators may have had are being addressed.

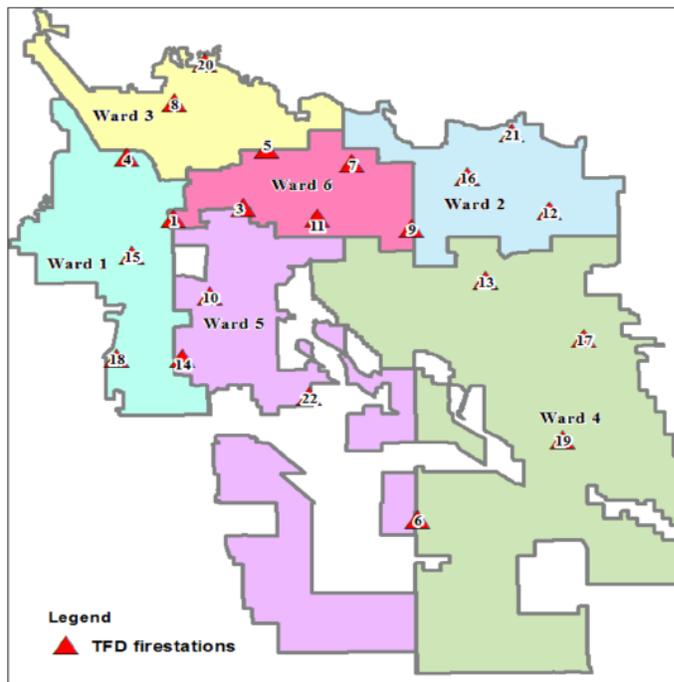
Public Safety and Staffing

Last week, our Fire Chief made some staffing moves that were specifically meant to increase the safety of the public in light of the budget challenges he's facing. Here are the data he was reacting to –

Tucson Fire Department Calls per Ward July-December 2014

	WARD 1	WARD 2	WARD 3	WARD 4	WARD 5	WARD 6
ALS	3,149	3,587	4,456	2,063	3,505	4,453
BLS	2,285	2,652	3,327	1,442	2,486	3,291
Suppression	557	566	697	460	713	1,155
Totals	5,991	6,805	8,480	3,965	6,704	8,899

As you can see, both the Advanced and Basic Life Support (paramedic) calls TFD rolls on are heavily focused in mid-town – Wards 6 and 3. Now here’s a map that shows where the fire stations are located around town:



Some of the personnel and equipment shifts Chief Critchley made are these. Station 4 over on the west side on the border of Wards 1 and 3 will now have a ladder truck. That has been needed for a long time. It can respond to medical calls, but having that equipment in place on the west side should be viewed positively by residents who live out there.

In Ward 6, both Stations 5 and 7 will see changes. Station 5 will gain a medic truck, and will also get one of the new rescue trucks. That’s in response to the high number of medical calls that station receives (note the data in the chart shown above.) Station 7 will keep its two medic trucks and will remain the Battalion HQ, which means it’ll house both a Battalion chief and an EMS Captain. Ward 6, where the majority of the medical calls occur, is covered well.

Station 20, which is out in Ward 3 by River and 1st Avenue, will have what’s called a “paramedic assessment unit”. That’s the crew and gear that can provide advanced life support procedures in advance of the arrival of a medic truck on the scene if needed for transport.

We rely on the command staff at TFD to occasionally make changes such as these based on the types and quantities of calls each station receives. I appreciate the fact that they

don't become complacent and simply assume that what has worked in the past is fine for tomorrow, too.

Public Safety Pensions

A big deal topic that will impact our budget talks is how we fund our public safety pensions. Right now we spend about \$44M to fund the employer portion. Based on a recent Court ruling, that amount is going up by \$18M. Another Court case is pending that would also increase our obligation if the Court rules against the State. It's likely that it will.

Without getting into the weeds, the Court rulings are the result of the State Legislature illegally withholding cost of living increases that pensioners should have been receiving. (Sounds familiar? It's the same concept as what they did with K-12 education funding, which lost in Court, too.)

The City does not control the public safety pension program. That happens at the State level. We pay for it, but the State largely sets the rules. Here are some numbers that show how many people are in the program, and how many are receiving benefits:

PSPRS			Averages				
	Count	% Total	Age	Years of Service	Salary or Pension 2014	2013	Age at Retire
June 30, 2014							
Actives	18,526	57.6%	39.7	11.2	\$75,048	\$74,344	
DROP	1,559	4.8%	54.0		\$64,173	\$63,236	
Retirees							
Normal	7,689	23.9%	63.8	23.5	\$54,761	\$52,592	51.4
Disability	1,460	4.5%	57.2	14.3	\$43,583	\$41,527	43.9
Survivor	1,303	4.1%	68.8	19.1	\$43,735	\$41,645	44.1
Guardian	72	0.2%			\$21,278	\$26,485	
Total Retirees	10,524	32.7%	63.3		\$51,616	\$49,571	
Inactive Vested	1,563	4.9%	38.0				
Total Membership	32,172	100.0%					

When all of the deferred retirement employees (DROPs) retire, the numbers show about 18 people working to pay the benefits of 12. If that sounds like it might not be a sustainable model, you're right. And for the City of Tucson, since our pension program is older than many others in the State, our ratio is closer to 1:1.

We have some funding options for the new \$18M obligation, and we'll be sorting through those in the immediate future. We don't have legal room to maneuver in terms of reducing benefits, but moving in the other direction, we did increase pensionable income last year with a pay raise, and we still have not addressed the illegally spiked pensions that people are about to walk out the door with from adding sick leave sell back dollars to their income.

By way of reminder, I'm all in favor of increasing public safety base pay by moving some of the dollars now captured in fringe benefits over to it. So let's not revisit the mischaracterization that occurred on that issue a month ago.

You've read plenty on how the State budget proposal is going to impact our upcoming City budget talks. It's also going to impact our intergovernmental agreements with the County,

and it could play a role in deciding whether or not to place a region-wide Bond package on the ballot this fall. I'm adding this section to let you know the actions of the State will also impact us budgetarily in our having to play catch-up on these public safety pension costs this fiscal year.

What's the solution? For the State Legislature and the public safety unions to come up with some changes that'll relieve the pressure on local budgets, and preserve the health of the public safety pensions for the younger cops and firefighters – and place them on the ballot for voters to address this November. We don't have the authority to do that from a local level.

Budget Elixir Fixer – Jobs

As I try to regularly remind people, the key to our budget issues is job creation. People coming into the workforce with a paycheck, spending in the local economy; is how we fund what we do.

I was surprised to learn recently that Cox Communications is the third largest employer in Arizona. And the wages they pay are nearly 50% higher than the State average. Right now in Tucson, they're hiring for 13 positions. Those include a local sales manager, home technicians, and some media production people. From the job postings I've seen, it's clear that the Cox fringe package is impressive and competitive.

If you'd like to see the jobs and/or apply, you can check them out at the Cox website, www.cox.com/coxcareer. Click "external candidates" and from there you can search all the job opportunities. There's a link to apply on line. Good luck.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6
Ward6@tucsonaz.gov

Events and Entertainment

Kidical Mass – Saturday, Feb 14th Family Bike Ride

What better way to celebrate Valentine's Day than on two wheels with your loved ones? Join Living Streets Alliance (LSA) and Safe Routes to School Tucson for a family-friendly bike ride leaving from and returning to Blenman Elementary school on Saturday, February 14th at 12 pm. For event details visit LSA's website:

<http://www.livingstreetsalliance.org/event/kidical-mass-blenman-elementary-school/>

Ada Redd Austin Valentine's Day Concert



"Nothing says Love better than a special friend, a glass of wine and JAZZ!"

Tucson Museum of Art

Saturday, February 14 @ 7:00pm

Come hear award-winning gospel vocalist Ada Redd Austin – a native Tucsonan – on stage with Pete Swan (drums), Grant Cherry (piano), Matt Mitchell (guitar), Scott Black (bass), and Max Goldschmidt (sax and trumpet). The evening includes not only the amazing sounds of Ms. Austin, but a buffet hosted by Café à la C' Art and champagne. More information here: <http://tucsonjazzfestival.org/event/ada-redd-austin-valentines-day-concert/>

Tucson Presidio: Arizona Statehood Living History Celebration

February 14, 2015

Presidio San Agustín del Tucson, February 14th

Cavalcade of History: Arizona Statehood Day

A free celebration of State history with a variety of characters and costumes. These characters will join our monthly living historians who demonstrate daily life in the Presidio. Come walk through history at the Presidio on Arizona's Statehood Day! 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Native American Style Flute Concert and Workshop with Award-Winning Flute Player Jonny Lipford

This up-and-coming World Music performer will be at the Presidio for one performance only! An award-winning instrumentalist who specializes in music produced with the Native American style flute Jonny's movements and melodies are winning praise from critics and fans. 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Ongoing

Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N Main Ave

www.TucsonMusuemofArt.org

Sacred Machine Museum & Curiosity Shop, 245 E Congress St

<http://sacredmachine.com>

Meet Me at Maynards, 311 E Congress St (north entrance on Toole)

A social walk/run through the Downtown area

Every Monday, rain or shine, holidays too!

Hotel Congress Check-in begins at 5:15pm.

www.MeetMeatMaynards.com

Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N Alvernon Way

<http://www.tucsonbotanical.org>

Jewish History Museum, 564 S Stone Ave

The Jewish History Museum presents “Skullcaps and Schul Hats,” focusing on two family collections of 1940s head coverings. The museum urges you to visit and learn about the fading tradition of Schul Hats and the enduring tradition of “Keeping the Kippot,” as well as Tucson Jewish history.

www.jewishhistorymuseum.org

Children's Museum Tucson, 200 S 6th Ave

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm; Saturdays & Sundays: 10:00am - 5:00pm

www.childrensmuseumtucson.org

Arizona State Museum, 1013 E University Blvd

November 9, 2013, through July 2015, “Curtis Reframed: The Arizona Portfolios.”

www.statemuseum.arizona.edu

UA Mineral Museum, 1601 E University Blvd

<http://www.uamineralmuseum.org/>

Southern Arizona Transportation Museum, 414 N Toole Ave.

Explore regional transportation history, and see a freight trains passing by, or ring the locomotive bell at the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum every Saturday, year round.

Tuesday – Thursday, Sunday: 1100am - 3:00pm; Friday & Saturdays: 10:00am - 4:00pm

<http://www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org>

Arizona Theater Company, 330 S Scott Ave

<http://www.arizonatheatre.org/>

Fox Theatre, 17 W Congress St

www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

Hotel Congress, 311 E Congress St

<http://hotelcongress.com>

Loft Cinema, 3233 E Speedway Blvd

www.loftcinema.com

Rialto Theatre, 318 E Congress St

<http://www.rialtotheatre.com/>

The Rogue Theatre at The Historic Y, 300 E University Blvd

<http://www.theroguetheatre.org/main.htm>



For the Love of Water

Show some love for our local rivers and washes this Valentine's Day!

Stop by Borderlands Brewing Co. to enjoy a local brew, live music, and show your support for Tucson Conserve2Enhance (C2E)! C2E is a community-led program dedicated to helping homeowners and businesses conserve water. Donations to C2E provide funding to enhance our urban waterways and wildlife habitats.

Date: Saturday, Feb. 14, 2015
Time: 4-10pm (Tap Room Hours)
Where: Borderlands Brewing Co.
 119 E Toole Ave, Tucson

A portion of purchases made during the event will help fund future Tucson C2E projects!

\$15 Special: a Borderlands Brew + dinner from the Sons of Smoke food truck



Atturbury Wash
2012 C2E Grant Recipient



Henry Elementary
2013 C2E Grant Recipient



Northwest & El Cortez Neighborhoods
2013 C2E Grant Recipient

borderlandsbrewing.com

water.tucsonaz.gov

sonoraninstitute.org

wrrc.arizona.edu

conserve2enhance.org



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
Agriculture & Life Sciences
 Water Resources Research Center

