

## Ward 6 Staff



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# Ward 6 Newsletter

## TUCSON FIRST

March 4, 2015

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### Depression

Last week, a former student-athlete from the UA posted the message shown below on Facebook. It's relevant to know that this is from a former NCAA Woman of the Year, a national champion in her sport, Summa Cum Laude graduate, in the UA Hall of Fame, and a Rhoades Scholar. Here's her message:

*Dear Friends,*

*I have just left the hospital after a 10 day stay. I was admitted because I was suicidal and worried I was going to hurt myself. I have fought depression for years, but despite knowing I had depression, I did not reach out to professionals for help. Because of this, things went from bad to worse to nearly impossible to cope with. I'm not sharing this for sympathy; I am in a better position with my mental health now than I have been in a long time. I'm sharing this because I want to tell you this: if you are struggling with depression or thoughts of hurting yourself, PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE seek help. Although I still have a long way to go in my recovery from depression, my life has completely changed for the better because I have finally talked to doctors and therapists. Your life can change too. Depression is NOT something to be ashamed or embarrassed of. It is completely treatable and the treatment can and will make things better. If you don't know where to start, please send me a private message and I will be more than willing to help.*

Nobody's immune. If you know somebody who might need a hand, consider reaching out to Sierra Tucson (844.325.5299) or begin with your personal physician and



### 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

go from there. We should be well beyond the issue of stigma. Depression is a treatable disease, just like the flu.

### Ronstadt Transit Center



On Wednesday, we moved the RTC Request for Proposals forward into Phase II. We have two qualified teams proposing on how to redevelop the site. Getting to that short list was what Phase I was about. Now we're asking to see some specifics in terms of development plans. Between now and when we see a final Development Agreement, there will be plenty of public input, as well as formal reviews by the Federal Transit Administration.

There was Federal transportation money involved in the original purchase of the site. For that reason there are explicit mandates to maintain a transit function at the RTC as a part of any development we approve. What we're looking for is how the transit facilities and uses will be integrated into the rest of the elements that'll be proposed for upgrading the site. We'll also be considering how other transit uses will be incorporated into what's being proposed. Those may include bike-share, car-share, taxi, Amtrak, the Streetcar – whatever modes of connectivity the developers intend to accommodate in their final plan.

Right now we plug about \$44M into support of transit. One of the goals of this project is to help to increase our tax base, economically benefit public transit, and relieve pressure on the General Fund in the process. That's where a mixed use component of the project will be important. That element may include housing, retail, services, or entertainment.

The newly developed transit center should also be one that's more attractive to customers. Improved facilities such as air-conditioned waiting rooms, public restrooms, possibly some food services, and some open space will likely be parts of the winning design proposal. We expect to do better than a chunk of asphalt that just churns busses through the downtown hub.

The timeline we're looking at will go something like this: The RFP is being issued next week. Flowing from that, will be some pre-submittal meetings between the development teams and relevant staff. Those meetings will elicit questions from the teams which will be due in early summer. Also this summer, the public presentations and feedback sessions will resume. Right now the responses to the RFP are scheduled to be submitted in September, evaluations will take a month, and the announcement of the results will occur sometime around Thanksgiving.

I mentioned the FTA will also review the proposals. They'll be looking at four things. First will be the economics of the proposals. We wouldn't be doing this if there wasn't some economic upside. There'll also have to be a public transportation benefit from the proposal. Remember, there are FTA dollars in the site. It's going to remain a transit center. They'll also look at how the proposers suggest splitting the revenues. They call this the "Fair Share of Revenue." As Project Sponsor, our share has to be at least equal to the

amount of the original Federal investment in the RTC. That's around \$7M. Finally, the FTA will look at the fair sharing of costs. Whoever shares space in the new site has to pay some portion of the costs of the facility.

The FTA analysis can stop the project until changes in any of those four elements are made. While that's going on, we can start to negotiate a development agreement. The current schedule is to have all of the boxes checked, and an agreement in place by about the middle of 2016.

There'll be opportunities to participate in the framing sessions early in the process. I'll make sure to get the word out about where/when those will take place. This will be a long and involved process. It's important that we get it right. There aren't a ton of available retail opportunities left at the east end of downtown. There also isn't another transit hub at which visitors will first gather downtown if they come by something other than a car. It is therefore particularly important to get this project done right.

### **Kramer Mansion**



This is a KOLD image of the Kramer Mansion, more commonly known today as the Potter House. I touched on this briefly last newsletter, but based on the level of interest in the issue, I felt it was important to lay out exactly what's going on with the property. There's a level of misunderstanding that needs to be clarified.

The property is owned by the Arizona Inn. The Inn went through a quiet solicitation, the intent of which was two-fold. First, they needed some operating capital and to get

the upkeep/maintenance burden of the Potter House off their books. Second, they needed to place restrictions on what could be built on the site so the integrity of the surrounding neighborhood is preserved, even if the Potter House cannot be. The builders who have the place in escrow have acknowledged those restrictions, and have a conceptual design that meets them.

Right now, the development team is going through what's called a "due diligence" process. What they're doing is inspecting the site for possible unknown hidden costs they'll have to absorb if the sale is finalized. Those are things such as whether or not on-site wells were properly capped, if there are septic tanks that need removal, or whether a swimming pool that used to be on the site was ever properly removed. The big number will be the cost to contain the asbestos that's inside Potter House during demolition. Once they get cost estimates for taking care of those and similar items, the development team will decide on whether or not to move forward with their project.

The site is zoned R2. That allows for some rather intense development. What's presently being considered is a 13 unit subdivision of single family, single story homes that'll be priced in the \$700K and up range. That's a pretty impressive piece of midtown infill development.

There are several issues the team is going to have to manage. I've met with them, and so have surrounding neighbors and the Inn management. Everybody's on the same wavelength when it comes to how this project will need to evolve. There are homes immediately adjacent to the project site. There will need to be a strong and proactive communication pro-



### **Important Phone Numbers**

Senator John  
McCain (R)  
520-670-6334

Senator Jeff  
Flake (R)  
520-575-8633

Congresswoman  
Martha McSally (R)  
(2<sup>nd</sup> District)  
(202) 225-2542

Congressman  
Raul Grijalva (D)  
(3<sup>rd</sup> 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/](http://maps.tucsonaz.gov/zoomTucson/)

cess between the contractors, developers, and homeowners on items such as hours of operation, timing of drilling, concrete pours, and those sorts of things. I deal with it all the time on campus – it's manageable, but it isn't if the contractors fly on auto-pilot.

The Arizona Inn owners made it clear that the design of the homes had to incorporate architectural elements found at the Inn. The early conceptual images show both exterior and interior examples of how that's being respected. Those commitments need to be in the form of deed restrictions that flow with the land. I've communicated that to the Inn ownership. The development team has confirmed that those are in place if they move ahead with their project. There has also been talk of saving as much of the old growth vegetation as is possible. Some of the trees are infested with bark beetles. Those will need to go. But it's in everybody's interest to preserve as much of the rest as possible.



So let's not kid ourselves – the elephant in the room is the proposed demolition of this 100+ year old house that has a ton of rich local history. I shared a little of that last week. Here's the reality. With the existing zoning, the developer is *entitled, by right* to demolish the house and build exactly what's being proposed. They're not asking for any variances, or any considerations that are not allowed under the existing zoning. Every meeting they attend to present their proposal and to receive input is being conducted not because they're re-

quired to, but because they're making every effort to be sensitive to the surrounding community. They're within their rights to cut off communications whenever they choose to.

I've stated in the media that I consider it my job at this point to help to manage the conversation going forward. The development team is aware of, and will address drainage issues that already exist on the site. I've already got them scheduled to present the proposal at two different upcoming neighborhood meetings. We'll stay in very close contact as this process moves forward. But for those who believe I, or anybody else has the authority to stop the project due to the history of the House, they're simply wrong.

I don't want to lose the Potter House. Neither does the ownership of the Inn. But nobody has stepped forward with cash in hand ready to preserve and repurpose it. That's where we are in this. I just wanted you to have the full set of facts.

### **Marriage Equality Resolution**

In June, 2014, *The Williams Institute* did a study in which they estimated the economic impact a State wide marriage equality law would have in Arizona. They began by looking at the number of same-sex couples who live here. Their estimate was based on the 2010 Census in which 15,800 couples listed themselves in that category. Based on experiences in other States that have legalized same sex marriages, the study estimated about half of those couples would choose to marry if it became legal.



The study then gathered the economic impact of marriages (cost of the wedding, impact of incoming guests, etc.) According to *The Wedding Report*, the average direct spending on an Arizona wedding in 2012 was about \$24K. In order to keep their conclusion on the conservative side, the *Williams Institute* people assumed same sex couples would spend

only one quarter of that amount.

They then estimated spending by out-of-state guests by using some per diem figures from the General Services Administration. In other states, same sex weddings drew an average of 16 out-of-state guests. The study took all of those data, looked at the number of jobs in the tourism/hospitality industry that would be impacted, computed sales tax revenues and concluded that an Arizona law legalizing these marriages would yield just over \$61M in combined spending, and just over \$5M in sales tax revenues over the first three years following legalization.

Those figures are based on conservative assumptions. As I shared with my appointment to the Small, Minority and Women Owned Business Commission, Shelly Fishman, they're nice, but somewhat irrelevant when it comes to whether or not we support this civil right. We support it because it's the right thing to do.

The SMWBC put together a White Paper on the issue, and through Shelly they asked me to introduce to the M&C a Resolution to be sent to the Ducey Administration, and to the State Legislative leadership that addressed the topic. Here's what we adopted on Tuesday:

*WHEREAS, the City of Tucson is focused on expanding its economy, achieving productive partnering relationships with its business community, and attracting new and expanding businesses; and*

*WHEREAS, the Mayor and Council of the City of Tucson believe that much of our recent success can be attributed directly to the explicit policies we have put in place that make us known throughout the country as welcoming and supportive of a highly diverse work force. We do this, not only because it's the right thing to do, but also because of its positive economic impact. Our policy support for a diverse community has included our support for marriage equality and GLBT rights; and*

*WHEREAS, the City of Tucson, through its Mayor and Council, encourages similar policies and awareness throughout our State. These policies directly promote business growth and generate tax revenues; and promote a reputation as a business-friendly state where diversity contributes to a strong, skilled and stable work force:*

***NOW, THEREFORE, YOUR MEMORIALIST, THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TUCSON, ARIZONA REQUESTS:***

***SECTION 1. That the Governor of the State of Arizona and the Arizona Legislature, for all of the reasons stated above, support marriage equality and GLBT rights; and support a highly diverse workforce and community statewide.***

Last Legislative term we saw SB1062 make its way through the House and Senate before finally being vetoed by the Governor. That was the bill allowing businesses to refuse service based on sexual orientation. That veto came immediately on the heels of a huge outpouring from the business community in opposition to what was yet another black-eye for the State in the area of civil rights. We on the M&C want to be on record early in this Legislative session that a repeat of that experience is both harmful to Arizona's image and wrong on its merits. We did that with our unanimous passing of the Resolution.

There are rumblings of a 1062-esque Bill being talked about. Without any frame of reference, we have no clue as to how Ducey would respond if something like that made it to his desk. We've spoken. Let's hope there are enough like-minded voices up in Phoenix.

### **Predator Masters Resolution**

And closing the loop on the Predator Master story for Tucson and Pima County, M&C voted to unanimously approve the Resolution I offered that encourages that group to find another home for their organized predator hunts. I shared some thoughts on this last week. We're joining the Board of Supervisors in taking a stand in opposition to the way this group operates. Hopefully the message got through to the Wildlife Museum so they think twice about rebooking the group next year.

### **Broadway Project**

On Monday, March 9th, Sustainable Tucson will be hosting a forum on the Broadway Project. The presenters will be members of the Broadway Coalition. The meeting will be at the Main Library downtown, lower level meeting room – doors at 5:30pm, presentation to begin at 6pm. Here's some background to possibly whet your appetite for coming.

I shared last week that the proposed alignment for Broadway became available for public viewing on the City website. To access it you can go to

<http://www.tucsonaz.gov/broadway>

There is a two week public comment period that's right now scheduled to end on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

For you to intelligently give your thoughts on this important roadway alignment, you need and deserve to see all of the options that are on the table. With that in mind, when I learned last week that there were two elements the Citizen Task Force hasn't seen – and that by extension, you haven't seen – I took the position that the comment period should not have begun.

There is a property acquisition process that's about to begin. That'll affect multiple businesses along the Broadway corridor. The City cannot advise businesses with respect to how they might work together to share parking on parcels subject to being purchased with public funds. But what the City can do is to post up on a public site some of the options others might consider with respect to shared parking solutions. In doing so, they'd simply be sharing information germane to what a business needs to weigh if being asked to sell and move. Despite having that information, it hasn't been posted on line for others to consider.

Given that the proposed alignment that's posted online involves millions of dollars in property demolition and acquisition and you're being asked to comment on it, if staff has ideas that might lead to a narrow version of the proposed alignment, the City can post up those ideas for your consideration and comment. They haven't.

When I began referring to a “narrow option,” the CTF was sent this in response:

*Dear CTF members and project team,*

*There is information circulating that a “narrow plan” exists for Broadway that has not been made available to you or to the public for the comment period that is open right now. This is not an accurate description.*

*You may get questions (or have already) and we want to provide you additional information so you have a better sense of what is going on/coming your way:*

*A segment example of what 6' sidewalk/4' landscape would look like in comparison to the staff-recommended 8' sidewalk/8' landscape is being prepared. The segment is in the west mile between Mountain and Warren Avenues. We are expecting to have this done on Wednesday, March 5 and it will be on the website as pre-meeting materials.*

*Some 3D still images of the possible segment are also going to be available to give some sense of scale and feel between the two options.*

*It is not accurate to portray this as an “alternative” or “option” at this point - it is not really an “either or.” It is a design consideration that the project's new engineering project manager, Beth Abramovitz, and the design team will be able to talk through with you all at the upcoming CTF meeting.*

*You, CTF members, will be presented this information first for your consideration at the March 19, 2015 meeting as you are making decisions about your recommendations for the project alignment. You will have significant input to aide your deliberations.*

A public comment period cannot begin until the public knows what it's commenting on. Neither the parking plan nor the narrow “either/or” was posted up along with the original proposed alignment, and yet the two week meter began with respect to public comments.



When I learned of that last week I tossed a flag and let staff know that was unacceptable. Specifically I took the position that until both the parking options, and the “narrow version” of the alignment were made public, the two week comment period should not start. You can't comment on something you don't know exists. Here's the response:

*A “narrow option” will not be ready until March 5 for public release; it is part of pre-meeting materials that will be posted online. The staff-recommended alignment is under public comment and review. The narrow option will be made publicly available soon, and will be presented during the CTF meeting for review and consideration. The narrow option will show fewer buildings [between Mountain and Warren Avenues] being severed by the future roadway going through them.*

*I do not recommend a delayed schedule. If the RTA Board takes the summer off, which they typically do, we need to get the funding request to them by June 25. To achieve project schedule targets, Real Estate needs to get going on their acquisition research and planning, which alone takes 6-8 months. My understanding is that Real Estate needs the certainty of the adopted alignment and granting Authority to Acquire before they can get going.*

The parking options were similarly not released.

Victor Kiam is quoted as having said “Information is a negotiator's greatest weapon.” If the public and the business operators who are being asked to comment don't have the full deck of cards, their comments are framed by a partial set of facts. Withholding information is one way of achieving a desired result.

I requested that my representative on the Small, Minority and Women Owned Business Commission address this when staff presented to them on the Broadway alignment. That Commission agreed with my position that information needed to be fully disclosed before

any comment period began. Here's what they approved:

*First, City staff should present for review both the currently published plan and the so-called "narrow option" plan at the meetings scheduled on March 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> with members of the business community. Second, the City staff should extend the period for comment beginning on the date the alternative plan is made public and for two weeks thereafter.*

You can't comment on what you don't know exists. Staff did not present those options to the business community.

There's also this from Peter Finley Dunne: "*Trust everybody, but cut the cards*". Credibility is everything. I'm going to continue to insist on a full and open process as this Broadway dialogue comes towards its conclusion. I expect staff to lay all the cards on the table, and then allow you to comment. Even if you cut the cards, if there's only half a deck on the table, you're handicapped.

### **Urban Camping**

The City of Denver has an Urban Camping ban. In the introduction to the DPD memo on it, this statement is included: "This Ordinance does not make the status of homelessness illegal; rather, it prohibits the specific conduct of unauthorized camping." That's an important point, in light of some who continue to suggest that the City is not compassionate and the efforts we've put into cleaning up the "pod" situation downtown is tantamount to rendering homelessness "illegal." The issue isn't status. It's conduct.

As with the Denver Ordinance, citing or arresting should be options of last resort. The first and most important component to any contact with one of our homeless residents is to ensure that person has access to any social services he or she needs. We cannot compel that they take advantage of what's offered. At the same time, we have an obligation to the broader community to make sure our public spaces are safe, clean, and open to all to access for legitimate uses.

On Tuesday we had an update on the City's response to the "pods". I made the following points:

- a) We need to make sure all health and safety codes are being complied with.
- b) We need to ensure the safety of all who want to access our public spaces.
- c) We should wait on Judge Bury's decision before taking action on cleaning out the area; let's let the Federal Court lay down the ground rules.
- d) We should be aggressively looking for an alternate "safe zone" to offer those who are now camped out in the downtown.
- e) We should adopt an Ordinance similar in purpose to what Denver has.

In Denver, you can't "camp" on public or private property without the express permission of the property owner or the controlling agency (the City). They've defined "camping" to include "residing or dwelling temporarily in a place, with shelter." The pods would be considered "camping" under those terms.

Here's the first page from the DPD Training Bulletin on their Ordinance. You can find the whole thing online, but this gives the flavor that it's not a Draconian attempt to "criminalize" homelessness. The Ordinance is full of references to trying to get people to the services they need. It's not perfect – what is? – but it's a starting point for us to begin moving forward.



## DENVER POLICE DEPARTMENT

# Training Bulletin

ROBERT C. WHITE, CHIEF OF POLICE

Date of issue: 5-19-12

Source: Homeless Outreach Team

## D.R.M.C. § 38-86.2 – UNAUTHORIZED CAMPING ON PUBLIC OR PRIVATE PROPERTY PROHIBITED

**IMPORTANT:** This ordinance does not make the status of homelessness illegal; rather, it prohibits the specific conduct of unauthorized camping. A person's status of being homeless is irrelevant to the determination of whether the ordinance is violated.

When faced with a suspected unauthorized camping situation, it is important for officers to recognize the initial focus must be on ascertaining whether the person is camping as defined in the ordinance, and directing the person toward services, if appropriate. Citing or arresting a person for violating this ordinance should be the resolution of last resort. In all situations, barring "life threatening" circumstances, a citation or arrest should not occur if an individual is in need of a homeless shelter or bed, expresses a willingness to accept homeless shelter assistance, and the officer is notified that shelter space is not available or the officer is unable to ascertain the availability of a shelter.

The following reflects newly enacted revisions to the Denver Revised Municipal Code, regarding the contact, evaluation, referral, citation/arrest and prosecution of parties engaged in camping on public or private property.

### Sec. 38-86.2. Unauthorized Camping on Public or Private Property Prohibited.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to camp upon any private property without the express written consent of the property owner or the owner's agent, and only in such locations where camping may be conducted in accordance with any other applicable city law.
- (b) It shall be unlawful for any person to camp upon any public property except in any location where camping has been expressly allowed by the officer or agency having the control, management and supervision of the public property in question.
- (c) No law enforcement officer shall issue a citation, make an arrest or otherwise enforce this section against any person unless:
  - (1) The officer orally requests or orders the person to refrain from the alleged violation of this section and, if the person fails to comply after receiving the oral request or order, the officer tenders a written request or

order to the person warning that if the person fails to comply the person may be cited or arrested for a violation of this section; and

- (2) The officer attempts to ascertain whether the person is in need of medical or human services assistance, including but not limited to mental health treatment, drug or alcohol rehabilitation, or homeless services assistance. If the officer determines that the person may be in need of medical or human services assistance, the officer shall make reasonable efforts to contact and obtain the assistance of a designated human service outreach worker, who in turn shall assess the needs of the person and, if warranted, direct the person to an appropriate provider of medical or human services assistance in lieu of the person being cited or arrested for a violation of this section. If the officer is unable to obtain the assistance of a human services outreach worker, if the human services outreach worker determines that the person is not in need

1

While the Ordinance change is being considered, I've also asked for a list of surplus City property that we can consider for an alternate "safe/speech zone." It would necessarily come with rules to ensure the occupants are safe. I asked for that list over two weeks ago, finally got something through a commercial realtor, and afterwards was told it had been on the City website all the time. Similar to issues surrounding the Broadway project, that's no way to build trust.

We've filed for a reconsideration of Judge Bury's original decision. Here's some of what we filed last week:

***ALLOWING THE CITY TO PROHIBIT THE PLACEMENT OF OVERSIZED ITEMS ON CITY SIDEWALKS WILL PRESERVE THE STATUS QUO, PROTECT PUBLIC SAFETY, AND PROVIDE FOR ENFORCEMENT OF REASONABLE TIME, PLACE AND MANNER LIMITATIONS OF FIRST AMENDMENT ACTIVITY.***

*The City asks this Court to clarify its Order by stating that the City may react to changed circumstances by prohibiting the placement of oversized items on City sidewalks under the plain terms of its applicable Code provisions.*

***B. The Code Provisions at Issue are Sufficiently Precise to Provide Notice of the Prohibited Conduct, and Enforcement of These Provisions Amounts to Permissible Time, Place and Manner Regulation of Expressive Conduct.***

***The Sleep-in Structures Are at Most Facilitative Rather Than Expressive Under the Order, and the City Is Entitled to Cite Persons Who Erect these Structures Under TCC §§ 25-51 and 16-35.***

We'll wait on the Judge and then move ahead based on his reconsideration. I've made it very clear though that we have to be pursuing options for an alternate location, and we have to continue a police presence to ensure the safety of the public and free access to places of business. We've made too many significant steps forward in the last five years in terms of revitalization of the downtown core to allow a misread of the Judge's decision to set us back.

We've continued outreach to the people who are camping downtown. Last week, this action was reported by our Housing and Community Development team:

*The City of Tucson's Housing and Community Development department coordinated a joint visit to Veinte de Agosto Park from ten different social service agencies, in an effort to connect homeless individuals with programs and services. Representatives from Primavera Foundation, The Salvation Army and other groups that specialize in providing transitional housing spoke with individuals gathered at the downtown location to assess*

*their needs and provide resources. Agency representatives were successful in assisting several individuals and will continue to perform outreach in the park.*

I appreciate the involvement of the downtown merchants, local business community, the Rio Nuevo leadership, faith based and County officials who have joined in working on solutions. With “rights” come “responsibilities.” It’s my intent to ensure all of those involved in the camping recognize both sides of that equation.

### **Tucson Homeless Connect**

On a very related note, please check out this event.



On Friday 3/27, there’ll be an event at Trinity Presbyterian Church (400 E. University) to help connect homeless people with a variety of needed services and information. It’s an all day, one-day / one-stop event. Some of the information being offered include:

- Information on how to get an I.D.
- Clothing
- Shelter/Housing
- Legal Assistance
- Homeless Court
- Help with benefits
- Health Screenings
- Haircuts
- Ticket Assistance
- Pet Care & Grooming

It’s another example of how this community reaches out to those in need in real and tangible ways.

**Closing the loop** on a bit of unintended controversy, at the close of yesterdays study session, I made a comment expressing the need for a compassionate and organized plan when the homeless are asked to vacate the public right away. Some of our local police officers took offense and felt that it depicted TPD in a negative light. Within 30 minutes after having been told that it was misunderstood, I cleared the air by publicly allowing for that misunderstanding and apologizing for that.

My broad relationships with our police are positive. Cpt. Jim Webb has been a hero in working with our downtown and 4th Avenue merchants, building relationships and responding to their needs. Asst. Chief Robinson is engaged with merchants at Main Gate, 4th Avenue and downtown putting in place new protocols for how we respond to NCAA basketball celebrations. Cpt. Mike Gillooly is working regularly with me, the University and neighborhood associations to get control of off-campus housing issues. These are positive relationships that I and my staff have worked to establish.

The full context of the comment was my asserting the value of the Mental Health Training many of our officers, along with Pima County law enforcement have received. It’s that training that we will need to fully engage if Judge Bury’s ruling allows us to move the downtown encampment to the alternate site for which I’ve been advocating.

### **Charter Review Committee**

I’ve reported on this item before. Now the Committee has chiseled down its originally large list of possible Charter changes and is ready to present its work to you. The members have set up two public meetings – one out on the far east side and one out on the far west side.

They missed midtown, so I'm holding my own at the Ward 6 office.

On Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm, we'll have both of my Committee representatives, along with City Attorney Mike Rankin, share with you a summary of the various items they may send to M&C for our consideration. Right now, they boil down into four general areas. One of those is just clean up language (de-genderize the text, eliminate names of departments that no longer exist, and that sort of thing). The other areas are substantive changes to the Charter.

The three other areas are governance, financial, and civil service. The Committee might bundle some of it together, or they might just send us a long laundry list and let us talk about how to combine (if at all) the proposals.

In the governance group, they're talking about giving the Mayor either a vote or a veto. If it's a veto, we'd have the ability to over-ride with a super majority vote. They're also talking about going to Ward only elections. Right now, we're elected City-wide. Finally, there's talk of adding two more council members, each of whom would run City-wide and not represent any particular Ward.

The financial piece includes eliminating any Charter limits on our Secondary Property Tax. Right now, it's coupled with our Primary Property Tax with a combined limit of not exceeding \$1.75 per \$100 of assessed valuation on your property. If we eliminated the Secondary from that calculation, it'd allow us to put several hundreds of millions of dollars in Bond questions on the ballot for you to consider. Right now we're within \$60M of hitting the cap. The other part of the financial is to earmark some of our sales tax receipts to specific uses.

The last piece describes Civil Service protections. Currently the Charter mixes up who hires, fires and, with that, what protections exist for Department Heads. The Committee is looking at allowing the M&C to hire and fire the City's Clerk, Attorney, Manager, and is considering adding both the Police and Fire Chief to that. All other Department Heads would fall to the City Manager to hire and fire. There are nuances to it, but that's the general idea.

Come on the 11<sup>th</sup> and share your thoughts and questions with my representatives on the Committee. If you've gone to some of their meetings, the discussions may have appeared to be all over the map. Now they're focused so what you'll hear on the 11<sup>th</sup> will be a much more fine-tuned presentation than their own Committee meetings.

### **City Manager Hiring Process**

A quick update on what's coming in our search for a new City Manager. We have short-listed the number of applicants from over 40 down to under 10. This is where the citizen input part of the process begins.

Each of M&C named two people to a citizen interview committee. On Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, M&C will spend the bulk of the day interviewing each of the applicants, and that will be followed that same evening with a 90 minute Community Forum (7:30pm until about 9pm). That'll be held in the M&C Chambers. You're encouraged to come and hear from the applicants.

The next morning, the citizen committee will do their interviews. That'll be followed by a "Meet/Greet" with upper level City Staff from noon until 1pm. At 1:30 that afternoon, M&C will receive a briefing from the Citizen Committee and from the Staff leadership

team. After that, we'll decide on whether to extend an offer, deliberate some more, or just what.

Each of these meetings will be held in our Chambers. This is a key hiring decision so it's important for you to come and be a part of it.

### Animal Resuscitation Kits



Each year, over 40,000 pets die from smoke asphyxiation in fires. They're family members, so that's heartbreaking to know.

In October, 2014, Bruce Phillips donated four Pet Oxygen Masks to TFD. They've been on trucks at all working fires ever since. But that number is too small to meet the needs firefighters see out in the field.

Save A Life Foundation is now getting involved in a big way. They're donating an additional 22 animal Resuscitation Kits to

TFD on behalf of "Air For Paws." The Foundation is also donating kits to both the South Tucson and Avra Valley Fire Departments. Here's a part of the Air For Paws mission statement:

*Air For Paws was created with the goal of getting pet oxygen masks on board every fire, police and emergency medical service rescue truck. These masks have found their way into the hands of first responders primarily through word of mouth and the generosity of compassionate pet owners like you.*

You can find out more about them by going to [airforpaws.com](http://airforpaws.com).



### Physicians for Social Responsibility

Finally, we're hosting a two hour free workshop at the Ward 6 office that's sponsored by Physicians for Social Responsibility, Arizona Chapter. The workshop will be centered on how to best prepare for extreme heat emergencies. They'll talk about what to do in the case of electrical outages, and generally how to prepare for the protection of yourself, family and neighborhood.

The workshop will be led by Grace Rich and Margo Newhouse. It'll run from 1pm until 3pm on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup>. I've sat through some of this and assure you that they'll present some things that aren't necessarily intuitive. It'll help them to prepare the right amount of materials to bring if you'd let Grace know you're coming. Her number is 622.5659.

Sincerely,

Steve Kozachik  
Council Member, Ward 6  
[Ward6@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:Ward6@tucsonaz.gov)

## Events and Entertainment

### **Manifest Destiny Billboard Project at MOCA**

MOCA, 265 South Church Avenue

6-8pm on Saturday, March 7, 2015

*The Manifest Destiny Billboard Project* is a series of artist-produced billboards and activations that will unfold along Interstate 10 Freeway from Florida to California through spring 2015. The project was conceived by artist Zoe Crosher and is co-curated by the artist and LAND's Director and Curator, Shamim M. Momin. Using the concept of Manifest Destiny - America's territorial expansion across North America - the artists will explore this problematic and layered history.

### **Tucson Festival of Books**

University of Arizona Campus

9:30am-5:30pm, March 14-15, 2015

The Tucson Festival of Books is a registered non-profit organization established to support and fund literacy advancement in southern Arizona. Visit hundreds of book-loving booths to meet new authors, learn about literacy services in our community, get great deals on books (and other book related merchandise), and more on March 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> – <http://tucsonfestivalofbooks.org/?id=58>.

### **Ongoing . . . .**

**UA Mineral Museum**, 1601 E University Blvd

**February 7, 2015– January 31 2016, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

'**Meet the Trilobites - Arizona's First Inhabitants**' - Long before the dinosaurs ruled the earth, the trilobites ruled the seas. Ancient relatives of lobsters and horseshoe crabs, trilobites flourished in the warm seas that covered much of Arizona millions of years ago.

*Meet the Trilobites – Arizona's First Inhabitants*, the new exhibit at the Flandrau Science Center and Planetarium, features world-class trilobite fossils from around the globe. Come travel back in time and discover the wondrous world of trilobites!

<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/>

**Tucson Museum of Art**, 140 N Main Ave

[www.TucsonMusuemofArt.org](http://www.TucsonMusuemofArt.org)

**Tucson Botanical Gardens**, 2150 N Alvernon Way

<http://www.tucsonbotanical.org>

**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](http://www.MeetMeatMaynards.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>

**Loft Cinema**, 3233 E Speedway Blvd

[www.loftcinema.com](http://www.loftcinema.com)

**Fox Theatre**, 17 W Congress St

[www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org](http://www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org)

**Hotel Congress**, 311 E Congress St

<http://hotelcongress.com>

**Jewish History Museum**, 564 S Stone Ave

[www.jewishhistorymuseum.org](http://www.jewishhistorymuseum.org)

**Children's Museum Tucson**, 200 S 6<sup>th</sup> Ave

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

[www.childernsmuseumtucson.org](http://www.childernsmuseumtucson.org)

**Arizona State Museum**, 1013 E University Blvd

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

[www.statemuseum.arizona.edu](http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu)