

Ward 6 Staff



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Ward 6 - Newsletter

Tucson First

January 13, 2014

Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Each year at about this time we get a review of how our financial health is as a City. It's all included in the CAFR, a 150 page document that would be a great remedy for insomnia for anybody who doesn't enjoy reading about bond debt, investment portfolios, fund balances and those sorts of dinnertime conversation issues. None the less, the information contained in the report is a critical barometer that we need to respect as we move into our budget discussions.

I'll share some of the data, hopefully not enough to put you to sleep, but enough so you'll have some background when you later read about our budget challenges. You can decide whether the glass is half full, or half empty.



We have a policy that says our goal should be a reserve fund of 10% of general fund revenues that has some spending restrictions on it, and one that's 7% of the general fund revenues that's uses are unassigned. Both serve as indicators to bond agencies of how fiscally stable we are as an organization, and both are to be used to adjust for financial challenges during budget cycles. Currently, our restricted fund is at about 5.2% of general fund revenues, and our unassigned rainy day fund is at just under 3%.

If our finance/budget folks were speaking in all candor, they'd tell you that we should certainly be working on increasing those fund balances for at least two reasons. First, we have some fiscal challenges coming in the next couple of years that may cause us to have to dip into the reserves. They need to have healthy balances. And second, they're one of several indicators that bond rating agencies look to when setting our borrowing rates. In doing that though, agencies don't generally look at one City out of the context of their peers. So I asked our staff to send me comparison data on how we stand up against other Arizona cities.

Here's a little of what I poached from the tables they sent to me (prepared by Piper Jaffray this month:)



Important Phone Numbers

Tucson Police Department
 911 or 791-4444
 nonemergency
 Mayor & Council Comment Line
 791-4700
 Neighborhood Resources
 791-4605
 Park Wise
 791-5071
 Water Issues
 791-3242
 Pima County Animal Control
 243-5900
 Street Maintenance
 791-3154
 Planning and Development Services
 791-5550
 Southwest Gas
 889-1888
 Gas Emergency/ Gas Leaks
 889-1888
 West Nile Virus Hotline
 243-7999
 Environment Service
 791-3171
 Graffiti Removal
 792-2489
 AZ Game & Fish
 628-5376

Continued: A Message From Steve

	Tucson	Chandler	Mesa	Phoenix	Scottsdale	Peoria
Bond Rating (Moody's/S&P/Fitch)	Aa3/AA-/AA	Aaa/AAA/AAA	Aa2/AA	Aa1/AA+	Aaa/AAA/AAA	Aa1/AA+/AA+
Unassigned Fund Balance	\$12.7M	\$66M	\$78M (fy'12)	\$161M	\$48M	\$51M (fy'12)
Operating Revenue	\$473M	\$217M	\$248M (fy'12)	\$1B	\$262M	\$104M
Cash Balance as a % of Revenue	0.33%	72.14%	28.58% (fy'12)	9.10%	19.21%	47.13%

Ok, so we have work to do on our spendable fund balance. From a revenue perspective, things are better:

Sales tax, which is 40% of our general fund revenues, went up about 3% last year. State shared revenues went up just under 5% over fy'12. But they're below 2007 levels by 10% and 15%, respectively. Our base is far below what it used to be.

We're projected to see those recurring revenues grow by about 4% this fiscal year. But our expenses are projected to increase by about 7%. That's due to increases in the pay raises we just gave, overtime, public safety pension costs and mass transit costs, among others. That's not an unfamiliar trend. Last fiscal year our revenues increased by 5.2%, but our expenses increased by 8.3%. And while our non-public safety pension has a 63% funded ratio, both police and fire's funded ratios are below 50%.



Am I losing you?

I'll stop, except to say that we'll have more data starting next week when we get a jump on budget talks. We have some holes to fill, but the bottom's not falling out so this isn't time to



hit the panic button, either.

Office of Integrated Planning Meeting

On Thursday evening we hosted the community meeting related to the new Office of Inte-



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John
McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jeff
Flake (R)
520-575-8633

Congressman
Ron Barber (D)
(2nd District)
520-881-3588

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

Governor Janice
Brewer (R)
Governor of Arizona
602-542-4331
Toll free:
1-800-253-0883

State Legislators
Toll Free
Telephone:
1-800-352-8404
Internet:
www.azleg.gov

Mayor Jonathan
Rothschild
791-4201

City Infoguide
[http://
cms3.tucsonaz.gov/
infoguide](http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/infoguide)

grated Planning. Thanks to Nicole Ewing-Gavin and Rebecca Ruopp for their participation, and for receiving the input from the residents who took the time to attend. There were multiple other representatives of City staff also present. And we had around 75 community members in the room representing a wide variety of interests. The extent to which we can look back and call it a worthwhile meeting will be a function of how the input is integrated into the plans for the new Office.

My hope was to focus the discussion around how we put into place protocols through which early input into projects would be ensured. That input should come from the broad variety of stakeholders, including neighborhood representatives and business operators. Clearly that input is only a part of the equation. The rest is how that input is used. Not only are those not mutually exclusive ideas, they're complimentary.

The themes we heard from the people who came revolved around a few major ideas;
How do we ensure community voices are heard?
What mechanisms can be put into place so the community can track projects?
Trust – we need to continue to work on regaining that.

The key is in how we implement what we heard. We took very comprehensive notes, but if they don't jump from the paper to practice, we wasted everyone's time.

As you saw in the budget opening, we're not rolling in cash and so it's highly unlikely that any new protocols we adopt will come with price tags associated with them. But we can certainly do the communication, outreach and listening parts of what was shared. And if we do that well, the resulting projects will be better for having gone through that process.

Staff is putting the personnel into place in the new OIP. The parts we talked about last Thursday evening will be works in progress as the Office gets its feet on the ground and starts to operate. What M&C asked for was to see some codified protocols that will ensure adequate public process early in project planning, and throughout implementation. That's what staff will be bringing back to us once they've completed their outreach.

Neighborhood Design

Along that same line, a research project is being conducted on the UA campus that is intended to study the effect on our sense of well being based on the way we design our neighborhoods. Here's a link to their survey – it takes about 10 minutes to complete.

[https://ua.datstathost.com/OSS-Collector/Survey.ashx?
Name=openspaces&TestSurvey=APyEJCCcJ0qHd6U6jvxuew](https://ua.datstathost.com/OSS-Collector/Survey.ashx?Name=openspaces&TestSurvey=APyEJCCcJ0qHd6U6jvxuew)

The survey is anonymous. It's directed to adults only (18 years and older), who live in Tucson. They expect the results to be available in December 2014, and they will be posted on the following web page (www.facebook.com/natureincities.) If you'd like to get more information on the research, feel free to contact the primary investigator Adriana Zuniga Teran She's a doctoral student at the University of Arizona, and can be reached at [\(520\) 443 0468](tel:5204430468) or email aazuniga@email.arizona.edu.

The street fair will have a new alignment this spring – perhaps you've been following the story in the Star.

This item intentionally falls immediately behind the one in which I note the ‘trust’ issue. Throughout the course of the streetcar construction, the Fourth Avenue merchants have been dealing with shifting messages and timelines and loss of income. By way of one ex-



ample, the intersection of University and 4th Avenue was supposed to be closed for 3 months. It remained closed for 9 months, with the expected impact on Epic Café and other nearby stores.

Last spring we had meetings during which the alignment of the winter and spring fairs was discussed. Everybody seemed to agree on a new alignment for the spring fair, but that was without any mention that a County Flood Control District project was also going to be going on just to the east of the fair. That was an important bit of information because the newly proposed alignment puts vendors in a less accessible area (7th Street, west of 4th Avenue.) Closing off access to them from east of the fair makes their visibility and therefore viability troublesome. If they don't use the new alignment, that will mean a loss of between 70 and 75 vendors, and a financial loss to FAMA of up to \$50K.

The original reason for the need to realign was that the city wants to continue testing the streetcar. By March, we might have 2 or 3 more cars to test. The streetcar team wants to park them in the maintenance facility at night, thus the shift of the fair back to the north and west. While less than optimal, the new alignment might have worked, except for the new information about the drainage project.

I began asking for relief last October. Getting no answers, I advised FAMA to just go ahead and set up shop the way they normally do and force the issue. Discretion being the better part of valor, they decided to try to continue working out a solution. Late last week, the County apparently agreed to make sure access from the east will not be impacted by their work. At least that's what came through in a memo from the City. Having had the experience of the construction delays, FAMA is less than confident that that memo is binding on the County. So I drafted a letter on their behalf saying that unless we get a letter assuring access, the Fourth Avenue Merchants Association is not willing to invite those 75 additional vendors, only to have them find out that on the weekend of the fair that nobody will be able to find them. If the memo was accurate, getting that assurance in writing should be easy.

My position from the start was to simply take the weekend off from testing the streetcar – or, in the alternative, test it on campus. It'll be spring break, so there will be virtually no

activity on the UA campus. And if they need a place to camp the vehicle overnight, leave it in the Warren underpass. If it's a matter of security, I'm sure FAMA would spring for a rent-a-cop for a couple of nights, in exchange for losing \$50K on uninvited vendors.

I'm still hopeful that this will work out. Without the letter of assurance, FAMA won't invite the added vendors. That'd be a shame. The people who participate in the fair rent hotel rooms, eat at our restaurants, and generally touch our tax base in a positive way. I think the testing of the streetcar – already two years behind schedule – could have waited for a couple of days and avoid this whole messy public relations flap. Or do some extra testing now so the 'lost hours' due to the street fair would be a wash. Either way, we'll see if the County comes through and bails us out by clearing access. Assuming they do, here's the new alignment of the fair:

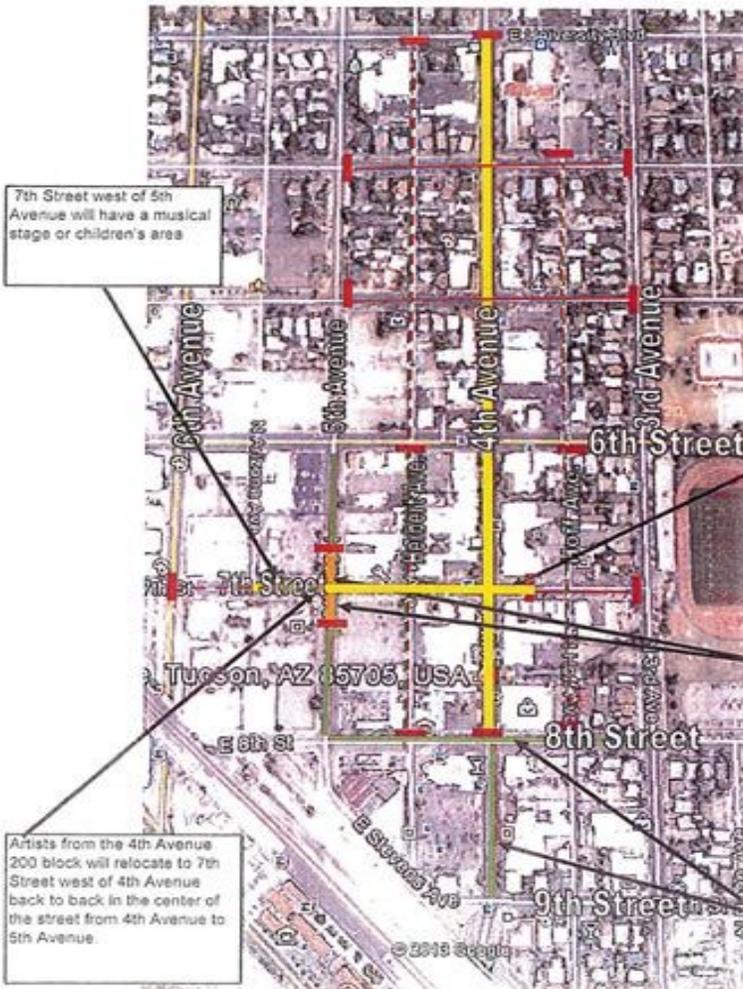
Proposed Street Fair Realignment

7th Street/5th Avenue

5/9/2013



- = Food Courts
- = Artists Booths
- = Road Barricade
- - - = Fire Lane
- - - = Limited Vehicle Access
- = Open Road



7th Street west of 5th Avenue will have a musical stage or children's area

7th Street east of 4th Avenue will be available for special venues, i.e. sponsors/mobile marketing, children's area, exhibiting artists, emerging artists, etc.

The two 7th Street food courts will relocate to 5th Avenue, one food court on the north side of 7th Street and the other on the south side of 7th Avenue. Each food court will extend approximately 50 feet leaving access open to the Cummings parking lot and United Fire parking lot.

Artists from the 4th Avenue 200 block will relocate to 7th Street west of 4th Avenue back to back in the center of the street from 4th Avenue to 5th Avenue.

9th Street, 8th Street (to 5th Avenue), 4th Avenue Underpass, and 200 block of 4th Avenue will be open to vehicular traffic



FC Tucson

Credit where it belongs on this one. If it hadn't been for the hard work of Council Member Cunningham and Supervisor Elias, major league soccer would likely not have landed here, and certainly wouldn't have their own stadium out at Kino Sports Complex. I should also give kudos to the UA soccer team for making our home field available early on to Greg Foster and the FC Tucson guys, but the heavy lifting came from Paul and Richard Elias.

And so now, two opportunities for you. Season tickets for the 2014 FC Tucson 10 game home schedule, and a chance to pre-purchase tickets to the upcoming MLS tournament – February 1-8 out at the Kino Sports Complex.

Here's the link for both:

https://fctucson.ticketsocket.com/?utm_source=TicketSalesEmail&utm_campaign=TicketSalesEmail&utm_medium=email

This will be the third year in a row that Major League Soccer will come to Tucson to train for the 2014 regular season. We lost spring training baseball for numerous reasons, but we've got a corner on the spring training soccer market.

Similar to baseball, we'll see teams from all over the country next month at Kino. Those will include:

- Chicago Fire
- Chivas USA
- Colorado Rapids
- Houston Dynamo
- New England Revolution
- Portland Timbers (2013 Western Conference Champions)
- Real Salt Lake (2013 MLS Cup Runner-up)
- San Jose Earthquakes
- Seattle Sounders
- Sporting Kansas City (2013 MLS Cup Champion)

And for the first time, FC Tucson will compete with these clubs.

During the February tournament, the six dates of the MLS play will include two days of FC Tucson Desert Friendlies and then four days of triple headers during the 2014 FC Tucson Desert Diamond Cup.

With the film incentives we passed we're headed in the right direction for rebuilding our place in that industry. The success of FC Tucson and the Desert Diamond Cup is a step in the direction of our rebuilding our place in the sporting world. And it's nice to note that both came about through the cooperative work of the City and the County.



NICS System

During the event I hosted at The Loft last week, there was some discussion among our law enforcement participants about the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. As far as it goes, it's a good system. The trouble is that it doesn't go far enough.

The NICS System's purpose is simple – to save lives and protect people from harm by keeping guns and explosives out of the hands of people who are prohibited by law from purchasing

them. It also provides for a quick transfer of firearms to eligible gun buyers.

NICS was mandated by the Brady Handgun Violence Prevention Act of 1993. It took until the end of 1998 for the FBI to actually launch the system. It's used by Federal Firearms Licensees (FFL) to determine whether a prospective buyer is eligible to make the purchase. Before ringing up the sale, cashiers call in a check to the FBI or to other designated agencies to ensure that each customer does not have a criminal record or isn't otherwise ineligible to make a purchase. Since its inception, more than 100 million such checks have been made. Those checks have resulted in more than 700,000 denials. Let's stop pretending that background checks don't work.

One flaw in the system is that in person to person sales, not involving an FFL, no background checks are required. Those sales were what prompted us at the Mayor and Council level last year to require all gun sales taking place on City owned or managed property to be subject to a background check. We'd still like to see the County (and the State, but...) join us in that common sense move.

Another flaw is less widely known. Currently, law enforcement agencies do not have access to information in NICS that classifies individuals as prohibited possessors because of mental health issues. The current interpretation is that for local law enforcement to gain that type of information would be a violation of HIPPA regulations (privacy rights). Our folks do have access to other information from NICS, but not the mental health component. Given that so many of the people involved in the mass shootings we see taking place, not to mention suicides, involve people who have a demonstrably troubled psychological background, one would think allowing NICS checks going to our police and sheriff officers would include that component. But they don't.

This one's out of our local jurisdictional control. To fix it would take State and/or Federal action. One would think that the NRA would be fully supportive. It's similar to the suicide prevention notices I mentioned in last week's newsletter (posting notices in gun shops and at shooting ranges to be on the lookout for people who might be a danger to themselves, and to get them to the service provider they need / not sell them a gun) – the two sides of the gun control issue should be able to link arms and embrace this common ground. We'll see – the legislative sessions are just now gearing up for the spring term.

State Film Incentive Bill

Speaking of the State legislature, it appears we might get another shot at a Statewide film incentive package this session. State Senator Carlyle Begay is trying to put together a bipar-

tisan bill to bring back the State Film Office, and to establish a State Film Commissioner. While those don't drop any nickels into the hopper, they're one more indicator that we get it when it comes to the value of that industry to our entire State.

This Thursday (January 16th) the Arizona production community is going to join together at the State Capitol to show their support of the Begay bill. There'll be an equipment and talent fair, expo of small businesses united for the film industry and communities from all over the State who support the effort. If you'd like to participate, they'll gather at the SW corner of 17th Ave. and Washington (in Phoenix) from 11:30 until about 1:30.

You've seen me write that this is a jobs bill. The people coordinating the forum are asking small business owners and representatives from all over the State to join them in telling the legislature how important this is for our State.

If you can't be there, you can still contact your State legislator(s) to offer your encouragement in their support of the measure.

Another State Legislature item:

You're subsidizing the Greyhound racing industry out of the State General Fund.

Arizona Revised Statutes 5-111 went into effect back in 1995. One of the things it does is to set a baseline from which the General Fund is subsidizing Greyhound racing through a "Hardship Tax Credit." The amount will vary from year to year based on how much money is bet out at the track. The baseline amount was about \$27M. If the current year is below that, they qualify to dip into your back pocket for a credit.

Here are the recent betting figures for the track:

2009	\$13,372,923
2010	\$15,037,565
2011	\$15,884,969
2012	\$15,865,343
2013	\$12,584,868

So you see that their business is down, but you're keeping them afloat. Education funding might be a tough sell, or fully funding Child Protective Services, but the gaming industry has a golden parachute with this law.

It's due to expire this year, unless the State reauthorizes it. Recently the track's Hardship Credit has generally come out to be about \$500K annually.

Also, here's a little double-talk from the ADOR budget. They begin by saying that they're 100% off from the General Fund, but on Page 28 of their own report, the story changes:

Department of Racing Budget

"The Department of Racing is no longer using General Fund monies for its day-to-day operations. Beginning in FY 2013, employees' salaries and benefits were all paid with monies in the Racing Regulation Fund. Revenues in this fund come primarily from the regulatory wagering assessment (RWA). All other operational expenses, including drug

testing, are also paid with monies in the Regulation Fund. We expect to receive enough revenue in the Regulation Fund to cover the \$2.9 million appropriation from the fund.” (Page 1 of the report.)

“The Department has also received two General Fund appropriations for specific purposes. In the past, we’ve transferred \$1.8 million for county fairs livestock and agricultural promotion to a fund administered by the Governor’s Office. We did that again in FY 2014. The Department also has a \$250,000 General Fund appropriation intended solely for Arizona breeders’ awards. Those monies will be distributed quarterly throughout FY 2014.” (Page 28)

What does \$2,029,500 million buy?

\$206,000 for 138 race horse breeders’ awards

\$44,000 for 3 racing greyhound breeders’ awards

\$1,779,500 for County Fairs Livestock and Agricultural Promotion

The operating budget for ADOR is \$4.9M. Of that, \$2.8M comes out of its own Regulation Fund. But \$2,029,500 comes out of the General Fund. One could argue that that should serve other more core needs of the State, not buying awards for breeders or promoting County Fairs.

Elections this year. Budget talks starting this week up in Phoenix. Priorities should be on peoples’ minds.

Davis-Monthan Activity

Operation Snowbird was originally a winter month training opportunity aimed at allies who would come here from cold weather locales. Since its inception, it has grown to a 12 month training opportunity for both domestic and foreign pilots to come and use our warm weather and access to the Goldwater range and continue their flight preparedness.

Saturday, January 11th, the Air National Guard welcomed a dozen F-16’s from South Dakota. They’ll be training here until January 25th. Ten F-16’s from the New Jersey ANG will be in Tucson from February 18th through March 8th. With those two training missions here, you can expect to see some additional traffic coming in and out from DM. The pilots will be following all of the normal arrival, departure and noise abatement procedures.

If you have questions or comments on the Snowbird operations, you can direct them to the 162nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office @ 162FW.PA.OMB@ang.af.mil or just call [295-6192](tel:295-6192). The comment line for normal base operations is 228-5091.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6
ward6@tucsonaz.gov

Events Calendar

What's happening this week in the Downtown, 4th Avenue, and Main Gate areas . . .

Streetcar Celebration: Destination Main Gate Square

Wednesday, January 15th 4:00-7:00 PM

Streetcar Celebration: Destination Main Gate Square is the first of several monthly streetcar celebrations to promote shops, restaurants, and entertainment and cultural attractions along the Sun Link streetcar line, in advance of passenger service in the summer of 2014. Visitors can see one of the new Streetcars up close, enjoy outdoor entertainment, and take advantage of specials and promotions provided by the merchants at participating businesses.

The event will feature:

- A close-up view of one of Tucson's new "Made in America" Sun Link modern streetcars, passing by and parked at the University/Tyndall stop.
- Stilt Walkers, Hoop Dancers, and Acrobats by *Cirque Roots*
- *Domingo DeGrazia Quartet* performing in Geronimo Plaza from 4:30 to 6:30pm.
- *The University of Arizona Pep Band* performing from 6:45 to 7:00pm near Gentle Ben's.
- The *Arizona State Museum* will be open until 7:00pm and offer free admission.
- Fun with 2-EEE the Clown Face Painting & Balloons
- Free photo booth by Bumblebee Photobooth with souvenir photos and more.

Merchant Discounts and Events

<http://www.streetcarfriends.org/events/>

Ongoing

Rialto Theatre, 318 E. Congress St.

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

Loft Cinema, 3233 E. Speedway

www.loftcinema.com/

Fox Theatre, 17 W. Congress St.

www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N. Main Ave.

www.TucsonMuseumofArt.org

Jewish History Museum, 564 S. Stone Ave.

The Jewish History Museum presents "Cowboys, Merchants, Miners, & Booze," an exhibit that celebrates the lives of Tucson's Jewish pioneers.

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

Ongoing "100 Years of Arizona's Best: The Minerals that Made the State"

Southern Arizona Transportation Museum 414 N Toole Ave.

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

Tuesday – Thursday, Sunday: 11:00am - 3:00pm; Friday & Saturdays: 10:00am - 4:00pm

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

Sacred Machine Museum & Curiosity Shop 245 E Congress St

<http://sacredmachine.com/>

Meet Me at Maynards

A social walk/run through the Downtown area

Every Monday, rain or shine, holidays too!

Maynards Market and Kitchen, 400 N. Toole Avenue, the historic train depot

Check-in begins at 5:15pm.

www.MeetMeatMaynards.com

For other events in the Downtown/4th Avenue/Main Gate area, visit these sites:

www.MainGateSquare.com

www.FourthAvenue.org

www.DowntownTucson.org

