

Ward 6 Staff



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Ward 6 - Newsletter

Tucson First

February 27, 2013

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
HOUSE BILL NO. 633
97TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE LEARA. 1733H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 578, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to an individual's right to bear arms, with a penalty provision.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 578, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 578.460, to read as follows:

578.460. Any member of the general assembly who proposes (my emphasis) a piece of legislation that further restricts the right of an individual to bear arms, as set forth under the second amendment of the Constitution of the United States, shall be guilty of a class D felony.

Ok, that's Missouri / same State that brought us the Congressional candidate who said that a woman can voluntarily shut down her reproductive system if she's being raped. Now they're wanting to make it a felony to even propose gun control legislation. The sponsor said "it's a matter of principle." Here's the latest from Phoenix:

Guns in Public Buildings

HB 2554 (firearm regulation; state preemption) passed out of the House Public Safety, Military and Regulatory Affairs Committee by a vote of 5-2. The measure stipulates statewide gun locker storage and signage requirements such that a jurisdiction would have to provide lockers within 200 feet of the entrance of each of their public buildings, plus other security measures, or firearms will be allowed inside. We join every other city and town in the State in simply stating that we don't



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

have the money to do that, so if this passes, public buildings will not be 'gun free zones' in Arizona. But the sponsor (Representative John Kavanagh / R-Fountain Hills) has a couple others that are worth thinking about.

HB2555 would require teachers and health professionals to report potentially dangerous people to the police. I am not schooled in behavioral health and so it would be inappropriate for me to advocate one way or another on this. My gut tells me that there need to be privacy protections built into this. But after the Laughner and Pima College issues, we all recognize the need to at least have this conversation. (Pima Community College officials recognized abnormal behavior in Laughner but failed to notify the police or order a mental health evaluation.)

Existing law provides a precedent for the required reporting of potentially dangerous people by teachers and health professionals. Currently, health professionals, social workers and mental health professionals are required to report to authorities any communication with their clients that may provide grounds for suspicion that the client may be guilty of either child or spousal abuse. And in California, under the 'duty to inform doctrine' psychotherapists are required to inform the possible intended victim of any communication with a client that suggests that the client may intend to harm that individual.

So, similarly,

HB 2618 also sponsored by Kavanagh, would require additional training for police cadets to be able to assess people for signs of serious mental illness so that a psychiatric team could be called in to conduct a thorough mental health status evaluation.

HB2570 – and in a bi-partisan manner, Victoria Steele and Ethan Orr proposed this bill to expand funding for mental health services:

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

Section 1. Appropriation; department of health services; mental health services
The sum of \$500,000 is appropriated from the state general fund in fiscal year 2013-2014 to the department of health services for the expansion of the mental health first aid program.

Leadership tied it up and didn't give it a hearing / just as they did with several of the gun control measures. There's still a chance to get some of the funding through another legislative means.

As you can see, we're finally seeing some discussion on at least some portions of the gun violence issue. We took the lead at the Council level, but much of this is governed by State law. So, the State is finally engaging in some important areas. At least the conversation is not off the radar screen.



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)
(3rd 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)

All three of Kavanagh's bills were approved by a House panel last Wednesday and have been forwarded to the full House for a vote, including the one on public buildings.

Consolidated Elections

Last year the State passed a bill that forces local elections to be held in even numbered years. Our elections are rotated such that we do them in both odd and even numbered years (for example, I'm running for re-election this year – 2013.) According to the bill that was passed last year, the City's 2013 election would have to be for an odd number of years (not the Charter driven four years) in order to allow the terms to end in an even numbered year and therefore be compliant with the new law.

They had to come back in and fix their mess because, as we learned back in grammar school, when you add an even number to an odd number, you end up with another odd number.

Their fix is now through the House Government committee (HB2527). What it does is shift the burden for figuring this out back to local jurisdictions. It authorizes municipalities to lengthen or shorten their terms in order to transition to candidate elections in the fall of even years.

We're a Charter City. The court has already said that the State cannot tell us how to conduct our elections. Those decisions are governed by our Charter, and changes to that go before the voters. We're still in litigation against the State for stepping yet again into how we conduct our elections. They've done it before and they've lost in court before. This is a new case, and nobody can predict the legal outcome. So, in advance of that, the State has offered this 'fix' to their mess, and we'll wait to see what the Court decides. If they rule in favor of the State, we'll have to decide how many years this fall's election will be for; that is, 1, 3 or 5 years, so that the terms end in an even numbered year and we're synch'd up as per the law.

It's all a mess and we won't even argue the case until April.

Police/Fire Funding

Finally for the legislation, on Wednesday, February 20th, the Senate Finance Committee adopted an amendment to a bill that would allow non-Charter cities who don't already have a property tax to ask voters for permission to levy a property tax dedicated to paying the costs of public safety.

SB1470 is the dedicated property tax measure that would give them another option for paying for police, fire and emergency medical services. This is going to be a very big deal in the immediate future. We're already short staffed and underpaying our cops, firefighters and dispatch units. We haven't given "step" pay increases for so long that new recruits are in many cases coming right out of the academy and earning the same pay as men and women who have been out and working for 5 years.

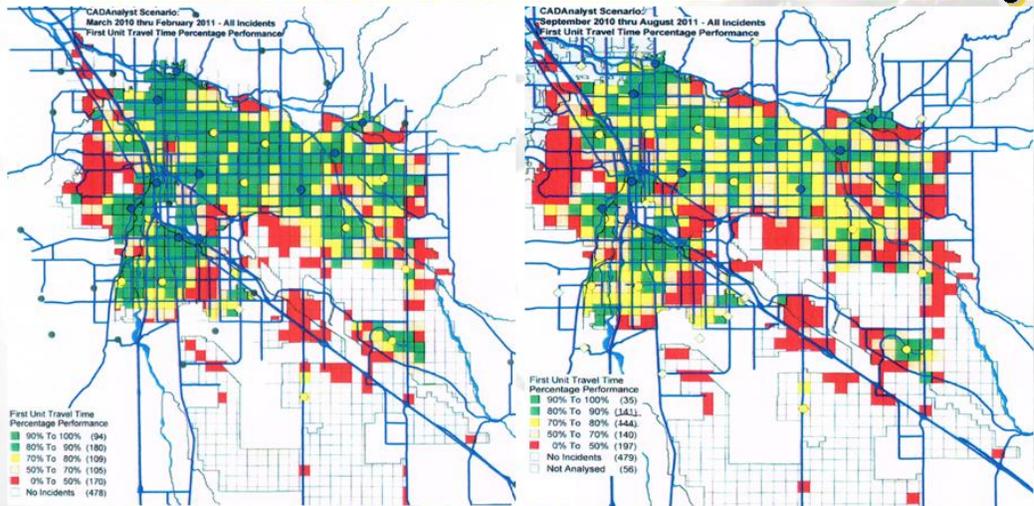
Due to attractive retirement offers, we'll be losing about 100 police and 100 firefighter command personnel in the next couple of years. Given that it takes a couple of years to hire and train new recruits, and that we're losing people to other jurisdictions due to pay and benefit

challenges, the hole we're digging is deep and wide. The option for a dedicated funding source is worth thinking about since our General Fund doesn't have the capacity to do what's needed to preserve and increase our existing staffing levels for public safety and to give them immediate step pay increases as they deserve.

I'll be sharing more on the public safety issues we're facing, but the sense of this bill is one that might be a part of the solution. At least it's worth talking about while we look at all other options, too.



Alternative Service Delivery



- During the first six months of 2011, staffing levels were reduced by a total of 54 people. That reduction eliminated six 2-person response vehicles from emergency service. (4 Alpha trucks, 2 paramedic Rescues)
- The NFPA recommends an emergency travel time of no more than four minutes 90% of the time.
- The above graphs show response times before and after the 54 positions were eliminated.

This map shows the reason we need to get serious about our levels of pay and staffing. Last week I shared some crime statistics. Midtown is a heavy user of TPD services. We need more cops, and in order to maintain current staffing, we need to do better with their pay and benefits.

The same is clearly true of our firefighters. As you can see from the maps above, response times bear a direct correlation to staffing levels. The pictures tell the story. Preserving our investment in the training of our public safety workers (including our 911 Communication workers) will need to be a serious part of our budget discussions coming in the next several weeks.

In the next couple of weeks I'll be hosting a presentation made by TFD that will describe what they do, and how they deploy with current staffing. We'll make sure to get the word out well ahead of the meeting so all who'd like to can attend.

...and this is the text of an email I received from a constituent that points to how our Police responded to an intentional hit and run:

The Jamis road team experienced a deliberate hit and run on their ride today. The response from the Tucson police was nothing short of amazing and the guy is already in custody and facing serious charges.

The driver of the car rode adjacent to the group, said some ugly words about cyclists and then swerved into the two guys on the front of the group taking them down. The guys are pretty banged up, but no broken bones. Previous to the crash, they were in a wide bike lane and two abreast. They didn't deserve this.

This is more of a meeting than a photoshoot; between Jamis execs, Sutter Home and other team sponsors, as well as the team, they probably have 50+ people in town in different hotels and rental houses. I was really proud of the way the police handled this and I can tell you they impressed a lot of big wig bike industry folks today.

Some of the industry news sources have already covered the story in positive light and I'm sure the follow ups will be even better.

There were a lot of uniformed officers on scene as well as detectives from the Aggravated Assault Unit. Detective Mike Walker seemed to be the guy in charge but they were all great beginning with the first guy on the scene.

If you have any avenue to share my/our gratitude with the higher-ups at TPD, it's worth doing. These guys deserve some praise.

Pensions

And speaking of the budget, we were briefed on the condition of our pension fund on Tuesday. There are two main funds / PSPRS is for public safety, and that is administered on a State level. There is very little that we can do to impact those employees. The TSRS fund is for non-public safety employees. It is that fund we are discussing making changes to.

This stuff is made for headlines, and concern over the viability of the fund is legitimate. But even while we make needed adjustments in the fund to ensure its long term health, it's important to recognize that the very large numbers you'll see referencing an "underfunded" plan are dollars that are obligated for current, and multiple future generations of retirees.

In 2000, our assets:liability ratio was 103%. Now it's 63%. We need to make adjustments, but the sky is not falling and we're not declaring bankruptcy next month. Those liabilities are very long term. The changes we make now are meant to address them.

This topic can get really deep in the weeds pretty quickly. I'm no expert, so this description will be very layman, hopefully not missing so many fine points that experts in the field deluge me with corrections.

The pension fund "funded ratio" shown above changed over the past decade as a result of several factors. There was a significant economic dip that affected the Plan's investment pool (just as it did everybody else's.) The Plan is pretty diversified. Its goal is about 61% stocks, 26% fixed income and the rest spread to other areas. With the drop in the market,

and the fact that more of our employees have taken advantage of retirement incentive packages, the liability side of the equation became skewed to the downside. Add to that the fact that since my election in 2009 we have 1,100 fewer City workers on the payroll, you now see that fewer workers are paying into a fund that has an asset pool that has dropped while more people are drawing on the system. Of course the ratio would change.

What can make it improve? Well, just as with your own personal balance sheet, watching the market improve will necessarily help the ratio. But we cannot rely on that alone. So, other changes are needed.

One of the changes being contemplated is to lengthen the amortization period. That's simply extending the debt pay-off term, like refinancing your house to a longer payoff, resulting in lower payments now. If we do nothing, the employee contribution will increase to over 14% next year. By extending out the term, and also changing the manner in which contributions are defined, the rate workers are paying will drop to about 6%. That's effectively an increase in their take-home pay, but in a manner that does not impact the General Fund, and in a way that protects the health of the Plan. We cannot unilaterally decrease a worker's benefits, or increase his contribution rate. That's the result of Contract Law; that is, pensions are an individual contract between the State and the worker. We cannot make changes that may tend to increase the financial burden on individual employees. But we can decrease them, in effect giving our workers a pay raise.

There's a ton more on this, and it'll be nice if the media doesn't lead with a huge headline that says the pension is underfunded by more money than makes up several small nations' GDP. Good for selling papers, but not so much in terms of talking about the causes; and the solutions we're working towards. The very brief take-away from what we did is that we told staff and our actuaries that while we appreciate very much their work and their recommendations, benefits changes are a part of the larger pay/benefits equation, as well as being a part of the larger budget talks that we're just beginning. We have a very skilled set of investment professionals, along with a TSRS Board of Trustees who are keeping a very close eye on how the Plan is doing. We've still got questions about this part of the whole equation, but are thankful for a very in depth presentation. There's more work to do, but this was a good step, taken at the right time.

...service reductions / sequestration / DM and the F35

And so we're advised by our Housing and Community Development folks that if the Feds don't get their act together and we go through sequestration, between 300 and 400 low income Tucson families stand to lose their housing. Last week when we adopted the Davis Monthan Memorial offering our support for their missions, I made it clear that it's the current missions we're embracing, and changes should properly include seeking community input.

So, what's the tie-into the HUD money and loss of homes? Just that last week the DOD grounded its fleet of 51 F35's after discovering a cracked engine blade in one of them. They'll all undergo testing. At a cost so far of just under \$400B, and with plans to add 2,400 more planes to an existing fleet that is still in design and racking up more and more costs, it's not surprising that some members of Congress are balking at the price tag, as well they should.

In as much as the DOD has already indicated that Tucson isn't one of the top picks for the F35 basing decision, now might be a very good time for the Military Community Relations Committee to begin to talk with base command about alternate missions that would be a good fit for DM, within a community that is already encroaching on the base. Two years ago we were working for an Air Operations Center that would bring significant good paying jobs. That's a non-controversial mission that's still something worth pursuing.

Loft Cinema

Peg Johnson and the folks over at The Loft Cinema are adding a farmers market to their repertoire. It'll begin on March 16th, and will run every Saturday morning from 8am until 11am out on their new patio. They'll feature fresh produce from the Food Conspiracy Co-Op, and also from other locals who have goodies to sell.

They're also going to make a way for local non-profits to do some self-promotions during the time block. There'll be no charge for that, but you'll need to contact Peg and the folks at The Loft ahead of time in order to ensure you've got a space ready. To do that, email them at farmers-market@loftaz.com.

There'll be some film shorts and live music during the farmers market. The Loft is located at 3233 E. Speedway, across from the Ward office (I generally use them as the landmark when giving directions to our Ward office – table turned.)

Film Incentives

While on the issue of the film industry:

“the House voted 64-0 on Wednesday to approve the legislation aimed at allowing New Mexico-based television shows to take in larger film incentives from the state.”

So, the Arizona Legislature has our film incentive bill tied up in a committee, and New Mexico is improving theirs. The person who can move this along is Senate President Andy Biggs - abiggs@azleg.gov

Broadway Open Houses

Final reminder for this weeks two Broadway Blvd open houses.

The first is Thursday over at Sabaar Shrine (450 S. Tucson.) This is a chance for the public to come by and talk to both project managers and to citizen task force members about the process they're going through, and progress they're making. The presentation will begin at about 6:15 and is scheduled to end at around 8:30.

During the meeting, there will be separate tables set up, each highlighting a particular element of the design process. These will include:

- 1. Sustainability/Multi-Modal Street Design/Right-of-Way Impacts**
- 2. Neighborhoods & Districts (Renamed to "Mixed Use Business Districts & Neighborhoods")/Building & Site Development**
- 3. Project Planning & Design Process (and General Project Information)**

And they'll have a place for putting comments up on the wall so the team can see and hear your thoughts.

Then, on Saturday, from noon until about 5pm, the Broadway Corridor, west of Country Club will feature a series of open houses in various businesses along that stretch. Starting at noon, in front of Anaya & Associates, 2610 E. Broadway we'll get the event kicked off and send people off to visit the stores.

Also included is going to be the opportunity for interested parties to look at some of the City owned property with an eye towards possibly leasing some of the spaces. City staff will be at the event to answer questions.

I hope to see you at both of these. They're important to the whole design discussion, and to activating some of the vacant space as soon as we can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Kozachik". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and a stylized "K".

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

Arts and Entertainment Events Calendar

This week and next week at the arts and entertainment venues in the Downtown, 4th Avenue, and Main Gate areas . . .

Rialto Theatre, 318 E. Congress St.

Friday, March 1, 8:00pm. “**Pauly Shore**” all ages.

Saturday, March 2, 7:00pm. “**The Devil Wears Prada/As I Lay dying**” all ages.

www.RialtoTheatre.com

Fox Theatre, 17 W. Congress St.

Wednesday, February 27. 7:30pm. “**Bob Weir – Solo Acoustic with special guest, Jonathan Wilson**”

Friday, March 1, 7:30pm. “**Satisfaction: The International Rolling Stones Tribute Show**”

Saturday, March 2, 7:45pm. “**Too Jewish: Radio Live Featuring Robert Klein**”

Sunday, March 3, 7:30pm. “**Ladysmith Black Mambazo**”

www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

Temple of Music and Art, 330 S. Scott Ave.

Arizona Theatre Company presents “**The Sunshine Boys**” by Neil Simon

Saturday, March 2 – March 23, 2013.

www.arizonatheatre.org

Tucson Convention Center <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/tcc/eventcalendar>

TCC Exhibit Halls

Friday, March 1 and Saturday March 2, 10:00am. “**Ages & Stage – Pima Council on Aging**”

TCC Grand Ballroom

Sunday, March 3, 6:00pm. “**Moda Provocateur**”

Music Hall

Wednesday, February 27 and Sunday, March 3. “**Memphis the Musical**”

Ongoing

Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N. Main Ave.

Ongoing exhibition, Opening Saturday, January 26 and ending June 16:

“**Desert Grasslands**,” “**Feminina: Images of the Feminine from Latin America**,” and

“**Elements in Western Art: Water, Fire, Air, and Earth**”

www.TucsonMuseumofArt.org

Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), 265 S. Church Ave.

Current exhibition: “**Peter Young: Capitalist Masterpieces**”

Hours: Wednesday to Sunday, 12:00 to 5:00pm.

www.Moca-Tucson.org

Children's Museum Tucson, 200 S. 6th Ave.

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

www.childrensmuseumtucson.org

The Drawing Studio, 33 S. 6th Ave.

Ongoing Exhibit, Opens March 2 and runs March 30

“The Journey Continues: Pat Frederick, Mikaela Quinn, Roberta Miller”

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

Jewish History Museum, 564 S. Stone Ave.

Open Wednesday, Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday, 1:00-5:00 and Friday, Noon to 3:00pm

Special hours for school and group tours, for more information call 670-9073

www.jewishhistorymuseum.org

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

Tucson Farmers’ Market at Maynards

Saturdays 9:00am – 1:00pm

On the plaza at Maynards Market & Kitchen. 400 N Toole in the Historic Train Depot

Santa Cruz Farmers’ Market Mercado San Agustin, 100 S. Avenida del Convento

Thursdays, 4:00 – 7:00pm.

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

www.MainGateSquare.com

www.FourthAvenue.org

www.DowntownTucson.org

Other Community Events

Loft Cinema www.loftcinema.com/

Wednesday, February 27, 7:00pm. **“Code of the West”**

Wednesday, February 27, 7:00pm. **“Before Stonewall – with filmmakers in person”**

Friday, March 1, 9:00pm. **“First Friday Shorts”**

Arizona State Museum – Woven Wonders (beginning April 28)

The Arizona State Museum is debuting a sample of 500 pieces from the world’s largest collection of Southwest American Indian basketry (over 25,000 pieces). Visit

www.statemuseum.arizona.edu for more information.

UA Mineral Museum – Ongoing

“100 Years of Arizona’s Best: The Minerals that Made the State”

Business Development and Growth Modeling – Wednesday, February 27

The Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, in conjunction with the Ward 6 Council Office will be hosting a Business Development and Growth Modeling course during the spring. The **second**

class will be on Wednesday, February 27 at 4:00pm at the Ward 6 Council Office, 3202 E. 1st Street. The class will help you assess your business, define priorities, resolve issues, and much

more. For more information on these classes, please contact Bill Roach

Bill@tucsonhispanicchamber.org or the Ward 6 Office.

Sam Hughes Historic Neighborhood and Home Tour – Sunday, April 7

Sam Hughes Historic District encompasses one square mile bordered by Speedway/Broadway and Country Club/Campbell. This popular self-guided tour features homes, gardens, businesses and sample-serving restaurants. Unique this year are four alternative living arrangements that display the diversity of this mid-town neighborhood as well as a presentation about the historic preservation of Broadway Blvd. The tour is Sunday, April 7 (12-5). Tickets are \$20, available beginning March 28 at Arte de la Vida (37 N. Tucson Blvd., just north of Broadway---398-6720 or day-of-tour at Rincon Market (2516 E. 6th St.).

Tucson Winter Chamber Music Festival – March 17 – March 24

From Sunday March 17 to Sunday March 24, Arizona Friends of Chamber Music will bring to town the **Twentieth Tucson Winter Chamber Music Festival!!** One of the finest such festivals in the US, called by classical radio station WMFT in Chicago “A jewel of a festival”, and by American Record Guide, “one of the best and most adventurous in America”.

It will bring to Ward 6 fifteen outstanding musicians from all over the world, including two great composers from Australia and the Czech Republic Five concerts, a great gala dinner at the Arizona Inn. For more information, please visit <http://www.arizonachambermusic.org/>