

Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik



Ann Charles



Bonnie Medler



Diana Amado



Molly Thrasher



Ward 6 - Newsletter

TUCSON FIRST

May 8, 2013

FY'14 Budget

On Tuesday, M&C adopted the FY'14 budget ceiling. We can still lower the amount that was approved, but we can no longer increase it this year. On May 21st, you'll have a final opportunity to publicly share your thoughts. That's the night we're scheduled to finally adopt the plan.

On Monday, May 13th, I have invited our Asst. CM, Kelly Gottschalk to come and present the budget overview to any of you who would like to come and hear. She and I will be at the Ward 6 office beginning at 6pm ready to share our thoughts and answer your questions.

On Tuesday I voted against the proposed budget ceiling. I understand that we can still lower the target, but it's clear that the council has identified some component parts of the budget that I don't feel are good fiscal policy. I've shared it before, so here are a few points by way of review:

- a) We're taking our RTA funding that was supposed to pay for 5-6 years of O&M and applying it to existing unmet costs. That means the general fund will have to absorb all O&M going forward.
- b) Employer contributions for pensions are proposed to increase by about \$6M this year. That # will also continue to increase in the near term.
- c) Our pension portfolio is assuming a 7.75% rate of return. That's about \$12M. Last year we realized just over \$5M in those portfolio earnings. I believe that's an overly aggressive target.
- d) Employee pension contributions are being lowered by about \$1.6M this year due to a change adopted by M&C a month ago.
- e) We've agreed to increase employee wages by 55 cents per hour across the board – for all workers. When you include enterprise fund workers, the cost is a new \$7.8M. Up until Tuesday we had been told the hit to the General Fund would be \$5.1M. That's true – but it wasn't made clear until this week that Water and Environmental Service workers would hike the increase in base pay obligation up to this new nearly \$8M of pensionable income.

One new wrinkle from Tuesday was council asking Sun Tran to find \$2M in administrative savings by 2015. I'm all for belt tightening, but I'm also not holding my breath that they'll find those dollars.

I continue to believe that we should extend wait-times on some bus routes, elimi-



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

nate one express route that duplicates another one from the east side, and look at eliminating service before 6am on routes that have little or no ridership at those times. That's about \$2M with which I would support pay increases to 911 workers and others at the low ends of the wage scales – not across the board for everybody.

So this is headed in any of a few directions. Maybe the economy rips into high gear and we recover, revenues are great and we have enough money to pay the compensation increases, plus our other structural obligations. Or maybe the economy doesn't fully recover, M&C agree to give the across the board increases to all workers, and we're just left with a fiscal issue. Or maybe the economy doesn't fully recover, M&C cut a deal with one labor group and we have a fiscal issue with labor unrest tossed in. The first outcome is unlikely, and the second and third are nothing I will be able to support.

I'd hate to see one employee group pit themselves against the others. And I'd much prefer to see them all recognize that a raise today may prove to be counterproductive next year.

We have the Deferred Pension (\$4.2M,) Streetcar O&M, Pension costs and Pima County communications system (\$2M) coming that we cannot avoid. We will be taking on the cost of Police officers who have been grant funded for the past few years, and we'll be hiring and promoting new cops to take the positions of the DROP workers. I cannot make the numbers add up even without giving nearly \$8M in wage increases that will carry forward.



There are unavoidable tough times coming in the next two years. If we're to maintain service levels and keep our employees on the job, putting any excess capacity away for those upcoming rainy days is the direction I advocate. It's not sexy, but I believe it's prudent.

Oregon Ironworks / Streetcar



Also budget related is the delay in our receiving the streetcars per the delivery dates we've been counting on. This relates to the budget because of what are called Liquidated Damages – penalties due to the City for each day the vehicles are late.

We have had multiple millions of dollars invested by the private sector all along the streetcar route, anticipating the arrival of the new riders. I've seen project schedules that have the whole thing up and running back in 2011. All we do is keep pushing

back the due date, and so if that's the game, how are we ever going to hold the manufacturer accountable for a specific date to tie LD's to?

One schedule produced by our team that says we should have had the first vehicle approved for shipping to Tucson back in October of 2012, and 6 more between then and July of this year. Liquidated damages begin at \$250 per day, per vehicle for the first 90 days, and then jump to \$1,200 per vehicle, per day until the cars are 240 days late – then, \$1,800



Important Phone Numbers

per car, per day from then on. Based on the September date, Oregon Ironworks should be into the \$1,200 per day liquidated damages for at least two of them, and \$250 per day for at least 2 more of them as of today. Instead, the taxpayers and private sector developers who have made investments in the tens of millions of dollars counting on these things rolling up and down the tracks are sitting and hearing staff say that things are going well, we're paying \$4M for a project consultant, and all the while we look at empty tracks.

Staff cannot say with a straight face that its "typical" to wait until the end of a project before you figure out who owes who what. We've never assessed LD's on a project like this, so nothing's typical except that it's getting typical that we keep pushing back the due date. We should be deducting LD's from every pay application they submit to us.

What people need to know is that just getting the cars here is just the start. According to the Federal requirements, we've got to test every one of them for 300 miles in traffic with no significant failures in the last 60 miles of the testing, or that part of the testing has to be started again. And we have to hire and train 15 operators, and the maintenance workers we'll need are required to have a minimum of 368 hours of hands-on training in the first year. We need to be lighting a fire under OIW now, and the only leverage we have is LD's. I am not in favor of waiting until the cars arrive before we start to take from pay applications what is legitimately ours under the terms of our contract with OIW.

Water

In December, 2011 our Citizen's Water Advisory Committee proposed some modifications to our existing water service policy. At the time, we were fighting the State Legislature to preserve and protect our policy / another attempt from up there to encroach on local decision making authority. As a result, we elected to defer any changes until that fight had been resolved. It has, and on Tuesday I asked that we review the CWAC proposals and adopt them, with some slight modifications.

There are two competing interests who have advocated for 180 degree divergent policies. One would have us abandon our water policy altogether. The other would have us draw a ring around the City and grow no more. We also have some very rational and intelligent partners who joined in coming to the conclusions we adopted on Tuesday. My thanks go out to the Community Water Coalition, Tucson Water staff and the other stake holders who understand the need to protect this valuable resource, and yet come up with some changes that reflect modifications that simply make sense.

First, this is our existing water service map – it defines the existing boundaries, and it identifies where we will potentially grow if the terms of development offers are in line with the changes we just put into place:

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

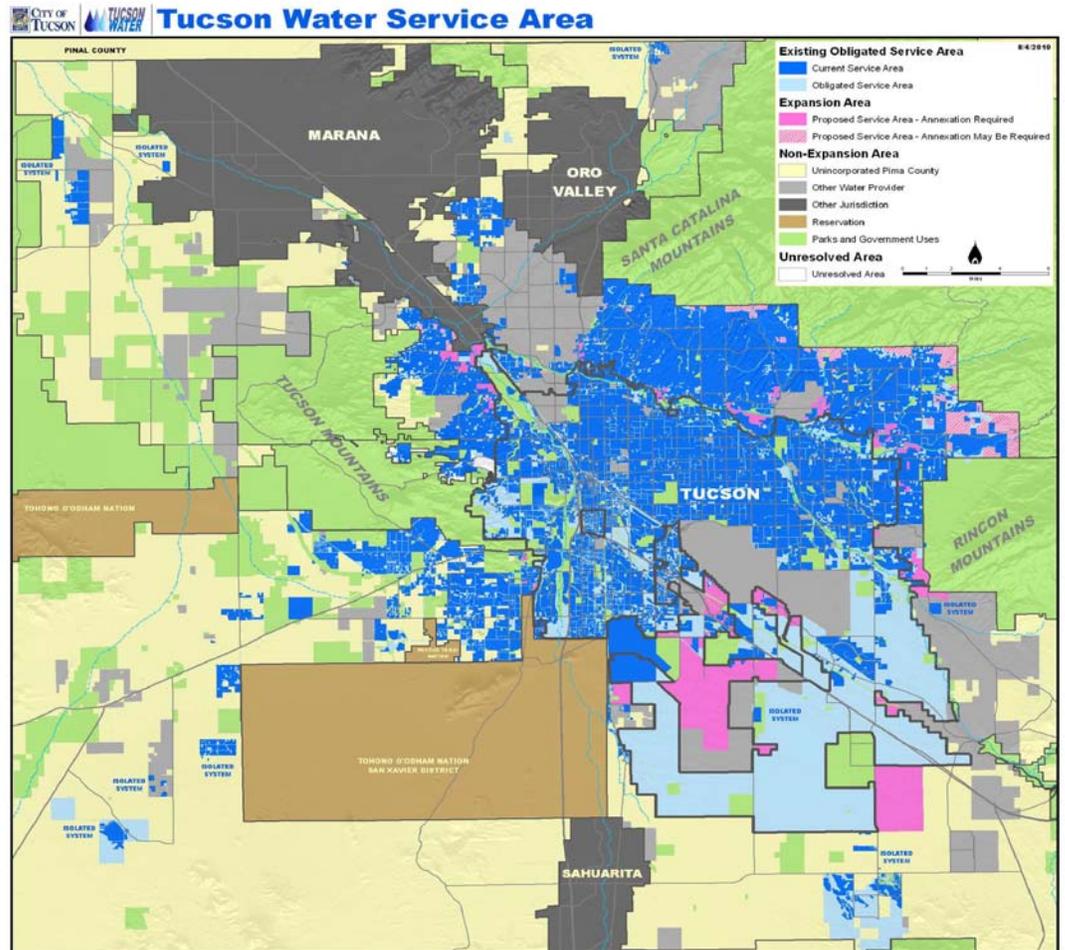
State Legislators

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)



What we agreed to on Tuesday does a few things. We agreed to honor commitments to serve a development if the builder had received final approval on infrastructure that had been laid, but had not been able to continue construction as a result of the economic downturn. We expect few examples of these. In addition, we set a standard that mirrors our Primary Jobs Incentive criteria for judging whether a proposed development meets certain fiscal metrics before we simply agree to extend water rights. We agreed to open appeals up to in-person presentations – by both sides of a given application, and we agreed that Mayor and Council will be the final decision making authority when deciding whether or not to extend water service.

This, along with certain infill land use issues is one of the two most complex areas we deal with on the council. I appreciate the input from the wide variety of stake holders who brought their suggestions to the table. This was an inclusive process and I believe the changes we adopted will give clarity to all who have been in a holding pattern since the CWAC recommendations came out over a year ago. Staff is drafting language to reflect what we agreed to on Tuesday. We should have it back by mid-summer.

Film Incentives

As you know, the State Legislature failed to adopt a State-wide film incentive package. In an effort to explore what we can do at a local/regional level to attract film business, last week, I met with members of the County, Old Tucson, Metro Chamber, Visit Tucson and their film office, a representative of the Arizona Commerce Authority and the Mayor. We did some brainstorming and are going to work together in an effort to attract an interested episodic from the LA area. Here are some compelling data put together by Shelli Hall from VisitTucson:

Estimated Economic Impacts from a Television Series Filming in Southern Arizona*

- 12 episodes or more per season - 9 months of production
- 120 full-time production jobs
- \$2.5 million in direct spending per episode
- \$30 million in direct spending season

Film Tourism Economic and Fiscal Impacts **

- In 2008, Tourism increased 4.3% as a result of television shows and films shot in NM
- Average length of stay increased by 1.2%
- Film-related tourism accounted for 5.5% of total NM tourism expenditures
- Film-related tourism expenditures generated \$69.7M in personal income and 2839 jobs
- Film-related tourism generated \$7M of direct local taxes and \$2.8M of indirect local taxes
- Combined state and local taxes increased by \$25.7M

*based on projected 2012 ABC Television Series budget for Arizona courtesy of Disney

** Ernst Young 2009 "Economic and Fiscal Impacts of the New Mexico Film + Television Production Tax Credit" Study



There are a couple of westerns – now trendy – that are looking for a home. The group who met last week is going to be looking at the budgets and needs of these film companies to see if we can creatively put together a package that will lure the shows to our region. One may beget another, and another – and maybe even some reconsideration by the State. We're behind New Mexico – and losing ground (they just increased their incentive from 25% to 30%.)

As we did in several gun-related local ordinances and resolu-

tions (and texting while driving, and greyhounds...) we've shown the State how to adopt rational and common sense laws. I'm grateful for the passion and creativity this group is showing. As they say in the industry, 'stay tuned...' More to come on this in the days ahead.



As many of you know, I love the historic signs that we have around town. This M&C have been big supporters of finding ways to preserve and restore them in ways that enhance the surrounding areas. On Friday, May 10th from 5:30 until 10:30, Ward 3 will be hosting the 6th Annual Historic Miracle Mile Open House and Tour. They'll begin at the Monterey Court – 505 W. Miracle Mile. Monterey Court will be celebrating its first anniversary as an adapted historic resource.

There will be lectures given by Carlos Lozano (founder of Vanishing Tucson,) and Demion Clinco, President of the Tucson Historic Preservation Foundation. Those will take place between 5:45 and 7pm. There will also be guided tours of the Ghost Ranch Lodge, the Evergreen Cemetery to discover some of Tucson's notable people, and the night will be topped off with the lighting of the now salvaged and restored Wayward Winds Lodge neon sign.

This should be a fun event. Bring a flashlight and some walking shoes.



The north end zone stadium project is still a work in progress, but for the first time in more than 40 years, on May 10th at 7:30pm, graduating University of Arizona Wildcats will gather at Arizona Stadium to celebrate commencement.

The last time the event was held at the stadium was 1972. Due to the growing size of the crowd, organizers decided to move the event from McKale back to the football stadium this year. For the first time, UA student enrollment topped 40,000 this year. On the 10th, approximately 6,500 of them will take part in the stadium graduation exercises.

Trades Expo

Another event that you might want to put on your calendar is the upcoming Alliance of Construction Trades Construction Expo. The event will take place on May 15th from 2pm

until 6pm over at the Hotel Tucson (St. Mary's and Granada.) This is another area that's seeing some access challenges due to construction, but the Expo is worth jockeying around to get to the parking area on site. Once you arrive, parking is free.

This year they're planning on having over 100 exhibitors. Admission is of course free, and the event is open to both residential and business owners who may have construction needs. Even if all you need to do is consult with an expert in one of the trade fields, this is an opportunity for you to do that w/o paying for somebody to appear in your driveway.

If you'd like more information, you can call the Alliance at 624-3002.

Cadence/Plaza Centro Development

Speaking of local construction jobs and our budget, on Tuesday we gave approval to send out for independent third party analysis this new downtown mixed use project. The analysis will determine whether or not the project is eligible for two different financial incentives; the GPLET (property tax abatement) and a bridge loan through HUD 108 financing. In both cases we're bound by the State Constitutional Gift Clause restrictions that the benefits back to the taxpayers are superior to the dollars given through the incentives.

When completed, it'll include about 450 student housing beds, plus a mixture of retail on both the north and south sides of Congress – at the east end of downtown, by the 4th Avenue underpass.



In the normal course of things, a developer would have all of the financing lined up before going vertical. In this case, they took a risk that the financial analysis would yield approval for the incentives they're after. There were some unique factors that led them to take that risk. The Streetcar construction was beginning and the construction of Cadence would have been land-locked by the newly installed electrical lines and tracks if they had waited until now to begin construction. In addition, construction costs are going up, so they saved more by starting earlier. Finally, the UA included a commitment to the project that it would drive clients to their housing through use of the UA housing web site. That was done through a competitive RFP a couple of years ago. The Cadence people committed to opening by this fall.

Compare this project to the fully publicly funded hotel proposal that we were facing when I was first elected. In this case, the builders are putting up \$8M of their own money, and taking back a construction loan for \$25M through Bank of the West. That loan is being guaranteed by the private sector partners in the project. This is what we need to see, not the tax-

payers holding the notes.

We should see the results of the economic analysis in a few weeks. In the meantime, the project is in the process of signing up retail partners, and is going ahead marketing the beds to the in-coming student population for the fall of this year.



The balloon release you see in the picture happened last Saturday over at Thoroughbred Nissan at the culmination of the Blue Ribbon Event honoring the foster families we are fortunate to have here in Tucson. FACT is an umbrella group that is dedicated to raising awareness, developing support groups and advocating for foster care and adoption here in Tucson.



Their vision is to create a community where there are available foster and adoptive homes for all children in need of care as well as a full range of supports available to children and to the foster parents who care for them. As of right now, there are over 3,300 children in foster care in Pima County (the number of balloons that were released,) but fewer than 700 foster homes available. Many of the kids' situations involve siblings who are at risk of being split up for lack of a home setting.

If you're interested in maybe tossing your name into the foster home ring, you need to be at least 21 years old, pass a background check performed by DPS (maybe we can all agree on this background check?) go through some basic training and pass a few other legitimate hurdles. Here's some data that I was unaware of until last weekend:

- **Arizona leads the nation** in the number of children per capita in group or shelter care. **600 children a month** are removed from their homes, and the number is growing at a rate of 100 per month.
- **1,300 children waiting** in emergency shelters for a family more than three weeks.

If you would like to learn more about how to begin the process to become a foster and/or adoptive parent in Arizona, please call 1-877-KIDS-NEED-U.



On Sunday, the great folks out at Reid Park Zoo hosted a very informative presentation by Kartick Satyanarayan – the founder of Wildlife SOS, India. They're a group dedicated to stopping the poaching and abuse of animals over in India. Included in their work are

Bears, leopards, reptiles (how would you like to find one of these guys in your house? Not like the annoying crickets we have here.)



and a bunch of other types of indigenous critters. (No, I am not in need of another haircut, quite yet.) I want you to know about this group for a couple of reasons. First, if you're inclined to

support the work of wildlife conservation, this is a group who would deserve a look. You can find them by simply typing in "Wildlife SOS India" and you'll see their whole program. And their whole program is the second reason I'm sharing this. The group truly cares about the welfare and preservation of the animals they deal with. We're fortunate to have groups such as this working behind the scenes to protect wildlife all over the world.



Equally as important as seeing what this group is doing is also knowing that the Reid Park Zoo staff, as well as their docents and teen volunteers (they gave \$2,000 to SOS India on Sunday evening) are all working alongside this and other wildlife protective groups, both domestically and around the world. The Reid Park Zoo 'teacher in chief' Vivian VanPeenen deserves a ton of credit for keeping an eye on how the zoo stays connected with these sorts

of groups. And the Tucson Zoological Society continues to be the prime support group for the work going on over at the Zoo.

Thanks to all who had a part in bringing Kartick over for his presentation. And keep the Zoo in mind as school nears an end and you are looking for ways to keep the kids occupied. They have programs all summer that you might want to check into.

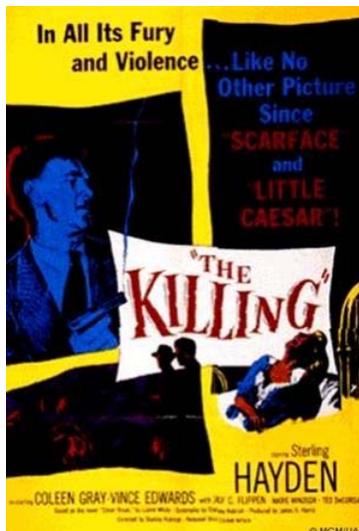
Sincerely,



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

Tucson Pops Orchestra – Music Under the Stars

Tucson Pops Orchestra will be having their yearly concert series at the DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center at Reid Park this Sunday. This fun, Tucson institution is family friendly and begins at 7:00. Bring chairs and a blanket and enjoy some beautiful music. Visit <http://www.tucsonpops.org> for more information and a schedule of concerts.



Cinema La Placita Outdoor Film Series
presents **"The Killing"**
on Thursday, May 9 at 7:30 p.m.
To view full schedule visit:
<http://www.cinemataplacita.com/>



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.

Sunday, May 12, 7:00pm. “Tucson Rock Alliance & Miss CJ Promotions Presents: Tucson’s Best Showcase, Indie Rock Edition” all ages.

www.RialtoTheatre.com

Fox Theatre, 17 W. Congress St.

Wednesday, May 8, 7:30pm. “The Manhattan Transfer”

Friday, May 10, 8:30pm. “Tucson Young Professionals Presents: The Four Elements Fashion Show”

Saturday, May 11, 7:00pm. “2013 BFA Thesis Films: I Dream in Widescreen”

www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

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

Music Hall

Wednesday, May 8 – Sunday, May 12. “Broadway in Tucson presents: Million Dollar Quartet”

TCC Exhibit Halls

Thursday, May 9 – Saturday, May 11. “Jim Click Ford Sale”

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

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/

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”

Southern Arizona Transportation Museum – 414 N Toole Ave.

Tuesday – Thursday, Sunday: 1100am - 3:00pm; Friday & Saturdays: 10:00am - 4:00pm
<http://www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org/>