

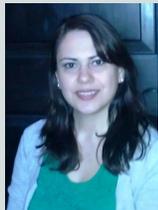
## Ward 6 Staff



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# Ward 6 - Newsletter

## Tucson First

June 09, 2014

### Sick Leave Sell Back

This is the language in State Statute that governs whether or not a City can credit unused sick leave to a person's pension:

#### ⇒§ 38-842. Definitions

In this article, unless the context otherwise requires:

12. "Compensation" means, for the purpose of computing retirement benefits, base salary, overtime pay, shift differential pay, military differential wage pay, compensatory time used by an employee in lieu of overtime not otherwise paid by an employer and holiday pay paid to an employee by the employer on a regular monthly, semimonthly or biweekly payroll basis and longevity pay paid to an employee at least every six months for which contributions are made to the system pursuant to § 38-843, subsection D. Compensation does not include, for the purpose of computing retirement benefits, payment for unused sick leave, payment in lieu of vacation, payment for unused compensatory time or payment for any

The sick leave sell back benefit only applies to public safety employees. Last March the City Attorney issued an opinion that was derived from the clear and explicit language of the Statute; that is, we are violating the law by adding unused sick leave to the base pay of our police and fire fighters. I'm of the opinion that we should have ended the practice immediately. It didn't end until June 1<sup>st</sup>.

Once the City advised police/fire that we were ending it, the police union filed for a Temporary Restraining Order to force us to continue our illegal practice. That position cannot be reconciled with the letter of the law. Some irony there – and hoping for a kangaroo court they gave it a whirl. On Friday the judge refused to issue the Restraining Order, but did say he'd give them their day in court later this summer. I suspect that was because they filed for the TRO the same day the court heard the





### 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

case, so the judge was simply being prudent in wanting to review the whole set of facts in a more deliberate fashion.

The only possible case they can bring is that the City should negotiate the change. But we don't negotiate over violations of the law. We comply. I think continuing the case is a waste of both taxpayer money and police officer union dues. But they've got the right. Hopefully it'll be a quick hearing and decision so the money spent interpreting a clear reading of the law is minimized.

### Other Pension Items

We have two groups of employees who are eligible for pensions – public safety workers (PSPRS) and non-public safety workers (TSRS). First, an update on what is happening with PSPRS.

Last week the public safety Pension Board recommended to the Governor that she call for a special session of the State Legislature to review public safety pensions. The police/fire pension is under 50% funded and the Board is trying to take a long-term view and get the Plan onto a fiscally sound footing.

To their credit, the Professional Fire Fighters of Arizona (PFFA) joined the Pension Board in recognizing the need for a change. They offered the Governor as the basis for convening the special session an end to Cost of Living Adjustments (COLA) in the PSPRS Plan and that if any increases in benefits were to be given going forward, their own fund would have to cover those costs. It's a complex issue, so there might be nuances in that offer that go beyond that brief description, but the point is that PFFA members recognize the need to make adjustments and are willing to sit with the Legislature and address the long-term health of the Plan.

The City doesn't control the public safety pension plan – that's done at the State level. No word yet on when/if they'll be in special session, and what ideas they'll be kicking around. The PFFA offer was just an opening proposal. As with the City/TPOA court item, this one will play out before the end of the summer. The TSRS Board also made a recommendation last week. This Plan is controlled by the City, so the recommendation comes to us, not the State Legislature.

The money received from employees for their pensions is invested by the Board. In a very rudimentary way, the Board makes certain assumptions about the rate of return they expect, and the City General Fund fills the gap between that ROI and what it takes to fully fund our annual obligations. The higher the assumed return, the lower will be our GF chunk.

Last week the TSRS Board lowered their assumed Rate of Return from 7.75% down to 7.25%. Simply put, they don't think the investments will yield as much interest as they previously did. That will increase the amount the General Fund will have to come up with in order to fully fund the Plan next fiscal year.

The Board has an obligation to the long-term health of the Plan and this recommended change reflects their belief that, similar to the public safety Plan, they need to make changes to ensure current employees will have something to live on well into their retirement. I think that's in line with their fiduciary responsibility.

We'll be hearing more from our finance folks on this recommendation. We knew that next fiscal year would be a challenge and this is just the first shoe to drop leading up to that. We've got to take a long-term view of the Plan so it's around well beyond our tenure on the M&C.





### Important Phone Numbers

#### Competitive Base Pay

I've said it and said it and said it – the issue of Sick Leave Sell Back, Pensions and my disagreement with the pay increase we adopted last year is all based on the need to clearly identify the full compensation our Police/Fire workers receive – call it the Index of Total Compensation – and use that complete measure for deciding when and to what level we should give pay increases. If the argument is that we're not competitive, then let's make sure we're taking into consideration everything that makes up the benefits package.

Last year when we were being told that we should adopt a 5% pay increase for police, nobody ever mentioned some of the other elements that go into their package. One is called Assignment Pay. Interestingly, that's a 5% pay increase that's given for work outside of the normal 'assignment' for a given officer. Last year we spent three quarters of a million dollars on Assignment Pay.

There are 511 different 'assignments' built into our pay system by which an officer can receive the 5% increase. That's the reason we spent \$775K on that single piece of the compensation package last year. As with the sick leave sell back, if we're going to get to a fair and competitive base pay, let's make sure we're including assignment pay dollars in that discussion. A few weeks ago I shared an op/ed in the Star about the open negotiations process being used in Costa Mesa. It's called Civic Openness in Negotiations (COIN). In COIN, each piece of what's being negotiated is identified, a cost is placed on it and the whole package is made public for a 30-day public comment period. Based on emails I've received criticizing my position in opposition to using sick leave sell back to spike pensions, I know some people would comment in support of keeping many of the benefits that increase the base pay, but do so out of the view of the public. Others might suggest eliminating the stealth benefits and simply building some of those dollars into the base pay. The public discussion embedded in COIN respects the fact that it's taxpayer money we're spending. You deserve a voice.

Some of the Assignment work that qualifies for the 5% increase includes canine unit, motorcycle patrol, DUI work, property crime work, as well as things like working in Human Resources, training and field operations. As I noted, there are 511 different pay levels that qualify. COIN puts it all on the table, and maybe the answer would be to eliminate many of those levels and roll it into base pay.

We have negotiated other non-base pay increases. Consider this – a bilingual officer is called out after hours to work at a task that's one that qualifies for the special assignment increase. That officer will be paid his/her base pay, second language pay, call-out pay, a shift differential, and assignment pay, and probably even at a 4 hour minimum. That's 5 or 6 different ways that officer is being paid for that one call-out. Unless our payroll clerks can do algorithms in their heads, they probably cringe at having to sort out a mess like that. I think there's a better way, and one that would make it easier to truly calculate what we're really paying our police and fire workers.

We're opening up the contracts for renegotiation. This is an opportunity to clean up some of this stuff and put ourselves in a better position to be able to tell the taxpayers what we're really paying our first responders. We all want them paid fairly – and we should have an open discussion about what we're using to compute their pay now. The level of stealth benefits varies from one agency to another, and they've grown up over time without any level public of scrutiny. We should have that chance, soon.

#### The Lumie Awards

We're challenged with balancing our books and funding much more than police and fire. One example is our funding for the arts.

Last week my bride and I spent an evening celebrating the recognition of many of the individuals and groups in the arts field who help to make us who we are. The Lumie Awards are offered by the Tucson Pima Arts

Senator John  
McCain (R)  
520-670-6334

Senator Jeff  
Flake (R)  
520-575-8633

Congressman  
Ron Barber (D)  
(2<sup>nd</sup> District)  
520-881-3588

Congressman  
Raul Grijalva (D)  
(3<sup>rd</sup> 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](http://www.azleg.gov)

Mayor Jonathan  
Rothschild  
791-4201

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

Council in honor of those who illumine our community.

There were ten categories, each with multiple nominees. They each deserve to be recognized. Here they are, with the winner in **bold**.



**Artist Lifetime Achievement – Julie Gallego (Folklorico)**, Diana Madaras, Rick Wamer.

**Established Artist – Kimi Eisele (Dance)**, Steven Eye, David Johnston, Bill Mackey, Kevin Mills, Catherine Nash, Ben Olmstead and Simon Donovan, Adam Rex, Fernando Romero, Wil Taylor.

**Established Arts Organization – The Loft Cinema**, Ben's Bells, The Drawing Studio, The Rialto.

**Arts Educator – Josh Schachter (Photography)**, Janice Jarrett, Kevin Johnson.

**Arts Education Program – Tucson Symphony Orchestra**, Broadway Camp, Christian Youth Theatre Tucson, Tucson Philharmonia Youth Orchestra.

**David Hoyt Johnson Arts Administrator – Jennifer Nichols (Library)**, Lynn Davis, Peggy Johnson.

**Arts Patron – a tie between Karen Falkenstrom (Odaiko Sonora), and Mike Kasser (Holualoa)**.

**Business Partner – General Growth Properties (Tucson Mall and Park Place)**, Jim Click Automotive, Northern Trust.

**Civic Partner – Randi Dorman (MOCA)**, Arizona Public Media, Stevie Mack.

**Emerging Arts Organization – Artifact Dance Project (Dance to live music)**, Exploded View, Lonely Street Productions, Tucson Pastel Society, Xerocraft.

I think the most telling comment of the night came from Karen Falkenstrom when she noted that it's odd to be pitting arts folks in a competitive environment when in fact it's more common that they're in supportive and collaborative roles. Thanks to Roberto Bedoya for his leadership at TPAC, and his commitment to this part of what makes Tucson whole.

## MOCA



Arts related, we're cleaning up the \$1 p/yr leases that previous Mayors and Council's approved. The Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) agreement is set to expire this year and we are negotiating a 5-year extension based on the non-profit rate of 25% of market. In this case, that's about a grand p/month.

The way the deal will be structured is that MOCA has the right to purchase the property between years 2 and 3 of the lease. If they don't by the end of year 3, the City can terminate the lease by giving them one year's notice. The purchase price would be based on the then-appraised value. This is a good compromise from where the negotiations began. MOCA needs to be able to show their donors and investors some stability in order to be attractive to them. Stopping the deal at 3 years was not a long enough window to allow for that. I suspect they'll now go into fund development mode and try to raise enough to make the site their permanent home. They're well situated, right across the street from the TCC, so I believe all parties wish them well in getting to the point at which they can own the space in a few years. And the City has a way to exercise its options if that doesn't work out.

The MOCA gang are good tenants and I wish them well in crossing the finish line and putting themselves in the position of being owners. Their mission fits well with what we see going on at the east end of downtown. We should see the final deal points at our next M&C meeting.

## Community Forum on Mental Health Issues

We're coming up on the July 7<sup>th</sup> forum related to mental health issues that Temple Emanuel will be hosting. Last weekend another shooting was reported in the Star. This was the guy who went on a shooting spree with a shotgun at Seattle Pacific University until a student intervened while the gunman was reloading. Not

surprisingly, the gunman had a history of mental health issues.

I know each of the speakers on the 7<sup>th</sup> will make this point, but it can't be overstated; that is, the vast majority of people who suffer from mental illnesses will never commit a violent crime. But they still need and deserve treatment, and they need and deserve to live a life free from the stigma that is associated with brain illnesses. We don't stigmatize people who are being treated for the flu – same should apply.

Clarke Romans (NAMI), Chuck Burbank (Pasadera Network), Jennie Grabel (Center for Civility, Respect and Understanding), Congressman Ron Barber, State Senator Dave Bradley, and State Representative Victoria Steele will be presenting. There will be an opportunity for Q&A.

This is a fundamentally important topic in our community and this group of speakers is directly engaged in multiple aspects surrounding it. The doors will open at 5:30pm, and the speaking will start at 6:30. It's free – come and participate.

### **Streetcar/Bike Safety**

A while back, Amy, the Living Streets Alliance group, and I began working with the TDOT folks in an effort at being proactive in cleaning up some of the dangerous spots that exist along the streetcar route, specifically related to bike/streetcar interactions. I submitted to TDOT a list of suggestions. Last week Director Cole gave us an update. He agrees on some of the proposals, and has a different perspective on others. Here's a brief summary:

*Eliminate the car-slot that's in front of Wilko /replace with a couple of bike rings. Wilko management, Main Gate management and LSA each support this move.*

TDOT RESPONSE: We will remove this parking spot and install some bike racks. However, given the back-in parking, we have to be careful with the positioning of the bike racks because we don't want bad back-in car drivers hitting someone's really expensive bike. Ann (*Ann Chanecka – our bike/ped guru*) will move forward with a corral design that can convert that space into bike parking and reduce potential conflicts.

*b) Broadway by the Rialto - Still need signage that directs bikes up onto the sidewalk*

TDOT RESPONSE: Signage has been added to allow bikes to use the sidewalk around the Cadence property. There are still two signs that Cadence needs to install because they are on private property. Ann and Diahn (*Schwartz – TDOT traffic engineer*) are working with the Rialto Theatre and they have agreed to add a sign to the barricade they put out when they do have buses parked in the bike lane that instructs bikes to use the sidewalk as well.

*c) Playground - Still need a red curb and motorcycle or bike parking slot*

TDOT RESPONSE: On 5th Avenue, the spot immediately south of Congress on the west side of the street was recently painted red to indicate it is a no-parking zone. We are also exploring putting some paint and planters in that space to make it physically impossible for someone to try to park there. The two car spots further south closer to Broadway will be converted into motorcycle parking for now. The developers of the hotel will be re-doing that streetscape and we believe will make the needed changes to be able to provide on-street parking in the long-term.

*d) Paint and Planters at Epic Cafe corner*

TDOT RESPONSE: The area near the curb serves as a bike lane to help cyclists stay away from the track. We do not support putting planters in that area as it would make it more challenging for bikes. However, we will make sure this is an area that gets enforced regularly. (*Ya, well, you can't win 'em all.*)

*e) Remove the dumpster on Jim Glock By-Pass behind Centro Garage.*

TDOT RESPONSE: The dumpster has been moved to allow bikes to access the Jim Glock bypass. There were also modifications to the area in front of the Centro garage in part to help cyclists. The dumpster will be completely removed upon build out of the retail space in front of the Centro garage.

As noted in some of the answers from TDOT, there will continue to be monitoring of the streetcar route, and we'll keep watching to see how upcoming development (such as the AC Tucson Hotel) changes the dynamics of how we get around on 2 wheels downtown. We're very grateful to the TDOT staff for engaging on this in a proactive way.

**Connect in the City**

Related to the streetcar and continued downtown development – and support of local merchants – is a program being started in which you'll be able to get discounts at businesses along the streetcar corridor.

There are four distinct 'districts' that lay along the corridor. Working together, the merchants have put together a plan through which you can buy a card that'll get you discounts at any participating merchant – from 10% to 50% - all summer long. The effort is timed with the planned start of the streetcar, and during what are often slow sales months for businesses all over town.

The four districts are Main Gate, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Downtown, and Mercado San Agustin. Each has its own theme, and each theme is displayed on the membership card you can buy. You can see those on the image about this program that's shown above. They'll be advertising this program through multiple media outlets (Zocalo, KXCI, Marshall Foundation, FAMA, DTP and more.) If you'd like to see the discounts and who's participating you can check them out at [www.TucsonSummer.com](http://www.TucsonSummer.com). This is a good way to both save yourself some money and support a local business during the tough summer months.

**Connect in the City**  
**\$5 SUMMER SAVER PASS**

You save thousands this summer with 100 merchants in 4 unique districts along the streetcar line. Valid June-Aug 2014

Celebrate with tasty food, cold drinks, awesome services, fun gifts, clothes and more at local businesses!

Grab your card and collect your savings at [TucsonSummer.com](http://TucsonSummer.com)

Find and collect all SIX cards. Available at participating merchants along the streetcar line!

Main Gate Square  
 4th Avenue  
 Downtown  
 Mercado San Agustin

TucsonSummer.com  
 Rally Media Solutions, LLC

**Southwest Key Programs**



I want to touch on this just briefly to clarify a Ch.9 report that aired on Friday of last week. Southwest Key is a non-profit agency operating out of Austin, Texas that's working to find shelter and support help for the many children who are being dropped off in Tucson and all over the Southwest. Last week they filed for a permit to do interior remodeling at an existing facility over on Oracle Road, the intent being to house and provide shelter to the kids at that location.

The original report didn't disclose the location of the proposed shelter, so after having read about their plans

in the Star, I checked with staff to see the location and status of the work. In fact, they've received a permit to do interior remodeling, but at this time, when they get to requesting a Certificate of Occupancy they'll be denied for that intended use. This is strictly a zoning decision and has nothing to do with the City taking a position for or against the work Southwest Key is engaged in.

The basis for the decision is that in order to set up a shelter such as being proposed, they need to be 500' or more away from where more restrictive zoning exists. There is both R2 and R3 zoning within that 500' boundary, so what is being proposed conflicts with our zoning code.

They've been advised. There's a process by which they can apply for a special exemption, but it's a long, drawn out one. They're also looking at some property out in the County. We'll keep an eye on how the County approval process develops. I just wanted to fill in the blanks that the KGUN report didn't have the time to report.

### Urban Agriculture Meeting



The location for the Urban Ag public meeting has been changed. Same date/time, but they recognized that where they held it last time didn't fit the level of interest the topic is generating.

Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 until 8pm (it will end at 8 – Rebecca doesn't mess around when time's up) and the new location is the YWCA building at 525 N. Bonita.

Although the image above is of chickens, the topics the City is considering include small farm animals, community gardens, farmers markets, urban farms and the rules/regs that will govern where and at what level of intensity those will be allowed. This re-look at our policies is in response to input we received during the lengthy process of putting Plan Tucson together and ultimately on the ballot last fall. Taking that input and moving it to policy is the intent of these meetings.

Looking at this issue has brought some pretty passionate dialogue. I've seen email exchanges and have been told of some ugly interactions between people who are working on the changes. I'd just implore you, whichever side of this that you're on, to respect the perspectives of others and realize that nobody in the conversation has a monopoly on correctness. Listen with the intent of hearing and you might learn from somebody else's perspective. Practice the civility we call out when we see people being abusive towards others.

### Broadway Project Public Meeting

Over the weekend, the Star ran a couple of op/ed's written by members of the Citizen's Accountability for Regional Transit (CART) committee. They were important because that's a body that reports to the RTA on how the projects in the RTA Plan are progressing. They're the watchdog on making sure the tax dollars are being spent according to Plan expectations.

One of the writers took the high road and noted how the Citizen's Task Force had whittled down the options under consideration to some that meet the new realities of traffic counts, how people are getting around, the expectations of the stakeholders in this project and our budgetary constraints. The other writer was less than helpful by stating "The City's apparent unwillingness to take into account other regional vested interests..." For the record, the City is taking into account all vested interests.

On Thursday of this week the project team will host another public forum to show the progress the CTF has made, what options are currently on the table, and I'm sure they will walk through the pros/cons of each. The forum will be held at the Sabbar Shrine, located at 450 S. Tucson. It'll start at 5pm, but I suspect the presentations won't really kick off until about 5:30, so don't hesitate to drop by a little late if the early start is an issue. Your input is important.

### Pima Animal Care Center

I gave a head's up on this a while back. Now the contest out at PACC has started.



The ASPCA is sponsoring this adoption contest among animal shelters nationwide. Pima Animal Care Center is competing against 9 other shelters, from Florida to California, in the category of shelters who have taken in in excess of 11,000 animals in the past year. That's the largest shelter category in the contest.

The way it works is that the contestants will compare the number of dogs and/or cats they adopted out during June through

August of 2013 to the number of live exits this summer, through August. There are multiple categories of prizes, but the grand prize will be a \$100,000 grant that'll go to the contestant that achieves the largest increase in number of lives saved over last year's baseline number.

Since the goal of the contest is to save more lives, in order to be eligible to compete the agency must spay/neuter all animals before they're transferred to their new homes. PACC has veterinary services on site, so they'll qualify to participate.

They're located at 4000 N. Silverbell and are open from noon until 7pm on weekdays and 10am until 5pm on weekends.

They close the last Sunday of each month for intensive cleaning.

Lots of options for you this week – you can hit the Urban Ag meeting on

Tuesday, go adopt a dog/cat on Wednesday and then hit the Broadway public meeting on Thursday. Things don't need to slow down just because it's summertime.



### **TUSD School Closures**

I briefly chatted with a lady from Sewell neighborhood last weekend at the Lumies about the possibility of more school closures in TUSD. It was a timely conversation for a couple of reasons.

Recently there has been some reporting in the press about the findings from an audit related to TUSD finances and operations. One part of the audit mentioned the potential need to reconsider more school closures. I know from previous exchanges with Board members and Superintendent Sanchez that nobody is automatically defaulting to that as a first consideration. And yet, having just gone through our own budget process, I know that in the course of balancing the books, some hard calls have to be made. With that in mind, I sent H.T. this letter last week:

*Dear Dr. Sanchez;*

*The recent audit findings indicated that one of the several possible avenues the District might consider for addressing its fiscal needs is another round of school closures. While I understand that that's nobody's first choice, it remains a possibility.*

*In the past, when school closures were contemplated, the District and the City have not worked in concert with one another and the impacted surrounding neighborhoods to proactively address concerns and explore possibilities associated with the properties. I'm writing this letter to offer to work with you, your staff and your Board in setting up informational neighborhood meetings relative to any schools that are within Ward 6 of the City when/if such become a discussion point for possible closures. The needs and concerns of the District overlap with those of my Ward constituents. I believe working together as the decision making process evolves may yield a better result than otherwise.*

*I wish you and the Board the best as you tackle these tough fiscal and community decisions. I look forward to working together as you deem appropriate as your own process unfolds.*

The District is very early in their decision making process. They're also just entering an election season for two new Board members, so the timing of the discussion may be affected somewhat by that. Regardless, I wanted you to know that the overture has been made. I respect H.T. and know that as things develop we'll be having more interaction.



**Film Incentive Update**

While our State Legislature was asleep at the wheel when it comes to getting a State film incentive enacted, California's State Assembly last week passed a new bill that increases the kind of projects that'll be eligible to receive tax credits. The vote was 69-0. Now it goes to their State Senate for consideration.

In reading about this I was particularly struck by comments made by some of their Assemblymen. One called the measure "probably the most important measure we will hear this year." Another recognized that "there has been no greater ambassador for California than its artistic output." They get it. To further make the point, the mayors of their ten largest cities signed onto a letter



The Honorable Mike Gatto  
The Honorable Raul Bocanegra  
April 25, 2014  
Page 2

Moreover, California's program is accountable and transparent. This performance-based incentive ensures that no one receives a tax credit until the production is completed, all vendors and crews have been paid, and an independent audit proves that the budget was actually spent in California. The program is also unique in that the tax credit dollars do not cover the salaries of actors, directors and producers, but instead cover behind-the-scenes middle-class workers like cinematographers, editors, grips, costume designers, electricians, drivers and construction crews.

In order to once again be competitive, California must put in place a meaningful, expanded credit that will bring back jobs, increase revenue, and support small businesses and vendors all across the state. Too much is at stake for the people of California to let this key industry slip away.

April 25, 2014

The Honorable Mike Gatto  
California Assembly, 43rd District  
State Capitol, Room 2114  
Sacramento, CA 94249

The Honorable Raul Bocanegra  
California Assembly, 39th District  
State Capitol, Room 4126  
Sacramento, CA 94249

Dear Assemblymembers Gatto and Bocanegra,

As mayors of California's largest cities, we are writing in support of enhancing California's film and television production tax credit program. The widespread geographic and bipartisan support for taking this action demonstrates a keen realization that California is losing tens of thousands of middle class jobs and significant tax revenue to other states and nations when it comes to film and television production.

Ten years ago, motion picture production took place in cities across California. Now California has lost nearly all big budget feature film production and most television production to other states and nations which have ramped up their incentive programs. In 2012, only one big budget feature film was shot entirely in California, and in 2013, only 39 out of 137 one-hour television series were filmed here.

Simply stated, the demand for film and television productions that want to remain in California far exceeds the resources available within the state's current production incentive program. According to data from the California Film Commission, less than one in every ten projects received California's incentive in 2013 - 380 film and television projects applied and only 34 projects are set to receive credits.

Extending California's film and television production tax credit program is a smart, prudent investment in California's future and economic competitiveness. The program is one of California's most efficient and proven economic development tools, generating 51,000 jobs and providing \$4.5 billion in direct spending since its inception in 2009. According to the California Film Commission's "Progress Report - July 2013," every \$100 million in credits result in \$792 million and roughly 8,500 new middle class jobs in California. These productions also support tens of thousands of businesses in local communities in every corner of the state.

Sincerely,

*E. G. Garcetti*  
ERIC GARCETTI  
Mayor, City of Los Angeles

KEVIN JOHNSON  
Mayor, City Sacramento

*Kenneth Weir*  
Kenneth Weir  
Vice Mayor, City of Bakersfield

*Kevin L. Faulconer*  
KEVIN L. FAULCONER  
Mayor, City of San Diego

*Ashley Swarengin*  
ASHLEY SWEARENGIN  
Mayor, City of Fresno

*Edwin Lee*  
EDWIN LEE  
Mayor, City of San Francisco

*Bob Foster*  
BOB FOSTER  
Mayor, City of Long Beach

*Chuck Reed*  
CHUCK REED  
Mayor, City of San Jose

*Jean Quan*  
JEAN QUAN  
Mayor, City of Oakland

*Miguel Pulido*  
MIGUEL PULIDO  
Mayor, City of Santa Ana

of support. It appears all that's left to debate is how high the State wide incentive cap should go. We who have been advocating for Arizona to follow suit aren't giving up this fight. The fact that since 2001 California has seen 8 failed attempts at instituting film incentives is a sign that we should keep working on our State elected officials to get us in the game. As States around us increase their own incentive packages, we fall further and further behind.

It's an election year. I think this is a valid question for candidates to engage.

**Movies in the Park**

The summer movie series that Reid Park is hosting has started again. There are 5 more chances for you to grab

**COX** **saaca**  
SOUTHERN ARIZONA ARTS & CULTURAL ALLIANCE

**MOVIES IN THE PARK**

**SUMMER 2014 MOVIE SCHEDULE**

**June 6** Adventures of Tin Tin  
**June 20** We Bought a Zoo  
**July 18** How to Train Your Dragon  
**August 1** Chronicles of Narnia: Voyage of the Dawn Treader  
**August 15** Night at the Museum  
**August 29** Mr. Peabody & Sherman

Fun and Games for the whole family including food vendors, live music, jumping castles, balloon twisters, arts and crafts, area non-profit exhibits, and more!

**FREE ADMISSION**  
**COX MOVIES IN THE PARK**  
Summer 2014  
Reid Park, Demeester Performing Arts Pavilion,  
900 S Randolph Way, Tucson, AZ 85716  
**MOVIES START AT DUSK**

For more information  
visit [www.SAACA.org](http://www.SAACA.org) or call (520) 797-3959

the family and head out to the band shell at Reid and take in a show that is appropriate for kids and adults. Of course the admission is free.

The Southern Arizona Arts and Cultural Alliances (SAACA) is doing the technical work again and is playing emcee/host to each event. There'll also be live music, arts activities, food trucks and since the shows start at dusk, the weather won't be oppressive. The screen is 40' tall/wide so the closed captioning that's available makes a real difference if you have anybody in your group who might benefit from that.

Thanks to Cox for helping out again.

### City Budget Decisions

I opened this newsletter by talking about sick leave sell back, pensions and pay increases – our budget challenges in general. I'll close by sharing two items that affect our budget. One has to do with the repeated work our crews have to do keeping the City presentable, and then some information that I found in the last *"Governing the States and Localities."* It has to do with how some other major cities are dealing with cost controls, specifically in the area of health care costs.

This is just the most recent example of what we go through all the time. I could just as easily insert a picture of graffiti or other vandalism of public property. This shot comes to me from the Palo Verde Neighborhood folks who do a tremendous job of keeping their area as nice as they can, but for the fools who ram landscaping in traffic circles with their vehicles, tag block walls and utility boxes, etc. This circle in particular would look much nicer if we didn't have to plant barrels alongside of the vegetation, but when we tried that the damage to the plants week after week was a complete loss, not just the one tree we'll lose shown in the photo above. This sort of stuff costs the taxpayers millions annually, and it diminishes what we have to spend on things such as the arts, support of small business or any other General Fund expense. We're grateful for the volunteer help we get from residents. The costs though are very real, and very expensive.



Next, the health care costs. In our recent budget talks, we built into our cost assumptions nearly a million dollars in anticipated new costs related to health care, largely due to the expiration of a Federal Grant. We're not unique in facing cost escalation.

The piece in *Governing* was about Detroit and Chicago taking the step of sending their retirees to the new health care exchanges and taking them off from the City run plans entirely. Private sector firms have already

been making this sort of shift. These are the first public sector Plans that I've seen follow suit. It's a difficult balancing act that will impact long-term costs vs. the ability to recruit and retain quality workers.

In Detroit, the City is providing up to \$300 per month for retirees who are over 65 and who do not qualify for Medicare. They're also including money for spouses. There are also income based criteria that govern the amount of subsidy. In Chicago, they're phasing in a plan to reduce the health insurance subsidy for retirees from the current 55% down to zero. Public safety participants are not affected. In both cities, those workers who are affected by the changes will either get coverage through a spouse or go to an exchange. A similar change is taking place in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin.

We have not contemplated any changes like this. I only mention it here so as to bookend this newsletter with the idea that we have to continue to look at our long-term costs and be ready to make changes in how we do business. Taking a short term horizon approach isn't possible any longer. You know I didn't support how we're ending up this year's budget talks. Next year won't be any easier, and what we're seeing in the area of pensions, health care, pay, and benefits is all laying the groundwork for another tough budget cycle.

Sincerely,



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

## Events Calendar

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

### El Dia de San Juan

Tuesday, June 24 from 5-10 p.m.

885 W. Congress St, next to the Mercado San Agustin.

The Fiesta will feature a procession, live music and dance, food and arts & crafts vendors, games and activities for children, and free water and watermelon. *Free and open to the public, the Fiesta is non-alcoholic and boasts a family-friendly atmosphere.*

### Dancing in the Streets Arizona

Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream"

Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm.

Fred Ronstadt will be narrating this performance at the ATC Temple of Music and Art. Tickets (\$8 and \$10) are available at the Antigone Book Store, as well as the dance studio...88 W. 38th Street, suite 200 (one half of the Social Security Building), or at the box office on the day of the performance.

## Ongoing . . . .

**Rialto Theatre**, 318 E. Congress St.

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

**The Rogue Theatre**, at The Historic Y, 300 East University Blvd

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

**Fox Theatre**, 17 W. Congress St.

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

**Hotel Congress**, 311 E. Congress St.

<http://hotelcongress.com/>

**Loft Cinema**, 3233 E. Speedway

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

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

[www.TucsonMuseumofArt.org](http://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](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.childrensmuseumtucson.org](http://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](http://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 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/>

**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!

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

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

**Tucson Botanical Gardens**

2150 N. Alvernon Way, Tucson, AZ 85712

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

**Cinema La Placita**

Every Thursday evening at 7:30pm, May through August, hundreds of Tucsonans enjoy the cool summer evenings and a pleasant summertime event. \$3 per person includes popcorn!

JUNE 12th

**NOTORIOUS** (1946) NR

Starring Ingrid Bergman, Cary Grant, Claude Rains and Louis Calhern. Directed by Alfred Hitchcock.

A woman is asked to spy on a group of Nazi friends in South America. How far will she have to go to ingratiate herself with them?

