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Ward 6 Newsletter

TUCSON FIRST

January 11, 2016

In this issue...

Budget	1
Ward Offices Consolidation Downtown	6
Charter Review Committee	6
PCard Revenue Stream?	7
Smart Water Meters	7
AC Marriot	8
Broadway Construction	8
Medical Marijuana Dispensaries	11
Arizona Project	12
Two more upcoming special treats	13
Tucson Greyhound Park	14
Events and Entertainment	15

Budget

Webster's defines "insolvency" as being unable to meet debts or discharge liabilities.

Here's a table that shows projections for our General Fund.

	FY 15/16	FY 16/17	FY 17/18	FY 18/19	FY 19/20
Revenues					
City Sales Tax		\$ 3,900,000	\$ 3,975,000	\$ 4,050,000	\$ 4,140,000
State Shared Sales Tax		\$ 2,400,000	\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,700,000	\$ 2,800,000
State Shared Income Tax		\$ 2,500,000	\$ 2,600,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Auto Lieu (VLT)		\$ 1,100,000	\$ 1,300,000	\$ 1,400,000	\$ 1,500,000
Fines/Forfeitures		\$ -	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Sale of Prop		\$ 2,000,000	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Other		\$ 1,100,000	\$ 600,000	\$ 500,000	\$ 500,000
Subtotal Revenues		\$ 13,000,000	\$ 13,975,000	\$ 12,650,000	\$ 11,940,000
Expenditures					
PSPRS		\$ 25,000,000	\$ 12,000,000	\$ 7,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
TSRS		\$ -	\$ 2,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Fully Budget All Positions		\$ 6,184,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Health Insurance		\$ 6,000,000	\$ 2,160,000	\$ 2,322,000	\$ 2,500,000
Fuel		\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000
Transit		\$ 1,670,000	\$ 1,010,000	\$ 5,450,000	\$ -
COPS Hiring		\$ 870,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
SAFER Grant		\$ (1,783,000)	\$ 1,783,000	\$ -	\$ -
Election		\$ 1,200,000	\$ 1,200,000	\$ -	\$ 1,200,000
Debt Service		\$ 1,552,000	\$ 80,000	\$ 277,000	\$ (1,337,000)
Other		\$ 871,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Capital Investment		\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,000,000	\$ 8,000,000
Subtotal Expenditures		\$ 42,564,000	\$ 21,233,000	\$ 24,049,000	\$ 14,363,000
Total change per year		\$ (29,564,000)	\$ (7,258,000)	\$ (11,399,000)	\$ (2,423,000)
Cumulative per year		\$ (12,700,000)	\$ (42,264,000)	\$ (60,921,000)	\$ (63,344,000)



Important Phone Numbers

Tucson Police Department
911 or nonemergency
791-4444

Water Issues
791-3242/800-598-9449
Emergency: 791-4133

Street Maintenance
791-3154

Graffiti Removal
792-2489

Abandoned Shopping Carts
791-3171

Neighborhood Resources
837-5013

SunTran/SunLink
792-9222
TDD: 628-1565

Environmental Services
791-3171

Park Wise
791-5071

Planning and Development Services 791-5550

Pima Animal Care Center
724-5900

Pima County Vector Control
Cockroach: 443-6501
Mosquito: 243-7999

Continued: A Message From Steve

You may wind up seeing this graphic again before we adopt our FY'17 budget, but to set the stage for what will be a very complex series of upcoming budget talks, that is what we're facing *if we do nothing* to curb costs and/or increase revenues.

In the material provided for the budget retreat held a few weeks ago, this statement appeared: *"The major fiscal challenge is that expenses are outpacing anticipated revenues."* Later, it said *"the city cannot meet the demands for services without diversifying its revenue base."*

If we do nothing to change that trajectory, Webster's kicks in. We're not standing pat. Everybody understands that doing nothing is not an option.

Simply put, as we start this year's budget discussions, we are facing a \$42M hole. By doing nothing in the form of cost cutting and/or increasing revenues, that jumps to over \$63M in three years. Much of that comes from the public safety pension, and very little of it will be affected by the May special election you may see that will be touted as a 'fix' to those pension costs. As you can see from the opening table, we'll still be left with year-to-year obligations for current retirees and employees, regardless of what sort of hybrid system they propose for future hires.

In order to get our thinking going, at our budget retreat we talked about a variety of cost reduction ideas. They don't fill the gap, even if all of the numbers came out as shown on paper. Here's a brief summary of the opening ideas.

Projected Shortfall	\$ (42,564,000)
One-time from FY 15/16	
CCF (Hiring Freeze FY 15/16)	\$ 12,000,000
Retirement incentive	\$ 1,000,000
Probationary employees	\$ 1,000,000
Additional proceeds from <u>Civano</u>	\$ 3,000,000
Subtotal one-time	\$ 17,000,000
Ongoing for FY 16/17	
Fine/Forfeitures	\$ (3,000,000)
Retirement incentive GF	\$ 6,200,000
Retirement incentive EF/SRF	\$ 2,800,000
Attrition 3% (1% above FY 15/16)	\$ 8,400,000
Probationary employees	\$ 2,800,000
Health Benefits change	\$ 3,000,000
Subtotal ongoing	\$ 20,200,000
Total FY 16/17	\$ 37,200,000



Those data are projections. Some will come in better than planned, and others won't. As-



**Important
Phone Numbers**

Senator John McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jeff Flake (R)
520-575-8633

Congresswoman Martha McSally (R)
(2nd District)
(202) 225-2542
Tucson Office: 520-881-3588

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

Governor Doug Ducey (R)
602-542-4331
Tucson office:
520-628-6580

Mayor Jonathan Rothschild
520-791-4201

ZoomTucson Map
<http://maps.tucsonaz.gov/zoomTucson/>

suming their accuracy, we're still over \$5M in the hole for FY'17. It's serious stuff.

The ideas being talked about to get us to balance include reducing the size of city staff by about 400 in the general fund positions, buying out current workers by offering an early-out incentive (reduces benefits costs), and changing our benefits package. My December 21st newsletter had a full description of many of those changes. That newsletter also had a full description of the Sonoran Corridor project. Long term, that's key to our economic survival. Short term, we have to cut and/or find ways to increase revenues. I'm convinced that it'll take a combination of both.

For our last M&C meeting, I asked for a full report on revenue options. There are things we can do legislatively, and there are options we can't pursue without voter approval. I'll give a summary of both, but before doing so I'll share what I said at the last study session on this issue.

We will have to put a lot of pieces of the budget puzzle together if we're going to get to a long term solution to the deficits we see annually. We will need a comprehensive package. I do not believe it's wise to pick off small legislative pieces and then hope for the voters to approve the remaining chunk. If there's a sales pitch to be made – and there will be – it needs to happen in the context of us showing you we have an overall game plan that we intend to implement, not piecemeal adjustments. That game plan must include long term economic growth. Otherwise, the narrative becomes one of increasing taxes and fees while reducing services. That's not sustainable, and it's not prudent to assume you'll buy into it.

I haven't pieced this all together in a way that I'm comfortable with yet. But I do have a sense of what I think the voters will agree to, and I don't believe the direction of some of our conversation at this point in the process is going to get us to a 'yes' if we ask for tax increases at the ballot.

Without any voter approval, we can change the Tucson Code in a series of ways. None of them will fill the hole we're facing. They include various increases to fees or taxes. Here's a table showing those options and the expected yield from each.

Revenue Option	Potential Action	Potential Financial Impact
Public Utility Tax	4% to 4.5%	\$1.7 M
Telecom, right-of-way	50% increase	\$1.6 M
Zoo Entrance Fee	Increase by \$3	\$1 M
Bed Tax	Increase by \$1	\$1 M
Advertising Tax	Set at 2%	\$1 M
Business License Fee	Increase by \$5	\$200,000
Increase existing fees	Parks and Recreation Planning & Development Fire Courts Parking Police	TBD

Establish a Storm Water Fee	\$0.10 per month per Water Acct	\$270,000
Bus Fares	Increase \$0.25	\$2.5 M
Graffiti Cleanup	Move to Environmental Services	\$1.7 M
Code Enforcement	Move to Environmental Services	\$2.3 M

The M&C have all said ‘no’ to bus fare increases in the past few years. I’ll support it, as I have previously, but as I noted above, it will have to be a piece of a much larger package. Another point I made last week was that we have to look not at where a given tax hits initially but at the incidence of the tax – that is, who will really end up paying it. Utility taxes get tacked onto your utility bills. Hotel taxes hit the tourism industry. Advertising taxes hit small businesses in a disproportionate way. I could go on, but the point is that whatever tax or fee increases we adopt will mean money out of someone’s pocket. We need to be very careful that we have that conversation acknowledging whose pockets those are.

The table includes a \$4M savings to the general fund by moving graffiti and code enforcement over to Environmental Services (ES). That savings occurs because ES is an enterprise department; it has to pay its own bills. If we move \$4M in costs onto that department’s budget, ES will either have to offset it with efficiencies or increase charges.

I’m not comfortable with the idea of tacking the costs of others’ messes onto your monthly trash bill. At the study session, I said that spreading out those costs among all ES customers is asking non-violators to pay for the code violations others are committing. I’d much rather see some fee increases for code violators. We’ll have that discussion again before I sign onto the final deal. The same is true of graffiti abatement costs. Charge the violator, not everybody else.



The big ticket changes in revenues *require voter approval*. Securing voter approval to increase taxes is (a) nothing we can count on, and (b) nothing we’ll likely know the answer to before we have to set our budget for FY’17. With that, we cannot rely on any anticipated or hoped-for new revenues from a voter-reliant source to balance our budget this year. You cannot count unhatched chickens.

Here’s a table that shows our options for funds that require voter approval.

Revenue Option	Potential Action	Potential Financial Impact
Food Tax	Set at 0.5%	\$10 M
Construction Tax	Set at 4%	TBD
Restaurant	Increase by 0.5%	\$1.4 M

Sales Tax	2% to 2.5%	\$48-50 M
Rental Tax	Increase 0.5%	\$3 M

First, let me say that I have heard zero support from anyone on the council for implementing a food tax. It's big dollars, but it's big time regressive. I highly doubt you'll be voting on that.

However, sales taxes in general are regressive. Right now, we've maxed out our sales tax. To go above 2%, we need you to bless the idea. If you did approve, we could use those dollars to increase taxes on any of these sorts of business transactions:

- Amusements (such as movies, concerts, and exhibitions)
- Restaurants and bars
- Construction
- Job printing
- Publishing
- Transportation for hire
- Utilities
- Telecommunications
- Some types of rents and leases
- Most types of retail sales

We are prohibited from imposing a 'sin tax' on the sale of alcohol or cigarettes.

As you can see from the table, a half percent increase in sales tax is anticipated to bring in an additional \$50M or so annually. Glance back up at the opening table and you'll see that we'd chew all of that up just in balancing the first year's budget if we did nothing else. This is a big financial problem.

There's talk about earmarking a half percent increase in sales taxes to fund Parks and Recreation. The idea would be to relieve the general fund of its parks subsidy and use what the new tax money brought in to fund that department. I'm not on board with that idea at this time. I'm still thinking through the larger picture. We have to have the conversation about transit and its funding and management mechanism. We have huge unmet needs in terms of funding public safety equipment – see last week's newsletter. Using new tax dollars for that wouldn't help the general fund much, though. And the public safety pension issue is only going to get worse before it gets better, no matter what the voters say in the May special election.

It's undeniable that we made this hole deeper by giving pay increases (all pensionable dollars), failing to increase bus fares or add route efficiencies in a timely manner, and we weren't as aggressive as we might have been in assigning a funding ratio for pensions (50% of full cost vs. the 75% I had proposed). Those changes would have helped incrementally, but we'd still have issues that really are a function of the limitations we have on our revenues – limitations that will take voter approval to change. Count on that discussion in the coming months.

The growth of the Sonoran Corridor will have to be a parallel conversation or you'll rightly sense all we're focused on is increasing fees and taxes, not growing the economic base. I'm going to try to keep that piece of this actively in the mix on any chance I get, if for no other reason than to deliver the message that we do in fact have a long term vision and are not relying solely on more coming out of your pocket to fix this mess.

Ward Offices Consolidation Downtown

Also mentioned at the budget retreat was the idea of consolidating ward offices and moving us downtown.

If that were to occur, this...



...would be replaced by that.



I've thought about it, considered what it would save, and I've shared with staff that I am opposed to the idea for several reasons.

We frequently host over 120 city meetings and community group gatherings per month in the Ward 6 community rooms. Those rooms come free of charge. That's a service I believe the community appreciates and that we're happy to provide.

We're also centrally located so constituent contacts are convenient for you all. If I were downtown, all of my meetings with you would take place in some newly-renovated office complex within City Hall. If there's anything I've stood for since having taken office in 2009, it's accessibility to the public. I don't want to sacrifice that.

Costs – we'd have to renovate existing City Hall space and move out whoever's occupying it now. We'd sell off the existing Ward 6 office – for what use, given the current zoning? That's not big revenue dollars for the city. So, I don't support the move. But, I'm not in this seat forever, so in fairness, I want to solicit your input. Let us know how you feel about the proposal. You're the ones who'd be most directly impacted by such a move, so your voice counts.

Charter Review Committee

We've reconvened the Charter Review Committee that brought us last year's charter change proposals. Those had to do with Mayoral parity and some civil service issues. This time around we want to see proposals related to finance and governance. The governance questions will be informed by what we hear from the 9th Circuit ruling on our elections process.

The next meeting will be held today, Monday, January 11th, at 4:30pm down in the M&C

chambers. Last year's meetings lasted about two hours. This 15 member group will be helping us frame the issues we may be placing on the ballot. These meetings have calls to the audience, so they're an opportunity for you to share your input with the group. If you'd like information on their agendas, or would like to look at minutes, all of that's available at this site: <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/clerks/boards?board=120>.

Another source of information to help us decide what goes to the ballot will be a survey we'll send out soon. Last week, we authorized spending some cash on constructing and administering the survey. The results are largely a function of the quality of the instrument and how the questions are framed. Before I agree to issuing any survey to the public, I will first want to see what it's asking and how. Given the urgency of this issue, I expect we'll be seeing something before the end of February.

PCard Revenue Stream?

Many companies and institutions use PCards (purchasing cards) as a way of expediting purchases. Most PCard programs also come with rebate money from the lending institution that carries the card. For the city, that's JP Morgan.

Helping us with our revenues is the \$849K rebate we just received from the City PCard program. That's good. But the other side of that coin is that in order to "earn" back that rebate, we had to be spending. It's the spending that's causing us the budget problem. So kudos to us for the increased rebates (up by over \$500K since 2011), but recognize that in 2011 we spent just over \$28M on goods and services through the PCard program. Last year that jumped to over \$60M. We like the revenues – we need to control the spending.

Smart Water Meters

This item is also related to our budget and to how what we do as a city impacts your quality of life and your personal finances. Back in 2013, Tucson Water began installing smart water meters around town. To date, we're just 45% finished with that process. I would like to see the progress expedited considerably. Right now, the anticipated completion date isn't until 2021.

Smart meters can be read by a handheld computer. In order to be read remotely, Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) needs to be installed. As the meters are installed in a given geographic region, the AMI system will be installed to facilitate the remote reading capability. It's an involved process that will pay dividends over time.

The meters have a radio frequency that allows for that, but maybe more importantly, the meter retains up to 40 days of hourly meter data that can be used to track usage. We get a bunch of calls from people asking about hikes in their bills. Having that data base can help track the reasons and identify problems that may exist in your water lines. Our current meters are old, in some cases unreliable, and don't have that data storage capability.

The budget angle to this is the cost we're absorbing for these new meters. Tucson Water has just over \$23M budgeted for this program over the next four years. A request for proposals is about to go out for a contractor to do the AMI portion. What staff has got to keep front and center though is that Tucson Water doesn't operate in a vacuum from the rest of the city departments. Despite the fact that Tucson Water is an enterprise department and pays

its own bills, it's the ratepayers who write those checks. If we're going to ask voters to ante up cash for higher taxes and possibly for code enforcement and graffiti abatement in garbage collection bills, then adding a sizable hike in water rates isn't going to help the narrative.

I've shared with appropriate staff that we need a comprehensive strategy to this whole budget problem. The days of operating units working in silos has past.

AC Marriott



At long last, the new downtown hotel is finally under construction. The AC Marriott will sit on the corner of 5th Avenue and Broadway. Work has now begun on that very constricted site. It'll take about 18 months to complete. That will mean

construction jobs, purchase of construction materials, and traffic headaches. At least that's two steps forward and only one step in reverse.

Pedestrian and bicycle access will be maintained in and around road closures. In case you're travelling downtown, jot down these travel restrictions – they'll save you some time and aggravation.

The left lane of Broadway will be closed between 6th Avenue and 5th Avenue every day from 6am until 4pm. If you're in that left lane on Broadway during those hours, you'll be forced to turn onto northbound 6th Avenue. Stay to the right if you want to go straight.

From 4pm until 6am daily, that left lane will reopen for traffic. But there will be traffic barriers separating the lanes, so you won't be able to shift from one lane to the other on that block between 6th and 5th. Best bet if you're just passing through downtown during the high congestion times is to use either 22nd, or Speedway.

It'll be great to see this project going vertical. But the impact on the horizontal plane won't be pretty for a while.

Broadway Construction

Last week I hosted a large meeting related to the design of the Broadway corridor. The segment we focused on was from Euclid to Campbell. The east mile would involve a different set of parties. We went block by block and talked about the proposed alignment as it's currently being designed, the impacts the design would have on both the north and south sides of the street, and engaged in some productive and creative exchanges on how to mitigate those impacts. I thank the several staff members who carved out the 3 hours we spent on the exercise.

Road design can be totally a function of engineering considerations. That's lane widths, location of utilities, turning radiuses, where access points are placed, turn lanes, and those sorts of things. That's the car-centric focus that results in a new road, but misses the peo-

ple/economic part of what's being designed. It was that latter set of factors we spent our time trying to wedge into the engineer-think that is a necessary part of the process.

Since day 1 in this design discussion, many from the community have pointed out that if we're just trying to move traffic past this 2 mile segment of homes and businesses, we do a disservice to the economic vitality, walkability and livability of the area. It's the difference between just how we "get there," and whether we're designing a reason to "be there." We cannot eliminate the people impacts from how we move towards our 30% design documents. That point was made over and over during our meeting last week. How do we design the corridor in a way that respects the quality of life for people who live there, and that facilitates the creation of destinations others will want to visit? While the engineering constraints aren't necessarily exclusive of those concerns, unless they're forced into the conversation, it's too easy to design-by-manual and forget they're a component.

The Broadway project will be a major change for that 2 mile segment of road. At the end of the design, there will be people – both business and residential property owners – who are disappointed in some elements of the final alignment. Now's the time to engage in meaningful exchanges with both of those groups in the room hearing their individual concerns. All of them have merit and will need to be at least considered during design. Nobody will get all of what they want – but meetings such as I hosted last week are a needed component in making sure the process at least engages peoples' concerns.

We expect to see the 30% design documents by April. That will start the property acquisition stage as the likely alignment will be more fully identified.



That's a graphic that was included in an advisory sent out from the White House 2 days ahead of the President's announcement of the proposed Executive Order on gun safety. Predictably, the suggestions generated backlash from people unable to comprehend anything gun related that doesn't follow an illogical thread to confiscation. As I said to Bud Foster from KOLD, there's value in simply keeping the conversation alive and not allowing murder to become a 24 hour news cycle event that we simply grow innured to.

Here's a concept; adopt laws that assist in keeping guns out of the hands of people who may be a danger to themselves or to others. Using that as a guiding principle, the President made a wide ranging series of suggestions.

According to Bureau of Justice data, the National Instant Criminal Background Check Sys-

tem has prevented more than 2 million guns from having been sold to prohibited possessors. Dylan Roof (the racist who killed members of the AME church in Charleston, South Carolina) would not have passed the background check, but by law the dealer could sell him a gun if the check hadn't come back in 72 hours. It didn't, the sale went through, and the rest became a tragic news story. In order to make the NICS more effective, these changes are in the Exec. Order:

- a) Regardless of from where you conduct your business (a store, gun show, over the internet,) if you're selling firearms, you must get a license and conduct background checks
- b) Require background checks for people trying to buy weapons through a trust or corporation
- c) Hire an additional 230 FBI agents to assist in conducting background checks. Right now the NICS receives an average of around 63,000 checks per day. Refer back to the Charleston incident. If, after 72 hours the check hasn't been completed, the sale goes through. The added agents will help rectify those delays.
- d) Processing background checks 24/7 to improve the response time
- e) Hire 200 new ATF agents and investigators to assist in enforcing our current gun laws
- f) ATF will dedicate \$4M to assist in linking violent crime information across jurisdictions
- g) Step up work in investigating illegal internet sales of weapons
- h) Include information from the Social Security Administration into the background check system that identifies beneficiaries who are prohibited possessors.

The initiative also includes a significant and much needed influx of money (\$500M) into the mental health care system to assist with access and treatment. And increase research into gun safety technology initiatives. I've written about some of these in the past. They include things such as trigger mechanisms that require finger print ID, and technology to make it easier to track lost or stolen firearms.

Nothing proposed by the President will stop killings by handguns. Nothing proposed by the President will result in the confiscation of firearms. But adoption of the proposals may in fact result in the avoidance of a single murder – and nobody who is legally allowed to own a gun will be deprived at any level.



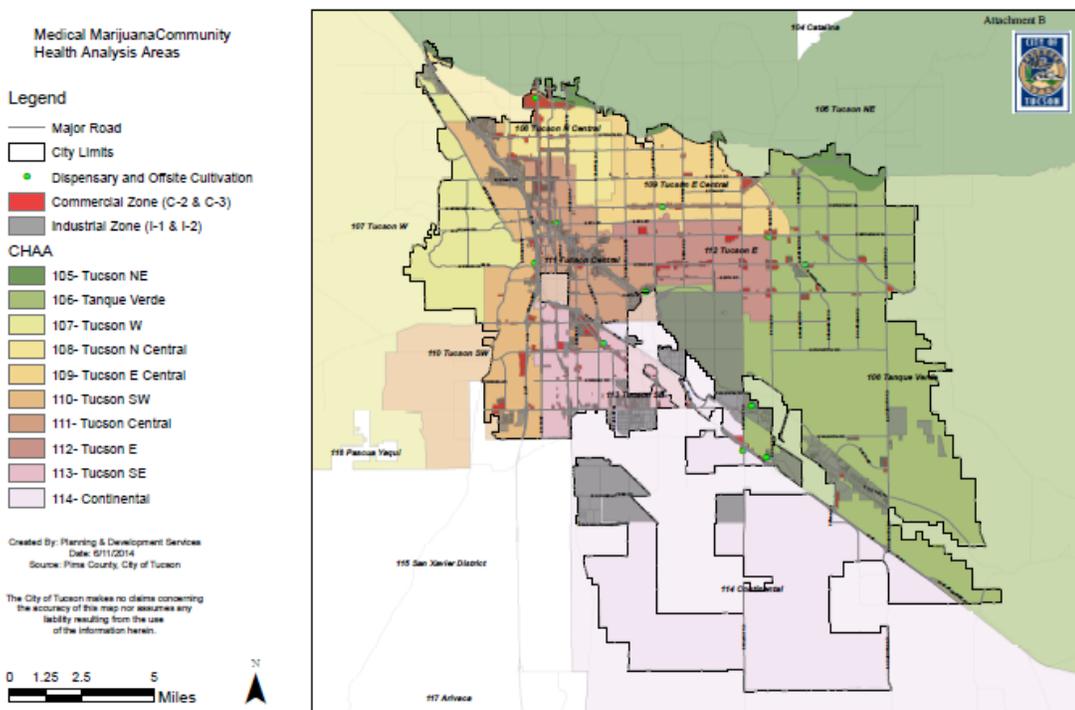
Here's to keeping the conversation front and center.

Medical Marijuana Dispensaries



Back in 2010 the voters approved the use of marijuana in the State of Arizona for medicinal purposes. That forced us to put into place zoning conditions regulating where dispensary's could be located, their size and quantity. After having seen how the original zoning conditions were working, we decided to go back and make a few modifications. None of them are earth-shaking, but all deserved our attention.

When the law first went into effect, the State Department of Health Services established what they called Community Health Analysis Areas (CHAA's.) There are 126 across the State. Tucson has 10. The original idea was to limit pot dispensaries to 1 per CHAA so they'd be distributed evenly across the State. Soon, the State is going to look at allowing more than 1 p/CHAA if all 126 aren't spoken for. So far only 96 have been. Here's a map showing the distribution of the dispensaries – and of the existing off-site cultivation facilities in Tucson:



Link for map: https://www.tucsonaz.gov/sirepub/view.aspx?cabinet=published_meetings&fileid=7389552

One question we tackled last Tuesday was whether we needed to set a cap on the number of dispensaries we allow in the City. Do we want to potentially allow all 30 of the unassigned shops to end up here, or is there a lower limit we should consider?

In addition to the State set quantity, we also put into place zoning rules that govern how far apart dispensaries need to be, and how far they need to be from things like

schools and churches. Based on those regulations, we already have a built-in cap and so setting some other numerical one is unnecessary. At the study session I confirmed that the existing dispensaries are allotted for medical pot only. If next year the voters decide to allow recreational use of marijuana, we'll go back and set rules for those distribution outlets through a separate set of local regulations.

We did make a few minor changes though. We increased the size of off-site cultivation areas from 3,000 square feet up to 4,000 sq/ft. We reduced the setbacks from schools and churches down to 500 feet, from the current 1,000 feet to allow for expansion of existing dispensaries in cases where a school or church moved in after they were already open. And we're allowing outdoor cultivation sites in industrial zones. That just puts us in compliance with ADHS rules.

If the pot initiative makes its way to the November ballot, and if it passes, you'll be seeing more of these marijuana zoning items in the newsletter. For now, we're good to go with the medical facilities.

Arizona Project

And on a semi-related note, last week I shared a promo on the upcoming benefit Mr. Head's is giving on behalf of the Emerge! art therapy program built on the Window's between Worlds curriculum. It's the art therapy work they do with kids who are coming out from a domestic abuse situation.

The relation to the pot item is that some of the objects produced during the event will be functional; that is, pipes. But much will also be simple art for the sake of art. Here's a schedule of the events you can take part in during the fund raiser.

Schedule of Events

ABR Imagery will be on site with a full booth of lampworking supplies for glass artists of all styles. Please come see some amazing art, and enjoy a great selection of our tools, specialty glass items, and lots of good times.

Friday Feb. 5th
12pm - 6pm
 Live Artist collabs, art display, and ABR Booth open to public.

7pm - 11pm
 Sonoran Flame Off at Sonoran Glass School.

Saturday Feb. 6th
12pm - 7pm
 Live Artist collabs, art display, and ABR Booth open.

7pm - ??
 Fun at Mr. Heads Bar with artists and friends.

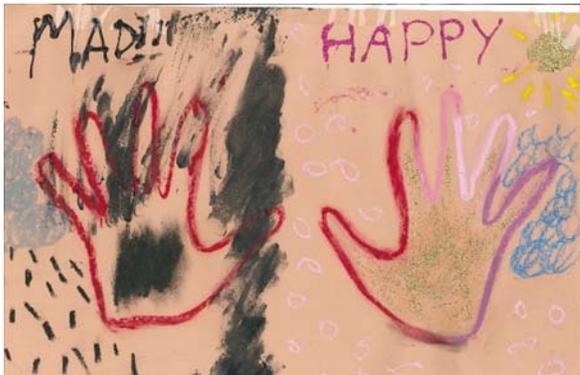
Sunday Feb. 7th
12pm - 7pm
 Live Artist collabs, art display, and ABR Booth open.

7pm - ??
 Wind down the weekend with your glass friends at Mr. Heads Bar!

In bar promos from breweries and liquor companies

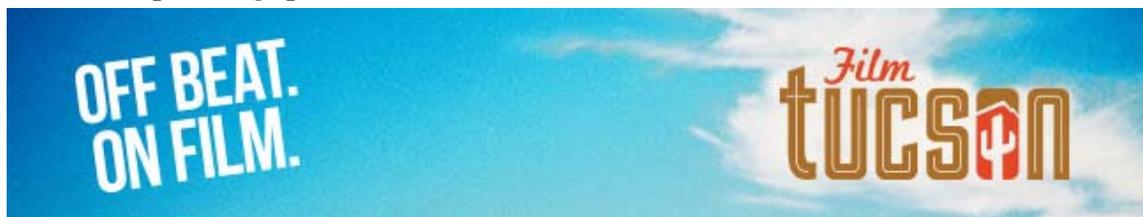
Last year, Emerge! provided services to over 600 kids through a combination of their emergency shelter, community-based and housing programs. At any given time, approximately 40% of shelter residents at Emerge! are kids.

Witnessing parental abuse can traumatize children. And if left untreated, it can lead to repeating the cycle in their own lives later on, as well as leading to impacts on the kids physical health, emotional well-being and school performance.



It's through the Window's between Worlds curriculum that the children are given the space and modality to express what's going on internally to help them deal with anxiety, depression and fear. It's that art therapy program the Mr. Head's Arizona Project is going to help fund. I'll be sharing more on this before the event. It'd be great if you could go and support both the artists, and the Emerge! program.

Two more upcoming special treats -



From January 14th through the 23rd, the 25th Annual Tucson International Jewish Film Festival will run at a variety of locations around town. It'll include over a dozen Arizona premieres.

Both the opening and closing nights will be held at The Loft Cinema. You can see the full schedule – and pre-purchase tickets – through this website: www.tucsonjewishfilmfestival.org

...and this is the weekend for our Donate-a-thon in support of the Food for Horses non-profit. It'll run from 10am until 3pm on the vacant lot at Miramonte and Speedway – a couple of blocks from the Ward 6 office. There'll be a Food Truck rally, face painting for the kids, and rescue agencies will be on hand to share information about their work. I'll be there from about 1pm until the end doing a Council on the Corner meet/greet.

Bring some dog/cat food as a donation and you can enter a raffle. Some of the prizes are tickets to The Loft – can't lose with that prize.

**Food For Horses &
Ward 6 Council Member
Steve Kozachik**

will be holding an animal food

Donate-a-thon

Community Giving & Sharing for Animals

Saturday 16th January

10:00am to 3:00pm

East Speedway & N. Camino Miramonte

- Introducing Animal Rescues •
 - Live Music •
 - Great Raffle •
 - Local Artists •
- Tucson Food Truck Rally •
- Faces by Mary • 
- Twisted Sisters Balloons •

Every 5lbs of animal food you donate
you will receive a free Raffle ticket.

For more information 520-982-2645

Tucson Greyhound Park



And in an effort to find the cleanest dirty shirt in the laundry, I reached out to the CEO at Tucson Greyhound Park to see if he'd like to find a place of common ground and raise some money to help defray the costs of injured animals out at the park. Here's how it went.

I began with this email, putting out a proposal that wouldn't cost the track anything out of pocket:

Mr. Popp;

Steve Kozachik, Tucson City Council writing.

You and I have been on the opposite side of several items in the news related to TGP. I'm writing to you with the intent of finding a place of common ground on one item in particular; that is, funding for injured and/or ill animals.

As you know, I'm in regular contact with rescue groups who take in dogs from the track that have been injured, or are ill. They nurse the animals back to health and adopt them out. They do so at their own cost.

I'm proposing that TGP institute a policy by which a \$3 charge be added to each dog that races at Tucson Greyhound Park (non-schooling races) earmarked for a fund designated for paying rescue groups who take in dogs from your track that need medical attention. You run 8 dogs per race, and run approximately 16 races per night, 4 nights per week. That means you're running approximately 550 dogs per week, multiplied by \$3 would mean the track could be setting aside \$1,650 per week to assist with medical expenses for the animals injured, or who become ill and are sent to a rescue group for medical attention, and eventual adoption. While that amount will not nearly cover the costs associated with say the \$7,000+ it cost to mend the recently injured By Sierra Gold, over time the fund would grow, resulting in more rescue agencies perhaps becoming willing to take in dogs with medical issues.

As we turn the calendar to the New Year, I look forward to hearing back from you soon so we can meet and put the details of this fund into place. We may not agree on the broad questions related to Greyhound racing, but based on your comments to the media I think we agree that the welfare of the dogs is important to us both. Putting a fund such as this into place is not uncommon on the east coast - we should find a way to work together to get it implemented at TGP.

Thanks - Hope to hear from you, soon.

Steve Kozachik

I won't run through the whole series of email exchanges, but the bottom line was Dale Popp (CEO) stating

TGP is unable to financially assist the adoption groups.

The really sad part about that outcome is that the dogs will continue to be injured, and the

rescue agencies will continue to pick up the full cost for their rehabilitation. According to Popp, the kennels don't have money, and the track isn't solvent enough to help. If that's true, then it's the dogs that become the collateral damage.

I'll stay in contact with track management. And I'd invite you to advocate on behalf of the rescue agencies, and the animals by sharing your thoughts with the decision makers out at TGP.

Sincerely,



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

Events and Entertainment

Earned Sick & Safe Time Stakeholder Meetings

Wednesday, January 13, 2016 | 6 pm – 7:30 pm

Ward 5 Council Office, 4300 Park Ave

Throughout January, the City of Tucson will hold a series of stakeholder meetings on the topic of requiring businesses to provide employees with earned sick and safe time. The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 13 at Ward 5 and will be primarily informational. Meetings are open to the public. Additional meetings times/locations:

Thursday, January 21, 2015 | 6 pm – 7:30 pm | Ward 6, 3202 E 1st St

Thursday, January, 28, 2015 | 6 pm – 7:30 pm | Ward 2, 7575 E Speedway Blvd

Safe Canvassing Training

Saturday, January 16, 2016 | Training: 10:30 am – 12 pm

St. Luke's Home Chapel, 1523 N 1st Ave

Learn how to successfully reach out to your neighbors through canvassing: going door-to-door and having conversations about important issues with your neighbors. The training, and an optional canvassing opportunity, will be led by Ward 3 Council Aide Judith Anderson. To RSVP or for more info contact, Gloria McMillan at

glomc@dakotacom.net or 520-623-8905.

Sign up for a free water audit to save water and money

Tucson Water's Zanjeros are specially-trained water efficiency experts who have performed thousands of comprehensive inventories of home water use that helped customers lower their water bills.

Learn more about your home's water-using fixtures, water meter, plumbing, irrigation, and more.

Request an appointment by calling (520) 791-3242 or emailing

TW_CustomerService@tucsonaz.gov.

Tucson Water Zanjero Program: <http://1.usa.gov/1I1uVod>

Ongoing

Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N Main Ave | www.TucsonMusuemofArt.org

Tucson Convention Center, 260 S Church St | tucsonconventioncenter.com

Meet Me at Maynards, 311 E Congress St | www.MeetMeatMaynards.com

A social walk/run through the Downtown area. Every Monday, rain or shine, holidays too! Check-in begins at 5:15pm.

Mission Garden, 929 W Mission Ln | www.tucsonsbirthplace.org

A re-creation of the Spanish Colonial walled garden that was part of Tucson's historic San Agustín Mission. For guided tours call 520-777-9270.

Children's Museum Tucson, 200 S 6th Ave | www.childrensmuseumtucson.org

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm; Saturday & Sunday: 10:00am - 5:00pm

Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N Alvernon Way | www.tucsonbotanical.org

Southern Arizona Transportation Museum, 414 N Toole Ave | www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org

UA Mineral Museum, 1601 E University Blvd | www.uamineralmuseum.org

Jewish History Museum, 564 S Stone Ave | www.jewishhistorymuseum.org

Fox Theatre, 17 W Congress St | www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

Hotel Congress, 311 E Congress St | hotelcongress.com

Loft Cinema, 3233 E Speedway Blvd | www.loftcinema.com

Rialto Theatre, 318 E Congress St | www.rialtotheatre.com

Arizona State Museum, 1013 E University Blvd | www.statemuseum.arizona.edu

Arizona Theater Company, 330 S Scott Ave | www.arizonatheatre.org

The Rogue Theatre, The Historic Y, 300 E University Blvd | www.theroquetheatre.org