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Ward 6 Newsletter

TUCSON FIRST

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Bipartisan Gun Safety Bill



Last week we saw an uncommon alignment of supporters for a pair of bills at the Federal level that touch on gun safety, background checks, and supportive treatment for people with mental illnesses. The Senate sponsor is Texas Senator John Cornyn (R). In the House, Arizona Representative Martha McSally is the lead sponsor. In addition to bipartisan support in both

houses, the bill has the endorsement of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, the Treatment Advocacy Center, the National Association of Police Organizations, and



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

of note – the NRA.

The bill will not solve gun violence. But it's a step. As the saying goes, you eat the elephant one bite at a time, and this bill addresses several important issues in a positive way. One of significance is that it will be a tool for law enforcement to identify people who are prohibited possessors due to mental illness.

The "Mental Health and Safe Communities Act" is intended to strengthen Federal programs that touch on the criminal justice system, while providing funding for families and communities in areas related to treatment for mental illness. Here are a few bullet points that speak to the contents of what's being proposed:

- It allows both state and local governments to use Federal mental health court grants to operate Assisted Outpatient Treatment programs. Those programs allow judges the latitude to supervise mental health treatment for people who need it without sending them to jail.
- It reauthorizes the Federal National Instant Criminal Background Check System and provides incentives to states to comply with requirements to share mental health information with law enforcement.
- It protects due process (a part that likely got the NRA to at least not object to the bill) by requiring a court review and determination that a person is a danger to self or others prior to designating the individual a prohibited possessor.
- It requires state and local governments to use drug court and mental health court funding to develop programs that support offenders who have co-occurring mental health and substance abuse problems.
- It provides for an increase in funding for Crisis Intervention Teams trained in responding to mental health crises – how often might that have been an effective tool in proactively dealing with what later became a mass shooting event?

I think a good summary is that the bill gives law enforcement a tool to see mental health history, empowers families to seek and obtain mental health treatment, and more fully funds a variety of treatment modalities throughout the mental health delivery system.

Here's a statement issued by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) in support:

ARLINGTON, Va., Aug. 5, 2015 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- The following is a statement by NAMI Executive Director, Mary Giliberti:

This morning, Senator John Cornyn (R-TX) introduced the "Mental Health and Safe Communities Act," a bill designed to prevent unnecessary incarceration of people with mental illness and enhance treatment and services for individuals while they are in correctional facilities and following release. The bill directs federal resources to be used for programs with proven effectiveness such as Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) programs, Mental Health Courts, Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (FACT) programs and other evidence-based approaches.

NAMI praises Sen. Cornyn for his support of more effective and humane responses to people with mental illness. Every day, NAMI receives calls and pleas from individuals and families caught in the revolving door of a system that is clearly broken. Jails and prisons in the U.S. are today being used as substitute mental health treatment facilities. At NAMI, we know that this national tragedy is both costly and unjust. We would never tolerate the use of jails and prisons as a default treatment system for any other medical conditions.

It is estimated that 2 million people with serious mental illness are admitted to local jails each year. Most of these individuals are not violent criminals but have committed low level offenses directly related to lack of mental health services and supports. With appropriate services, including assertive community treatment, supportive housing, assistance with employment and peer supports, many of these individuals can recover and live productive lives in the community.

We are grateful to Sen. Cornyn for his leadership in seeking a better, more humane way to respond to the needs of people with mental illness.

The Treatment Advocacy Center also supports the Act. It has a long and strong record of working to make the reduction of mentally ill inmates in U.S. jails and prisons a national priority. Like NAMI, it also works in support of Assisted Outpatient Treatment and the implementation of diversion options that get people out of jail and into the mental health system where appropriate.

As I noted, this bill will not solve our prison over-population problem, nor will it solve the gun safety issues many of us are working to address. But it's a step in the direction of collaboration between groups that have often come down on different sides of this issue. My support is an effort to avoid losing the good simply because it's not the perfect.

AMERICANS FOR
RESPONSIBLE
SOLUTIONS PAC

It's a bite at the elephant. Here's another: continuing consideration of a bill promoted by Congresswoman Giffords' group. Americans for Responsible Solutions is back on Capitol Hill urging support for the "Public Safety and Second Amendment Rights Protection Act of 2015." It has bipartisan support, with Representative Bob Dold (R-IL), Mike Fitzpatrick (R-PA), Peter King (R-NY), and Pat Meehan (R-PA) joining several Democrats as sponsors.

As drafted, the legislation aims to close loopholes in background check requirements on gun buyers. It would expand the existing Federal law that mandates background checks by licensed dealers to include guns sold at gun shows, private sales, and on the internet. There would be exceptions for transfers that take place between family members.

It's similar to a bill that died in a 2013 Senate vote. That bill (HR1217) was also intended to aid in preventing the transfer of weapons to people with unresolved mental illnesses and criminal records that would otherwise place them on a 'prohibited possessor' list. Above, I



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/](http://maps.tucsonaz.gov/zoomTucson/)

gave our Representative (McSally) credit for working on the first bill I mentioned. In fairness, she voted to prevent this one from coming to the floor for debate. We need to do better than that.



Over the weekend, there were two more shootings reported on college campuses. One was in Houston, Texas where one person was killed and another one wounded. Also, up the I-10 in Flagstaff at NAU, a shooter killed a fellow student and wounded three others. The broken record isn't my advocacy for gun safety reforms. It's the news reports on shootings that are far too common. It's good to see some bipartisan efforts on this issue at the Federal level.

Lost Kids

Here's another piece of news involving the Federal government. Last week, three kids ran away from the Southwest Key facility that has a contract with Homeland Security to house the unaccompanied minors who began showing up last summer, largely from Central American countries. The Southwest Key facility opened in 2014 after we approved some zoning changes to make way for the operation.

Because they're aware of my office's work with the Central American families through Project Mariposa, a couple media outlets called me to ask for a comment. I have not been inside the facility – nor has the media – and so my initial concern was over the conditions that may exist inside which could have been the catalyst for the kids' decision to run away.

This concern was somewhat alleviated when a colleague who has been in contact with the Southwest Key folks, and who has evidently seen the program up close, assured me that the facilities are in good repair. I'm told that there is no cause for concern over anything remotely resembling an abusive situation. That's good.

The more immediate concern I expressed to the media, though, was the fact that the kids are lost in the community, likely with language barriers, no resources to live on, and no family or other contacts with whom to connect. Both the Honduran and the Guatemalan consulate offices have similar concerns. While I have no update on their whereabouts or safety, this is a good place to share some of the youth-related programs that do exist in Tucson to serve populations like this.



YOUTH ON THEIR OWN™
Educating Homeless Teens...
Investing in Arizona's Future!

Youth on their Own (YOTO) has been in operation for about 25 years here in Tucson. It began by serving about 10 students who were vulnerable to becoming

high school dropouts. Today, over 1,500 youth are touched by its program at high schools throughout the city. These are unaccompanied youth who, but for this program, would likely be wandering the streets and not getting an education. YOTO provides financial assistance, some basic necessities for living, and counseling to kids in grades 6 through 12,

up to age 21. Many of our local high schools have YOTO advisors. If you're aware of a vulnerable kid who may be able to benefit, contact the school in your neighborhood and see about getting him/her connected.



**STAND UP
FOR KIDS**

Another program that's touching the lives of homeless kids in Tucson is Stand Up For Kids. The group meets in one of the Ward 6 conference rooms for planning sessions, but its real work takes place out on the streets, reaching out to the lost youth in the community.

Stand Up goes out and meets the kids where they are – that is, hidden and vulnerable in washes, parks, alleys, or other similar places around town. Their approach isn't about hard sells, but instead about building relationships and simply assisting the kids by providing food, clothing, and working towards getting them into a safe setting. As with YOTO, Stand Up For Kids is a 501(c)(3) and operates on the basis of donations given by folks like you.

If you'd like information on how to connect with either of these organizations, we can help you at the Ward 6 office. Their work is an important part of the social service fabric that exists in Tucson. We're hopeful that the kids who wandered away from the Southwest Key facility are able to connect with some service provider and return to a safe and healthy environment.

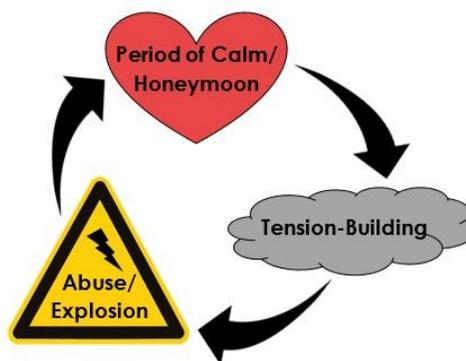
Domestic Abuse Awareness Month

Continuing on the theme of vulnerability and building healthy relationships, I'm sharing this as a third installment in this month's series of notes on domestic abuse. The real leader in the effort to combat this in Tucson is **Emerge! Center for Domestic Abuse**. If you have need of any services or counseling related to this issue, call their 24 hour crisis line at 1.888.428.0101.

What do we need to watch out for? Most abusive relationships, as you would imagine, don't start out that way. People generally don't get attached to somebody who is abusive. What Emerge! shares is that people who are prone to being abusers often attract their partners in the dating period by displays of extreme kindness and over-the-top gestures of affection. When things go south, the person being taken advantage of remembers how things used to be and often stays in the relationship trying to regain that which was lost. This diagram shows the cycle that often occurs:

Temporary calm and remorseful periods occur between the abusive displays of behavior. The cycle is fluid, and it's constantly reoccurring in the relationship. What we learn from Emerge! is that over time, the abusive behaviors become increasingly severe and more frequent.

Please don't hesitate to call for some assistance if you believe that you or someone you know might be suffering in such a relationship. There's help available and ignoring it may end with tragic results.



More on Public Health and Safety

We're getting closer to the November 14th Safe Seniors event that will be held over at the La Quinta Inn on Alvernon, just north of Broadway. Beginning at 10am and lasting until 2pm, you'll be able to visit with representatives from TPD's midtown division, the Arizona Attorney General's Office, the Association for Resources and Choices "Elder Shelter," the U.S. Postal Inspector, Pima Council on Aging, Southern Arizona Legal Aid, Community Food Bank, and more. I've shared details about this event in prior newsletters.

This week, I'm happy to add that there will also be a prescription drug drop-off station at the Safe Seniors event. This is for you to dispose of any unneeded prescription drugs. Currently, we don't have a regular, DEA approved drop-off station in Tucson, so taking advantage of these sorts of periodic opportunities is important. Please don't bring liquids or aerosols. They'll just have to send them back home with you. But the pills – yes, bring 'em and TPD will get them out of circulation in the manner prescribed by the Feds.

Flu Shots, etc.

...and stay tuned for information in the next newsletter about an event we'll be hosting at the Ward 6 office in early November. If you and your family are under-insured, you can come for a free flu shot. (If you've got the means to cover your co-pay, please use your normal channels.)

This event will be coordinated in cooperation with the UA College of Pharmacy, Safeway, and Albertsons. We're working with St. Mark's church, Ishkashitaa, and the VISTA program that Diana is helping with to locate low-income people who need the flu shots.

We're also going to include stations where you can get other health screenings. This'll include blood pressure, an osteoporosis survey, cholesterol checks, asthma information, and diabetes checks. I'll fill in more of the blanks as we get the details worked out. Start thinking about it, though – flu shots will be available for kids over the age of 6, and if you're under 18 years of age, you'll need a guardian's signature and they will have to be present. Adults, of course, are fine.

Coffee with a Cop

Here's a final piece on relationship-building. All year, TPD has been offering opportunities to just sit and chat with officers during what they've been calling "Coffee with a Cop." The final one for this year in the midtown area will take place on Thursday, November 12th at the Starbucks at 4811 E Grant Road. They will be there from 4:30 until 6:30pm. Stop by and share your thoughts – and if you know of people who are in need of services, the officers will be happy to take down relevant information and help out in any way they can.

Streetcar Naming Rights

You'll recognize the clean look of the exterior of the streetcar cab. Last week, we were asked to consider selling naming rights for the streetcar line. The agreement would open the door for signage on the cars and around the stops. We'll begin the process, but before it's finalized, staff will return with more detail. I'll be looking hard at one element in particular.





This is a rendering of a fast-food restaurant that wants to move here from El Paso.

The owners are stuck in our permitting process because of the signs you see in the image. Our sign code says the letters on the canopy in front cannot be any larger than 18 inches if they're not

mounted against the wall. If they're touching the wall, they can be 36 inches. The code also says the top of the letters cannot protrude above the height of the parapet. The "Blake's" lettering on the side of the building pokes a little above that roof line. They're not getting a permit for those parts of the package. Furthermore, the stone structure in the middle is not in conformity unless somebody decides in a variance hearing that the stone piece is an 'architectural element' of the building, not primarily a sign. We lost a steakhouse to another city over issues like this. Determining that they couldn't adequately advertise their operation, they jumped ship. I'm working with city staff and the Lotaburger people to try to find solutions.

Here are sign categories that are addressed in our code:

Awning Sign

AS Announcement Sign (temporary freestanding on site sign "Coming Soon")

B Billboard

C Canopy Sign (only issued as a special permit through the Sign Code Advisory & Appeals Board)

CS Construction Sign (temporary freestanding sign on construction site lists contractor)

D Door Sign

DD Double Faced Traffic Directional Sign

DF Double Faced "Monument Sign"

DS Directory Sign

DP Double Faced Nonconforming Pole Sign

F Menu Board

FP Freestanding Pole Sign

FS Freeway Sign

LP Freestanding "Low Profile" Sign

MS Multi-sided Freestanding "Monument Sign" (w/three or more faces)

O Window Sign

PA AFrame (on site)

PI Real Estate Project Identity Sign

PS Parking Sign

SD Single Faced Traffic Directional Sign

SF Single Faced Monument Sign

SS Real Estate On Site Subdivision Sign

TA AFrame (in city right of way with Temporary Revocable Easement)

TD Tenant Directory

TT Time & Temperature Sign

UC Under Canopy Sign

**W Wall sign
XW Projecting Wall Sign**

I'm not at all suggesting we abandon our sign code and let signage become a free-for-all around the city. We don't want to rewind the tape and end up on the front of Life Magazine again as having the 'Ugliest Street in America,' as happened several decades ago.

And yet, there's a middle ground we need to find.

If we're moving ahead with a naming rights agreement, it will need to provide for a level playing field between the images allowed on the streetcars as compared to those we allow in front of businesses. I won't support giving rights that the business community doesn't enjoy.



Small businesses around town have to work within our code to even get a sign like this to place in front of their business.

I hope for three things: First, that we make a ton of cash from the streetcar signage; second, that we don't trash out the appearance of the cars or of the stops; and third, that this serves as the catalyst for starting to work some flexibility into our existing sign code. We can do it without tossing the baby out with the bathwater. Our sign code has value – but it shouldn't remain untouchable in the present business climate.



Transit and Budget

Each of us on the M&C wants to see changes implemented that will prevent another work stoppage in our bus system. The recent strike has had what we hope is a temporary impact on ridership – to the downside. That affects our budget.

In the FY 2016 budget, we voted to implement a portion of the service changes proposed by staff, but not roll them out until February of next year. That delay was because we'd have to do what's called a Title VI analysis to make sure the changes were not disparately impacting minority riders. If we made the route changes as scheduled, they'd have saved us \$700K this fiscal year and about \$2.3M annually thereafter. Because of the way that ridership has already been affected by the recent strike, staff has recommended that we not implement these route changes at all at this time.

In the context of some employee incentive plans the City Manager was proposing, I asked staff for a rough order-of-magnitude estimate on our FY 2017 budget outlook. We will be starting out with an approximate \$40M deficit. Given that, the loss of these revenues is especially tough. And yet, I agree with the recommendation – from the perspective of rebuilding trust in the transit system and the longer-term upside that regaining ridership holds for us.



Also related to transit, M&C moved forward on Thursday with a request that staff:

- A) conduct an audit of the transit system, and
- B) begin the conversation of alternate service delivery models.

A little bit on each part of that two-part motion.

The audits will be conducted using in-house staff. We are not paying for an outside consultant to do the work. The audits will begin with a financial assessment of the transit system, then look at operations, and finish with how well we interact with our vendor. There are concerns, not wholly unfounded, that we need to up our game when it comes to communicating with PTM/Veolia, our bus management partner. And yet, communication is a two-way street. However the audit turns out, we'll have to accept some culpability on the City side for not being as engaged as we might have been in the run-up to the strike we just experienced.

We're also going to start a dialogue about service delivery models. Right now, we simply contract out management services to PTM/Veolia. The City pays about \$30M from our General Fund for buses and another about \$16M for Sun Van and the streetcar combined. If there are ways to limit our General Fund exposure and develop a more regional management approach, we should at least explore the possibilities.

The City is responsible for well over 50% of the ridership on the Sun Tran system. We also fund the system far more than any other jurisdiction in the region. For those reasons, any change in governance will necessarily weigh Tucson's vote on things related to operations and fares in a way that reflects our financial and rider inputs into the system. A few years ago, there were some in the RTA for whom that was a non-starter. For all of us on the M&C, failing to include a portion like that was a non-starter. I'm hopeful that now we all have a better appreciation for the reality that without weighted representation, the conversation about new delivery methods will not advance.

It's tough to lose out on the route efficiency dollars – especially in light of the deficit projections – but it's good that we're taking another look at a regional delivery model. The PTM/Veolia contract ends in April of 2016. We should have more details on this around the first part of next year.

Sun Tran Safety

Last week, we also received our first update on the safety pilot program that Sun Tran is implementing. As you may recall, during the strike, drivers raised concerns about riders hassling operators and placing both them and the other riders on the coach in jeopardy.

The City is going to invest about \$20K to retrofit six buses with different types of safety panels that will separate the drivers from the passengers. We'll conduct a pilot program during which drivers will test out each of the three types of panels for a while and report their thoughts on them back to management. Passengers are invited to share their thoughts, as well. The pilot program will last for about a month. Afterward, they'll decide which model is worth investing in – and how those investments fit with our budgetary constraints. They're real, and will necessarily be a part of the decision.

Each of the units we're testing costs around \$3K. From what I've heard, there's no real need to install these on all routes, so I suspect we'll wade into this in a thoughtful manner, weighing cost and need based on route history. More on this as the program evolves.

Equal Pay

On the topic of compensation and budget, H.R. staff brought back the report on equal pay that we requested about a month ago. The brief version is that the city has a good record when it comes to pay scales between men and women.

On August 5th, we asked staff to conduct an internal review of City job classifications in order to determine our level of compliance with the Equal Pay Act. It was a valid request, and based on my knowledge of how we do business, I'm not at all surprised to learn that our track record is good.

I'll share some tables that show for a variety of job classes how men and women fare in comparison to one another.

Table 1 - Annual Salary Comparison

Category A- Officials/Administrators W/City Manager Pay		Category C- Technicians		Category F- Office/Clerical	
Male Average	\$93547.71	Male Average	\$43700.60	Male Average	\$34338.49
Female Average	\$90562.63	Female Average	\$44248.80	Female Average	\$35269.68
Female to Male %	96.80%	Female to Male %	101.25%	Female to Male %	102.71%
WO/City Manager Pay		Category D- Protective Service		Category G- Skilled Craft	
Male Average	\$91995.01	Male Average	\$63142.34	Male Average	\$42503.52
Female Average	\$90562.63	Female Average	\$64187.66	Female Average	\$42742.11
Female to Male %	98.40%	Female to Male %	101.65%	Female to Male %	100.56%
Category B- Professionals		Category E- Paraprofessionals		Category H- Service Maintenance s	
Male Average	\$65737.20	Male Average	\$41196.03	Male Average	\$35960.48
Female Average	\$61355.14	Female Average	\$43766.95	Female Average	\$32397.97
Female to Male %	93.30%	Female to Male %	106.24%	Female to Male %	90.09%

Table 4 - Percentage Female vs. Male

Category A- Officials/Administrators		Category D- Protective Service		Category G- Skilled Craft	
Males(N=76)	62.8%	Males(N=1362)	89.43%	Males(N=440)	97.56%
Females (N=45)	37.2%	Females(N=161)	10.57%	Females(N=11)	2.44%
Category B- Professionals		Category E- Paraprofessionals		Category H- Service Maintenance s	
Males(N=303)	51%	Males(N=150)	74.41%	Males(N=352)	82.63%
Females(N=291)	49%	Females(N=22)	25.59%	Females(N=74)	17.37%
Category C- Technicians		Category F- Office/Clerical			
Males(N=210)	80.15%	Males(N=153)	19.82%		
Females(N=52)	19.85%	Females(N=619)	80.18%		

As you can see, in some jobs women out-earn men, and in others the reverse is true. With the controls we have built into our hiring and compensation program, the City is well within compliance with the standards called out in the Equal Pay Act.

During that same meeting, we requested staff to verify that we require our contractors to comply with fair pay policies, too. The Procurement Department is working with the City Attorney to draft some standard contract provisions now. They will require anyone with whom we do business with your money to comply with our equal pay policies. I'm grateful to staff for the quick turn-around in getting us this information, which validates what many of us suspected all along.

Employee Incentive Plans

We were also asked to adopt two separate employee incentive plans last week. I supported one and voted against the other.

The plan I supported reflects the reality that our front line workers are often in the best position to make process recommendations that will make the way we do business more efficient. The plan is to share any monetary savings we realize from adopting such suggestions with the workers who offered them.

It's being called our Employee Savings Suggestion and Process Improvement Plan. The idea is to encourage workers to identify opportunities to save money in how we operate or bring in revenue. Each worker whose ideas are implemented will receive 1% of the money saved, with a cap of \$2,500 per idea. The money will be given as a lump sum, not added to base pay. That will avoid exacerbating our already troublesome pension problem. Since we began our recession-related reductions a few years ago, we've really become a very lean organization. While I hope we get more good ideas that'll make us even more efficient, I'm not expecting this program will be a budget balancer.

And speaking of balanced budgets – I asked staff what they anticipate our FY 17 deficit will be as we enter into next year's budget talks. As I mentioned above, they're looking at something around \$40M. That's a big number, and it's the reason I did not support the second incentive plan that was proposed.

Called the 1 City/1 Team plan, the gist is that we set performance goals at the start of the fiscal year and, if we surpass the goal at the end of that fiscal year, we'd split the difference between the goal and the actual savings 50/50 with the entire workforce. Let's say, for example, we set a goal of saving money in operations to increase our Rainy Day fund by \$2M. If we were able to surpass that and ended the fiscal year with \$4M left over, we'd split the extra, sending one million to the fund and the other million to the workforce. That'd equate to about \$230 per worker.

Until we get ourselves to a structurally balanced budget, we don't have room to be giving away the steps forward we're able to make. Looking down the gun barrel of a \$40M deficit next year, I couldn't agree to give away half of any extra progress we make toward digging out of the problem.

I applaud the City Manager for considering ways to engage our workforce in offering pro-

cess ideas that'll benefit the budget. I'll support the 1 City/1 Team plan when we get our house in order, but not until then.

Mural Art Program

Another City program we're starting is one I've shared with you in the past. That's the mural art program aimed at reducing the amount of graffiti we see on utility boxes. In this case, our Environmental Services Department is investing money to paint garbage dumpsters in hopes of cutting back on how often we have to call on Graffiti Protective Coatings to abate messes.



The Tucson Arts Brigade (TAB) is working with E.S. on this pilot project. It'll cost E.S. about \$5K up front, and will be supplemented with a \$5K grant to TAB from the Graffiti Resource Council. They've selected five dumpsters to receive the murals. Each artist will be paid \$850 and all of the painting materials are supplied in addition to that.

TAB is conducting a call to artists. The deadline to submit is October 23rd. While this program is kicking off, we're also working with TPAC to come up with some ground rules for expanding a broader, City-wide pilot program that'll rely more on corporate donations to make it go. Baby steps.

If you'd like to get involved with the E.S. pilot, check this link to submit your proposal: <http://bit.ly/1Oo0Ly1>.

Graffiti Protective Coatings and TEP

Also, this related piece of very good news. Our graffiti abatement contractor is one of the jewels in the community. Lupe Mercado and his staff at GPC do a wonderful job of taking care of the city's graffiti problems. We truly appreciate their work.

A few months ago, frustrated with what has been a tardy response to abatement of some utility boxes, I reached out to some of the utilities to see if they'd sign on with GPC so we can get a quicker response to abating tags. To their credit, TEP has just signed onto a six month pilot project with GPC to give the relationship a test run.

GPC has crews available 24/7. The utilities are significantly understaffed in comparison. GPC does abatement as a business. The utilities are in business to provide power, gas, communications modalities, and whatever else is on their shingles. It makes sense to contract with the people who know the business and who are staffed and equipped to do the work.

Many thanks to Steven Eddy and the TEP folks for giving this a whirl. I'd still like to see a similar response from the other utilities – maybe this'll be the nudge they need to also try out the relationship.

Miramonte Development

A quick note to the residents who live in Miramonte neighborhood. On Wednesday, Octo-

ber 14th at 7pm here at the Ward 6 office, there's going to be a meeting for Miramonte residents to kick around ideas related to traffic calming options for the 3rd Street bike boulevard that cuts through the neighborhood. Miramonte Neighborhood Association is forming a committee that will continue this discussion with City staff, primarily from TDOT.

Some of the options include traffic circles, speed humps, crosswalks, and signage. TDOT has to abide by traffic standards, but we've successfully implemented many of these sorts of things in other midtown neighborhoods, so those standards can result in good projects.

As noted above with reference to the budget, funds are not unlimited. But within the constraints in which TDOT operates, this meeting and formation of the committee should end up with some good and long-awaited changes to the bike route.

County Bond Projects

Impact on taxes

Each of the bond propositions would require an increase to the secondary property tax.

Prop. 425: Road and Highway Improvements

\$200,000,000

Associated Secondary Tax: \$0.0955

Prop. 426: Economic Development, Libraries and Workforce Training

\$91,375,000

Associated Secondary Tax: \$0.0443

Prop. 427: Tourism Promotion

\$98,600,000

Associated Secondary Tax: \$0.0478

Prop. 428: Parks and Recreation Facilities

\$191,500,000

Associated Secondary Tax: \$0.0927

Prop. 429: Public Health, Welfare, Safety, Neighborhoods and Housing

\$105,300,000

Associated Secondary Tax: \$0.0510

Prop. 430: Natural Area Conservation and Historic Preservation

\$112,050,000

Associated Secondary Tax: \$0.0543

Prop. 431: Flood Control and Drainage

\$16,935,000

Associated Secondary Tax: \$0.0082

Total

\$815,760,000

Associated Secondary Tax: \$0.3938

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9/27/15 SOURCE: Pima County

ARIZONA DAILY STAR

There's also neighborhood reinvestment money and road repair built into some of the County Bond questions on which you'll be voting in November (sooner if you're on the early voting list). I've previously shared the full list of the projects and have also shared how the Bond Ordinance language related to maintenance obligations has evolved to a good result. What I'm sharing this week is the way each of the seven questions will impact your property taxes.

There are seven individual questions. Combined, they include 99 different specific projects. The table shown below has the general description of each question, the amount of debt included in each, and the impact each individual question will have on your property taxes.

Remember, this is a menu. You can check the box for any of the seven, all of the seven, or none of the seven – and with this chart you can see what each of those options will mean in terms of tax increases you'll face. As I've shared before, the annual increase above what you're currently paying for a \$150K house will be in the \$18 per year range. The total investment for the entire package is about \$815M in the region.

Please do your homework on the Bond questions, the City Charter questions, our pay increase, and of course the City Council races. Unfortunately, because of some outside money that's flowing into our elections, you'll need to filter fact from fiction. These are

each important issues, so each deserves your attention and thoughtful consideration.

Greyhounds

One of the kennels out at Tucson Greyhound Park is closing down this week. It has about 30 to 35 dogs that are actively racing, and between 20 and 25 that are not. If things go as they normally do, the active animals will be transferred to another kennel. And if things go as they normally do, the inactive dogs will be placed with adoption groups so they can end up in safe and loving homes. I am not at all confident as I write this that things will go “as they normally do.” Track management has a chance to demonstrate their good faith by publicly announcing how the inactive dogs will be placed for adoption. Failing that, we’ll simply conclude it’s more of the same closed door, questionable-at-best operations as usual out at the track.

I’ve got some feelers out to see what their plans are. More coming.



...but on the adoption front, we have two events coming during which advocates of safe and loving homes will ask for your support.

Coming on Saturday, October 24th at the Reid Park amphitheater, Leaps for Lives Dance Show-

case will share their talents in support of Greys. Local dance companies from around the region will perform and the donations received are going to Southern Arizona Greyhound Adoption (SAGA). That group has sheltered and cared for retired greyhounds for the past four years. As kennels close down, their work becomes more and more valuable. The show begins at 6pm – seating will be picnic style on the lawn. If you’re bringing your pet, please make sure it’s leashed.

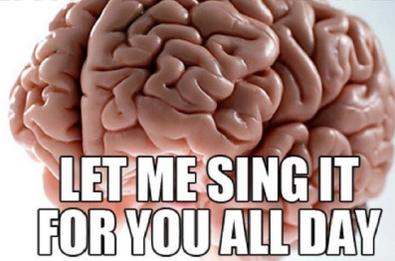
Also circle November 7th for another chance to support SAGA’s work. This is its annual visit to Café a la Cart over at the Tucson Museum of Art. At this event, SAGA will have wine sampling, hors d-oeuvres, and live music. Check out the specifics at this link:

<http://sagreyhoundadoption.org/event/greyt-party-fund-raiser/>

The Museum of Art is at 150 N Main. You can’t bring your pets to this one, though.

Ear Worms

HEY YOU KNOW THAT SONG YOU HATE



I’ll close with this. We’ve all had to put up with a song or jingle that just sticks in our head. UA researchers are looking into the phenomenon – it’s called the Arizona Ear Worm Project. They presented their preliminary results last week at The Playground – another of our east end downtown success stories. The work continues, though.

The research shows that ear worms occur at least once per week in over 90% of us. For about a third of us, it happens multiple times each week, and for the unlucky 23%, it’s a daily thing. They generally last for a couple of minutes, but some of the research subjects reported they last up to half an hour. The longest one reported was the lady who had an Eagles song in her head continuously for nearly

two years.

What causes ear worms? Well, one of the obvious causes is simply hearing a song. But visiting a place where you've previously heard the song can get it started. They said that hearing just a word from familiar lyrics can also get a worm going in your head. The "hook" is generally that short, memorable phrase that's often repeated in a song. I don't want to plant one in you, but advertising jingles often have those sorts of annoying, but effective hooks. Think of Oscar Mayer wieners...sorry. Ok, think of a song you really like if that got the ad going in your head.

I often share some of the highly important research that's going on at the UA. Optics, space science, our mirror lab, astronomy, Sarver Heart Center...ear worms may not quite fit in with that list of accomplishments, but it's certainly a subject we can all relate to. Thought it'd be of interest. If you're interested in more of their findings, go to www.azearworm.org

Sincerely,



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

Events and Entertainment

LWV Candidate Forum

Tuesday, October 13, 2015, 6:30 pm

Temple Emanu-El, 225 N Country Club Rd

The League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson will present a forum for candidates for Tucson's City Council. Wards 1, 2, and 4 are up for election and all the seats are contested. All candidates have agreed to appear. The event is free, and the candidates will be able to answer audience questions. All are welcome. www.lwvgt.org/calendar.html

LSA Walk & Talk Series Presents: Evolving Historic Districts of Downtown

Saturday, October 17, 2015, 10 am – 12 pm

Meet above the Depot Plaza Garage, 45 N 5th Avenue

Living Streets Alliance invites you to a walking conversation that will highlight the connections between fine-grained urban infill development, historic preservation, walkable neighborhoods, and economic vitality. This event is FREE for LSA members (registration required) and \$10 for the general public. Space is limited, so please register/pay at: www.livingstreetsalliance.org/event/lsa-walk-talk-series-presents-evolving-historic-districts-of-downtown/.

Homescape Harvest Tour

Saturday, October 17, 2015 10 am – 3 pm

Explore amazing home landscapes throughout Tucson at your own pace. Learn firsthand from homeowners how to create well-designed, beautiful, and affordable features to harvest water, energy, food, and much more to inspire ideas for your dream yard! Register online at: watershedmg.org/hht2015.

Envision Tucson Sustainable Festival

Sunday, October 18, 2015, 11 am – 4 pm

YWCA, 525 Bonita Ave

This year's 5th annual Envision Tucson Sustainable Festival will showcase the many features of sustainable living in Tucson and our desert Southwest. Check out close to 40 exhibits on key sustainability issues like solar for the home, green homes, water efficiency, recycling, school gardens, co-op businesses, clean modes of transportation, and much more. Admission and parking are free. More information at:

www.envisiontucson sustainable.org.

The Art of Planetary Science

Friday, October 16, 5-9pm; Saturday & Sunday October 17-18, 2015, 1-5pm

University of Arizona, Kuiper Space Sciences Bldg., 1629 E. University Blvd

The Art of Planetary Science is an annual art exhibition run by UA's Lunar and Planetary Laboratory that celebrates the beauty and elegance of science. www.lpl.arizona.edu/art

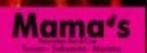


20TH ANNUAL CHILI COOK OFF

Saturday October 17, 2015
Reid Park Band Shell
10am to 10pm

Chili Competition, Food Booths, Kettle Corn, Quesadillas, Eegee's Drinks, plus much more & BEER!

Some of our SPONSORS:

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Benefits TFFA "Adopt-A-Family"

Fun and Games for the Kids!!
Live Music Plus many more

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<http://www.iafflocal479.org/>



STONE AVENUE BLOCK PARTY

LIVE MUSIC BY MEXICO CITY'S
KLEZMERSON



KlezmerSON combines melodies and rhythms from Europe's Jewish tradition with Mexican and gypsy influences

**THURSDAY
OCTOBER 22
7PM *FREE**

On Stone Ave. between
16th & 17th Streets

FOOD TRUCKS

LOCAL ARTISTS

BEER GARDEN



With the collaboration of

