

## Ward 6 Staff



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# Ward 6 Newsletter

Tucson First

November 23, 2015

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### Paris and the NRA

This is a table produced last week by the NY Daily News that shows a year by year breakdown of gun buyers who are on the FBI’s terrorist watch list.

YEAR	NUMBER OF BUYERS	ALLOWED TO BUY	DENIED
2004*	48	43	5
2005	149	141	8
2006	179	153	26
2007	287	259	28
2008	246	228	18
2009	272	250	22
2010	272	247	25
2011	142	130	12
2012	153	137	16
2013	256	240	16
2014	229	215	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,233</b>	<b>2,043</b>	<b>190</b>

\*beginning in February



### 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

Because of a legal loophole, suspected terrorists whose names appear on the government's 'no-fly list' may legally buy assault weapons in the United States. The NRA opposes a bill that is being proposed to change that. The group has also opposed it at least three times in the past, including in 2007 when it was first suggested by the Bush administration. Why? Because it would infringe on the rights of law-abiding citizens whose names may be inappropriately on that no-fly list.

We can't impose the hardship of that person clearing his/her name from the list, even if it means selling weapons to terrorists. The image below is from Paris.

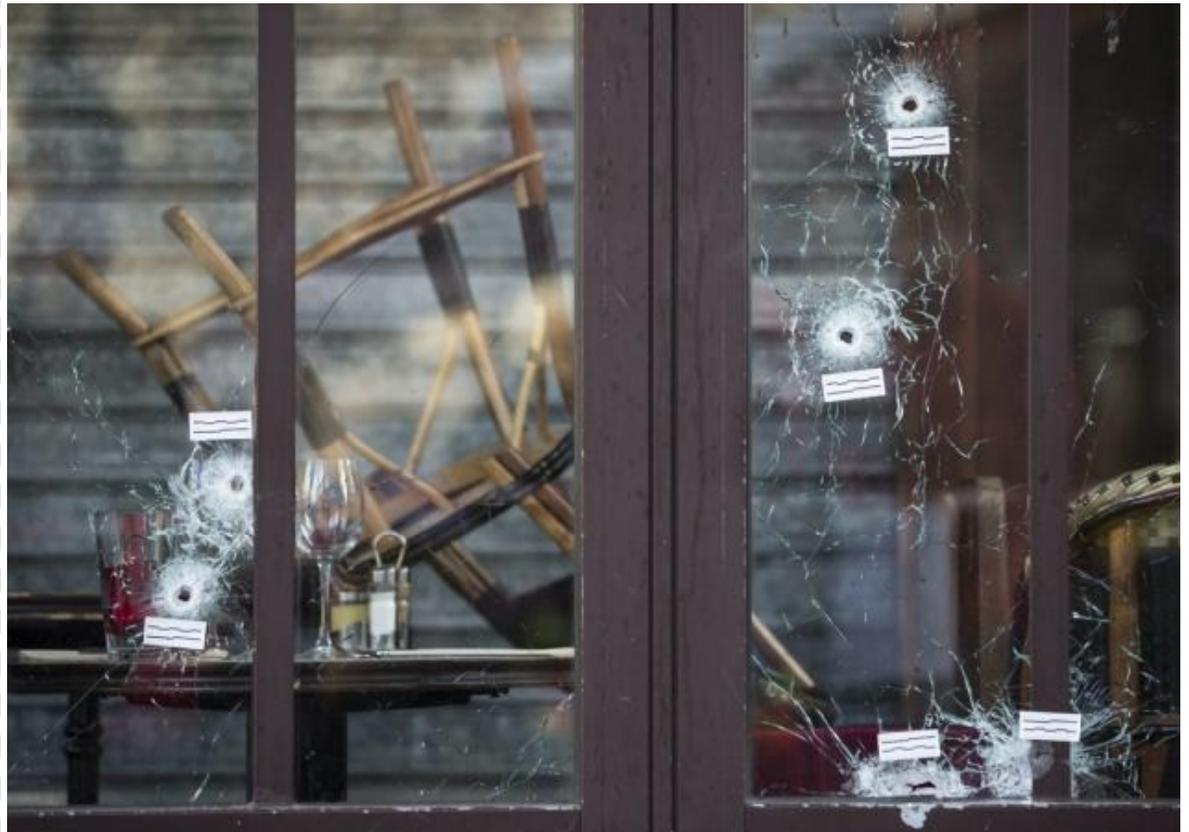


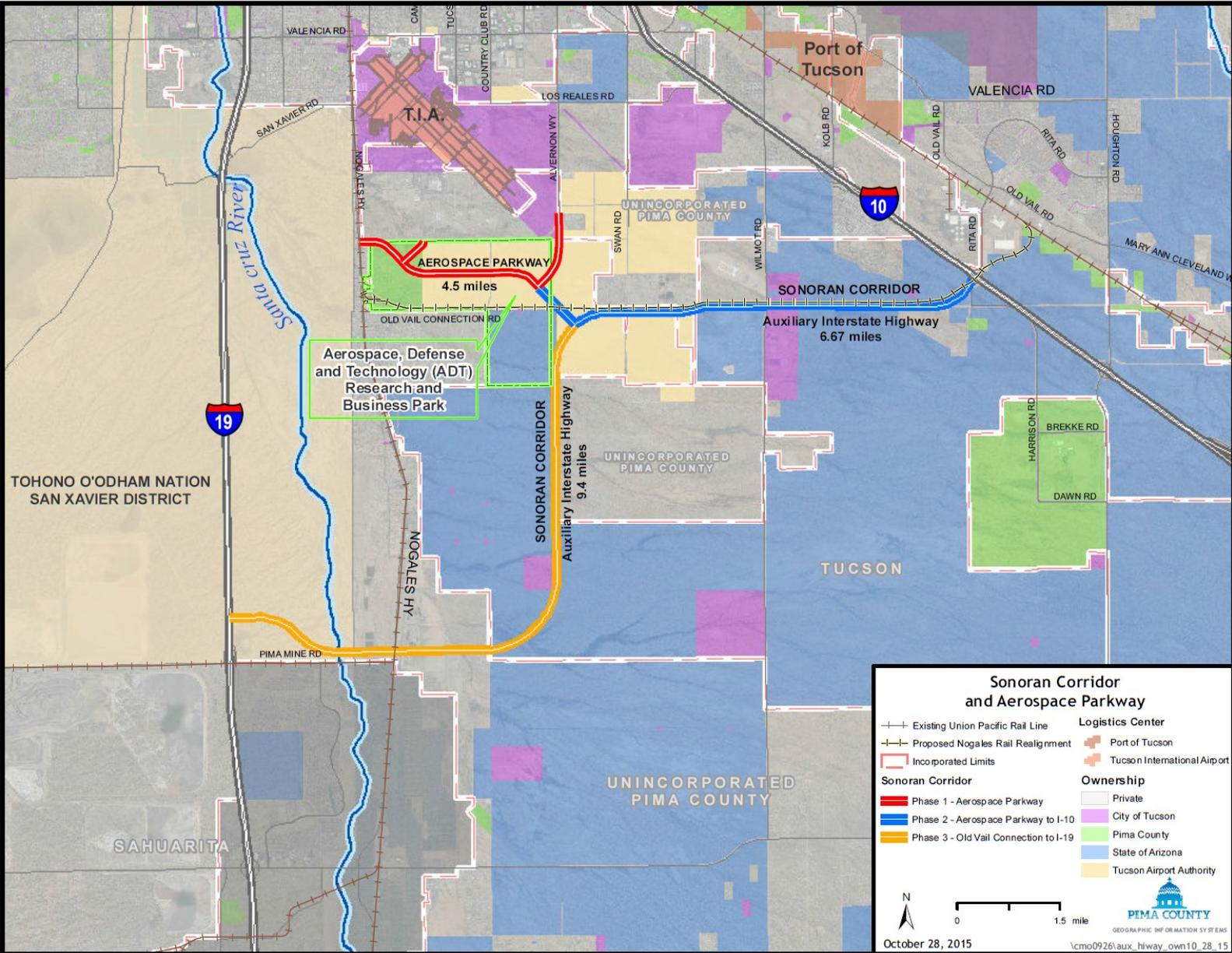
Photo credit to tmonas/Getty Images

According to the Government Accountability Office (GAO), between 2004 and 2014, 91% of all suspected terrorists who tried to buy a gun in this country did so without trouble. The summary went on to say that not a single gun buyer on the list was turned away because they posed a threat to the American public as a potential terrorist. Reasons for rejection, in those few cases that were, included 'felony conviction, under indictment, adjudicated mentally ill, misdemeanor crime of domestic violence conviction, fugitive from justice and controlled substance abuse.'

We've got Governors, Senators and other politicians who want to shut down the borders. None of them are stepping up to support a bill that prevents people on the terrorist watch

list from buying a gun.  
So goes the impact of the NRA on our political process. I'll return to the migrant issue below, but felt it would be good to open with this and let it percolate for a few minutes before hitting it again.

### Sonoran Corridor and Surrounding Partners



Sonoran Corridor map: click [here](#) for a larger version.

On Tuesday of last week, we reviewed the final FY'15 budget numbers and saw a first quarter projection for this year's budget. The connection with the Sonoran Corridor is simply that we have got to develop this area with the high paying jobs it promises, or I'll be able to cut and paste bad budget newsletter information going forward year after year.

The map above is important because it identifies the Tucson Airport Authority and Port of Tucson right out in the Corridor region. The double **red** lines represent the first phase of the project. Those 4.5 miles will be adjacent to the extremely important aerospace, defense, and manufacturing area we need to develop. The double **blue** lines would be phase two – the six mile stretch that runs past the Port of Tucson. There's where the rail hub and logistics work will expand. And the double **yellow** lines are phase three, the final nine miles that will finish the connection between I-19 and I-10. There's the city bypass that will attract more over-the-road commerce, largely from Mexico. Embedded in that commerce is manufacturing. The idea is not to buy and sell finished products from one another, although that's a good thing. The idea is to build things together, products that travel across the border throughout the manufacturing process. That's long term.

Raytheon has over 13,000 employees, nearly 10,000 of whom are at work in Pima County. They're our largest private employer. We need them to expand. In 2011, they did expand, but they did it by moving jobs to a new facility located in Huntsville, Alabama. In that same year, a Bloomberg Government Study noted that Tucson was the seventh highest city nationwide in Federal defense dollars at nearly \$5B annually. As the Feds are talking about further reductions in defense spending, it must serve as a motivator to the region to up our efforts to protect and preserve Raytheon.

On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, a tiny minority of the residents of Pima County said 'no' to our funding less than 5% of the total cost for the Sonoran Corridor. I heard some luminary on the fringe radio last week calling that a victory.

I open again this week with this topic because until I'm convinced the November 3<sup>rd</sup> vote is the last word on this, I'll be pushing for a region-wide effort to revisit the item. We have to secure buffer land so Raytheon can expand. Urban encroachment will prevent that. There's private property available that can serve as a good first step. The Sonoran Corridor is key in that it adds the surface transportation component that will facilitate the development. That's rail, air, and over-the-road transport. Our Federal delegation has guaranteed full funding for the corridor will appear in future Federal transportation legislation. But if we don't do our part, I'm not sure I'd bank on their being able to make a compelling case to east coast legislators.

Speaking of buffers, there are nearly 100 acres of private property inside the boundaries of Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. The U.S. Air Force leases that land for just under \$400,000 annually. While we're about the task of ensuring a buffer for Raytheon expansion, we might also want to toss into the mix buying up that private land and leasing it back to the Feds for a buck per year. Why? Because that will reduce the cost of operating the Base by nearly half a million dollars per year – and that could be important when they get to talking about closing bases.

We have a budget problem. We won't solve it on the basis of downtown revitalization (more on that below, though). Stay tuned for more as this Sonoran Corridor discussion continues. We don't have a more vital economic prospect in this region than this.

### **Downtown Development**

As I've noted previously, the development we're achieving in the downtown core is large-

ly related to service sector jobs. The construction sales tax is great, and the amenities that are attracting people to visit, live in, and work in downtown are helpful. But they're not going to be the game-changers we need for the region. Having said that, though, last week we approved moving ahead with a development agreement related to the Ronstadt Transit Center.



Here's the proposed site plan. It includes a hotel, two other residential components, commercial to support the residential, some open space, and, of course, the transit function retained on the site. I know I join others on the M&C in suggesting that we're going to insist this development agreement bears little to no resemblance to some we've seen in the past.

When this project was first presented publicly, I wrote that it had some serious financial holes. As currently presented, some of that has changed, but I'm still not convinced they've filled them all. We're told the full project will cost about \$150M, and that two-thirds of that is privately funded. That's good, but the key question is where they're going to get the financing.

One example of a hill they've got to climb is securing the New Market Tax Credits on which they're evidently relying. (We haven't seen the actual financial pro forma yet, so I'm basing this on some early discussions.) The way those work is the credits amount to 39% of their value in cash. If, for example, they need \$30M in cash (that's the number being tossed around – not verified by any formal financial proposal), that's \$76M in credits. That's more than some of the major banks have available. Whether those are the numbers that finally appear in their financials or not, the point is still that I'll be watching closely to make sure they have the means to deliver what they've got in the eye candy shown above.

We've had other developments where the people who were awarded the bid ended up flipping the parcel and walking away with profits while a new builder performed on the site. Those are taxpayer dollars. I'm going to insure that ability is not included in this development agreement. If a flip occurs, the taxpayers get the profits. We're not awarding this to set up a series of land swaps by developers, to their gain.

There will also be specific performance dates with reversion clauses. All performance will

be bonded in a way that prevents the City Council from slowing down the process of cashing in on the bonds once they're callable. We need to learn from the recent past.

I'm hopeful that this project will work out. The process getting to this point has been very public, and the design speaks to that public input. But it must be financially viable, or we don't sign the deal. We have bonds worth over \$1M we could call right now associated with another project. I didn't support the terms of that agreement, and I'm not going to support putting the City in that position again.

...but, on a more positive note, we can learn from past mistakes, and this project has the potential to be a great addition to downtown. It's got some hoops to jump through, though.

### **City Budget**

The importance of those last two items is captured in the report we received last week on the first quarter fiscal year budget. The good news is that we didn't have to dip into our reserves as heavily as we had projected last fiscal year. This was largely because we did not fill vacancies. In the year-end material we were provided, these comments were included:

*"The Fiscal Year 2015 adopted budget was balanced by using fund balance and land proceeds to fund ongoing operations."*

*"Vacancy savings lessened the planned use of fund balance."*

*"The condition of the General Fund is very fragile. Cash balances are low and reserve levels are not meeting targets."*

In this fiscal year, our General Fund obligation for funding the public safety pension system will be \$57M. Next fiscal year that figure will jump to over \$80M. That does not include any added costs we'll face when we see the results of on-going litigation that's taking place in Phoenix. *To be clear, the City has no ability to reduce those obligations. The public safety pension system is run by the State. We cannot change the terms of the Plans. Only the voters can do that..*

I'm not going to inundate you with a bunch of figures at this point. We're only one quarter into the fiscal year, and whatever we're shown now will change. But there's no disputing the fact that we are going to be facing some very difficult financial decisions again this year. The FY'17 budget presentations will begin soon, and the magnitude of the challenges will be made more clear. Everything has to be on the table for consideration.

Last week, I opened by commenting on some factors that are out of our control but are causing the local recovery to languish. Those include Federal cuts to the military, state-level reductions to public education, and the strength of the dollar relative to foreign currencies. While we can't control for those, we can focus on making good economic decisions locally. Pursuing the Sonoran Corridor and putting a viable development plan for Ronstadt into place are two such examples.

## Tucson City Golf



For the record, I could drop a tee shot in that lake with no problem. The problem is that the goal is to get the ball *over* the lake, which is why I'm not out there playing golf on a regular basis. Another problem is that evidently, I'm not alone.

Tucson City Golf is an enterprise department. Some years ago, a prior M&C decided that it could and/or should carry its own financial weight in the City budget. My opinion is that it was an unrealistic expectation, and that's being proven true. At present, the Golf enterprise 'owes' the General Fund over \$8M from not being able to stand on its own year after year. On December 15<sup>th</sup>, we'll get a thorough presentation on the golf program. We'll have to make some decisions about whether to continue it as an enterprise department and about the status of each of the five courses we own.

The operating loss for Tucson Golf last fiscal year was just under a half million dollars. When you add in the cost for recapitalization (staff calls it depreciation, but that's a misnomer), the deficit for golf exceeded \$1.1M.

Not all of our golf courses are losing money. We have five, and individually it's fair to say that the Randolph courses are doing okay, but the other three aren't holding their own. There are differences in how much they pay for water (a significant cost issue), and of course location is a key factor in their popularity. Also, each one has encumbrances on the land that will affect what we can do if we chose to dispose of it. For example, we can't sell any of them and turn the land into commercial development. They each have to preserve some component of public open space. That also costs money to maintain and generally doesn't have a revenue stream associated with it. There will be no easy answers.

The golf program doesn't exist in a vacuum. We have a strong and growing relationship with the Tucson Conquistadors to run the First Tee program. That's expanding, and it's a benefit to underprivileged kids throughout the region. Also, in their most recent report, our Visit Tucson partners had this to say about golf in general:

*OB Sports' National Team Championship in Tucson, Dec. 4-6*

- *Angel Natal, director of Visit Tucson Sports, worked with national golf management company OB Sports to bring the OB Sports National Team Championship to Tucson, Dec. 4-6.*
- *More than 200 golfers from throughout the nation have qualified and are expected to take part in this event.*
- *Tournament rounds will take place Dec. 5 and 6 at Tucson's Randolph Golf Complex, which OB Sports manages on behalf of the City of Tucson.*
- *This event represents several hundred local room nights, plus food and beverages for three days and nights.*

Golf is an economic driver in ways that exist beyond the green fees people pay – that's room nights in hotels and the rest that comes with tourism dollars. However, there's no way of accurately capturing just how much that means to the local economy and whether or not it balances the operating losses. I suspect that it does not, but how much money ends up in the tax coffers due to our golf program cannot be known.

For our December 15<sup>th</sup> study session, I've asked staff to include in their presentation the encumbrances that exist on each course, differences in water rates they're paying, projections for capital investment we should expect to face, and any other pertinent data that will help us to make an informed decision. Our individual emotions related to the item have to take a back seat to the financial realities and the legitimate options we'll have to work with. We also have to consider that our management partner, OB Sports, has only had one full year to manage the facilities. Their perspective has to be a factor we consider on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### **More Budget – Bus System**

Last week, we received this memo from staff related to our Sun Van system. Sun Van services the disabled community. We invest about \$12M annually from the General Fund into the Sun Van system. The same management group that oversees Sun Van manages Sun Tran. We just ended a 42-day strike on Sun Tran.

## MEMORANDUM



**To:** Jeremy Papuga  
**CC:** Sabrina Herrera, Jared Forte, Jeff Rock, Kandi Young  
**From:** Kate Riley  
**Date:** 11/13/15  
**Re:** Sun Van Labor Negotiation Update

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide you with an update on the status of Sun Van negotiations. Sun Van and Teamsters Local 104 representatives completed a second meeting today and have scheduled additional meetings for next week on Wednesday, November 18, Thursday, November 19, and Friday, November 20. In addition, tentative meeting dates have been scheduled for Monday, November 23 and Tuesday, November 24 as well.

The meetings thus far have been amenable. The articles that we have been discussing are non-economic in nature and focused primarily on language clarification.

Setting aside the grammatical quirk (meetings are not “amenable”), they’d better get to the economic issues or we’ll be faced with another 11<sup>th</sup> hour situation and a possible strike.

On the immediate heels of the Sun Tran settlement, I reached out to staff and asked some questions related to the status of Sun Van negotiations. I’ll include both the questions and *the staff responses* below:

1) What are the expiration dates of the labor agreements relating to Sun Van and Sun Link?

*The Sun Van labor agreement expires December 31, 2015. Sun Link employees are currently not represented and have chosen not to organize at this time. Given this, the remaining questions and information below relates only to Sun Van.*

2) Who is the bargaining agent for Sun Van?

*Sun Van employees are represented through Teamsters Local 104 (Kevin Thomas, Business Agent; Andy Marshall, Secretary/Treasurer)*

3) What is the projected budget for each system that will form the basis for negotiations?

*The adopted budget for Sun Van for FY 2016 is approximately \$15,471,930.*

4) What is the status of labor discussions?

*Meetings will be scheduled for October, November, and December. Teamsters representatives were contacted on September 21st to set up initial meeting dates.*

5) What is the plan for getting the parties together at the bargaining table well in advance of the expiration of the current agreement?

*The purpose of initiating the meetings in October is to address potential issues and share information in advance of the expiration of the agreement.*

6) How will Mayor and Council be kept advised of the status of negotiations, and be made aware of potential stumbling blocks that may be developing that could prevent successful resolution without a strike?

*Sun Van management will provide regular updates to TDOT, and that information will be*

*shared with the City Manager for communication to the Mayor and Council.*

We cannot afford a work stoppage on Sun Van and the streetcar workers deserve to be treated fairly, regardless of union status. We'll stay alert to both of these in order to make sure we don't see a repeat of what happened last summer with the Sun Tran system.

**More Transit News**

Our locally-owned community hospital, Tucson Medical Center, is sponsoring a 'ride for free' day on the Streetcar. Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup> is Shop Local Day in Tucson. In honor of that and in support of the businesses that lay all along the four-mile streetcar corridor, TMC is partnering with Sun Link and making it possible to ride the route all day for no charge.

The route has over 150 retail opportunities, including shops and restaurants. The streetcar will run from 8am until 2am on the 28<sup>th</sup>. This is a great opportunity to buy local and get dropped off pretty much right in front of the shops you want to visit.

Many thanks to Julia Strange and the folks out at TMC for this community outreach.

**Tucson Greyhound Retirement Party**

That's a screenshot of a form related to a single dog that has now been retired from racing out at Tucson Greyhound Park (TGP). If you look at the middle part of the page where it shows "Summary of all years," you'll see that the poor thing was raced 245 times. That does not include the 25 'schooling' (training) races he ran. That makes his total 270 races.

TGP has no age limits on the dogs they race. This dog, Hazer, is being mercifully pulled from the track at just under six years of age. The Department of Gaming could set limits, but as I've noted in the past, they're not going to impose restrictions on their source for funding. Once again, the dogs are the collateral damage in this activity. You fund it with your tax money.

The kennel operator who races Hazer is also leaving TGP. I've reported to you in the past of other kennel operators leaving the track. There are now

The screenshot shows a web browser at www.greyhound-data.com. It displays three summary tables for a dog named Hazer:

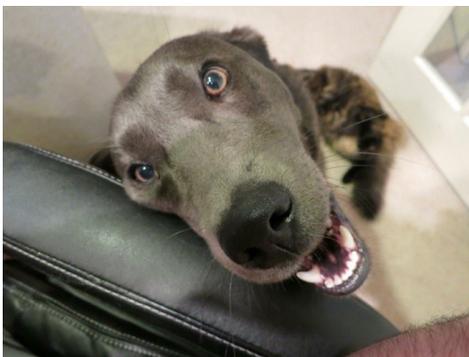
- Summary of year 2014:** Dist m/y # runs 503 / 550, 87 runs. Places: 1st (14), 2nd (6), 3rd (23), 4th (13), 5th (9), 6th (8). Avg time 31.73, fastest time 30.83, fastest race on 31 JAN 2014.
- Summary of year 2015:** Dist m/y # runs 503 / 550, 52 runs. Places: 1st (3), 2nd (7), 3rd (12), 4th (4), 5th (9), 6th (4). Avg time 32.08, fastest time 31.26, fastest race on 14 FEB 2015.
- Summary of all years:** Dist m/y # runs 503 / 550, 245 runs. Places: 1st (37), 2nd (39), 3rd (48), 4th (28), 5th (26), 6th (27). Avg time 31.68, fastest time 30.62, fastest race on 27 JUL 2012.

Below the summaries is a section titled "Comparison of the dogs times to the times of the winners and other runner." It states: "Last 8 races of the dog are taken into account." It includes a table with columns: Date, Stadium, Grade, Dist m/y, Fin, Time, dwt, dt, stime, box, posts, s. The table lists 8 individual race results for Hazer in 2015 at Tucson, showing his finishing position, time, and performance relative to the winner and runner-up.

only six kennels racing out there. That means the dogs will be raced even harder than they are now.

If you care about this, write to the South Tucson Mayor and City Council. The Mayor told me directly that they've been trying to change the use of the track. Some public prodding may be necessary to get that conversation moving. Until it does, and as long as we have a State legislature that's willing to subsidize the track, I'll keep sharing what's going on behind the scenes out there in the hopes that our local media will decide to take on the story. Recently, Patty Machelor from the Star did a nice one-off story, but the regular reporting happened a couple of years ago when I worked with KGUN9 reporter Claire Doan on a story related to the injection of anabolic steroids into the dogs and former KOLD reporter JD Wallace on track conditions. They're both gone now. We'll see if any of the current reporting crews want to step into those shoes.

### A Good News Story on Puppy Mills



This is Jeb. He's a hound/retriever mix. Last week he was adopted out through a new adoption store called PT's Puppy Love Adoption Center. The place used to be a regular pet shop that sold puppies which came from puppy mills. Unlike the owners of our local mill purveyors, Pat Youmans and Theresa Serrano – co-owners of PT's – actually engaged with protesters who were outside their store, educated themselves about puppy mills, shut down their operation, and reopened three weeks later as an adoption site.



These are the former protesters now, clearly in full support of what Pat and Theresa did.

PT's is in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. The store is now adopting out dogs that would have otherwise been euthanized in shelters all over the country. They even get dogs from Puerto Rico. Volunteers come in daily and help to care for the dogs. They've got the support of local veterinarians who will even do home checks for families who are looking to adopt. The community responded

to the ethical decision made by Pat and Theresa.

In the recent past there has been a widespread crackdown on inhumane animal breeding in New Jersey. The Camden County Board passed a ban on selling animals purchased from puppy mills. So have we, but ours is now tied up waiting for the owners of a local pet store to run their objections through the courts. They've sued the City of Phoenix over its puppy mill ordinance. Ours is similar, so we'll watch to see how that case goes before moving ahead with the implementation of our own law.

In every court case across the country on this issue, the jurisdictions have won and the anti-puppy mill ordinances have been upheld. We've got a few things percolating in the court system right now. I'm looking forward to getting the results on this one so we can do our part in addressing the unethical practices that occur in puppy mills.

### **Another Court Challenge**

Last week, I shared the background on the court challenge to our election process. By way of quick review, a three judge panel at the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit said on a 2-1 vote that we needed to change the way we elect council members. They didn't specify how, but said the way we do it now is illegal.

In response to that decision we had three options. One was to accept the opinion of the two judges who voted in the majority and send the question to the voters; that is, if not the current system, how would you like us to conduct our elections? Another option was to appeal the panel's decision straight to the U.S. Supreme Court. The likelihood of them hearing the case is slim. Our third option was to appeal to the full 11 member 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court. That's what we did.

The Arizona Daily Star ran an opinion piece in which they said we should not appeal. Here's what they wrote:

*Tucson's unusual system of electing its City Council members has been declared unconstitutional by a three-judge panel of the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, which said the ward-only primary election and at-large general election violates the principle of one person, one vote.*

*The city could appeal the decision. It shouldn't.*

*Instead, the City Council should refer three questions to the ballot, preferably in the May special election where a statewide education funding proposition will be before voters.*

*The questions:*

- 1) Should voters elect council members by ward in both the primary and general elections?*
- 2) Should voters elect council members at-large in both the primary and general elections?*
- 3) Should City Council and mayoral elections be nonpartisan?*

They're wrong for some very solid reasons.

We elect council members on a city-wide basis. We choose the candidates based on votes from their ward. That means east side residents are not involved in choosing the candidate whose name will appear on the ballot to represent a west side ward. The ward residents choose their representative, and the whole city chooses between the two candidates each ward has placed on the ballot. The voters approved that system in our Charter over 85 years ago, and the voters have reaffirmed it twice at the ballot box since then.

If we had not appealed the panel decision, we would have eliminated the current system

from voter consideration when/if this goes back to the ballot. The panel decision would have blocked our ability to include the hybrid process as a ballot choice. The voters have said three times they like it. I didn't feel we should erase that history and not at least place ourselves in a position to include it as a choice if we end up taking this governance question back to the voters next year.

We've formed a Charter Review Committee. It will look at the governance issue and return to us with some recommendations early next year. We've got a court date for November 30<sup>th</sup> to see if they'll entertain our request for the appeal to the full 11 member panel. If they do, we still have to get that scheduled, argued, and decided. It's likely that process will take longer than the Charter Review Committee will take to get us some options. It will be interesting to see how this sorts itself out.

If the panel decision stands, we will have to ask you how you want to elect us: by Ward only or city-wide, both in the primaries and the general election. If we end up winning at the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit, we can add the current hybrid system to the ballot. As the Star editorial staff suggested, we can also include non-partisan elections as a choice.

If we end up placing something on the ballot, I'd lean towards offering whatever options are legally available – ward only, at-large only, hybrid, and non-partisan. We do not have the authority to amend our Charter. That's up to you.

Last week, we also certified the November 3<sup>rd</sup> election results. Some said we shouldn't do that until the court decides on our case. What they ignore is that we're required by law to certify the results unless ballots are still being counted. Here's the City Code, and the State law that stipulate what we were responsible for doing:

**Tucson Code:**

**Sec. 12-31. Adoption of official canvass of election.**

**As provided by the City Charter, the mayor and council shall convene on the first Monday after Election Day in order to adopt the official canvass of the election. If, at the time, the returns from the election are incomplete, the official canvass shall be postponed from day to day, not to exceed twenty (20) days following the election. The results printed by the vote tabulating equipment, to which have been added write-in votes, shall, when certified by the city clerk, constitute the official canvass of each precinct.**

**State law:**

**§ 16-642. Canvass of election; postponements**

**A. The governing body holding an election shall meet and canvass the election not less than six days nor more than twenty days following the election.**

**B. The governing body of a special district as defined in title 481 shall present to the board of supervisors a certified copy of the official canvass of the election at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the board of supervisors. For purposes of contesting a special district election as described in § 16-673, the canvass is not complete until the presentation to the board of supervisors is made.**

**C. If, at the time of the meeting of the governing body, the returns from any polling place in the election district where the polls were opened and an election held are found to be missing, the canvass shall be postponed from day to day until all the returns are received or until six postponements have been had.**

It should be noted that even the people who filed the challenge against our current system understand that our approving the election canvass is required by law. They didn't ask for the results to be enjoined in their filing.

We'll know shortly after the 30<sup>th</sup> whether or not our appeal is granted. I believe that it will be, and then we're off to the full 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit court. In the meantime, the Charter Review Committee will tackle the governance question, and next spring we'll have the full range of options and decide on what you'll be seeing on the ballot next year.

One of our local history buffs, Ken Scoville, suggested that a reading of Federalist #10 suggests we should be voting at-large/at-large to avoid the impact of factions on the process. In the 1960s in the South, at-large elections were deemed to disenfranchise minorities by diluting their vote. Our current system brings a touch of each into the process. It'll be an interesting discussion as it evolves.

### Refugees



I opened with a comment on refugees, and I'll close with the same.

In the 1940s, we opened what were known as Japanese internment camps. We responded to an act of war by treating an entire group of people who were living in this country as though they were the enemy.

In the 1950s, Senator Joseph McCarthy conducted hearings

based on his accusation that over 200 communists were working undercover in the State Department. The hearings turned into a witch hunt, climaxing when McCarthy publicly slandered an associate of the Chief Counsel of the Army, Joseph Welch. Welch effectively ended the hearings with this now famous statement: "Until this moment, Senator, I think I never really gauged your cruelty or your recklessness...Have you no sense of decency, sir, at long last?"

In the week since the Paris bombings and shootings, we've heard calls to close mosques, to create databases on all Muslims, and heated rhetoric from our own Governor about closing our border to every refugee, regardless of country of origin. I believe we've seen this picture before in our history books.

I, along with my staff, have been working with Central American migrants since the in-

flux of unaccompanied minors reached a peak last year. There are hundreds of volunteers throughout Tucson who have done the same, both through Project Marioposa, and the Alitas House. The people Ducey wants to stop at the border are coming here with stories of not only abject poverty in their home countries, but chilling tales of body dismemberment, gang rapes, murders, and more. Here's the data on what the Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) is seeing:

In FY' 14, the ORR received 57,496 referrals from the Department of Homeland Security. Here's where they came from:

Country of Origin	FY2014	FY2013	FY2012
Honduras	34%	30%	27%
Guatemala	32%	37%	34%
El Salvador	29%	26%	27%
Mexico	<2%	3%	8%
All other countries	<3%	5%	4%

And here's a demographic breakdown.

	Males	Females	< 14 years
FY2014	66%	34%	27%
FY2013	73%	27%	24%
FY2012	77%	23%	17%

Last fiscal year in Arizona there were 169 unaccompanied minors who were released to sponsors. Pima County had fewer than 50 placements, while Maricopa County had 146. These are kids, not terrorists, against whom the good Governor seems to be on guard. Here's his statement:

#### Statement from Governor Doug Ducey

**PHOENIX – “Given the horrifying events in Paris last week, I am calling for an immediate halt in the placement of any new refugees in Arizona. As governor, I am invoking our state’s right under 8 USC, Section 1522 (a), to receive immediate consultation by federal authorities per the United States Refugee Act, and that the federal government take into account the concerns and recommendations of the state of Arizona as they are required to under federal law, in our efforts to keep our homeland safe. I also call on Congress and the President to immediately amend federal law to provide states greater oversight and authority in the administration of the placement of refugees. These acts serve as a reminder that the world remains at war with radical Islamic terrorists. Our national leaders must react with the urgency and leadership that every American expects to protect our citizens.”**

The Governor does not have the Constitutional authority to stop refugees from coming across the border. He can ask for consultation, but the rest is hype.

When kids ran from the local Southwest Key shelter a few weeks ago, the statement coming

from the DHS was that the community had nothing to fear. They missed the point. The concern is over the welfare of the kids. I'm in touch with HHS on the issue and will share more when I get it. We're better than the rhetoric coming out of Presidential candidates and from our own governor. It should go without saying that you do not treat an entire class or group of people in the ways that are being suggested in the aftermath of Paris.

### **Tucson Firefighters' Community Service**

In counterpoint to what's being heard with respect to refugee populations, the Tucson Firefighters are moving ahead with their Christmas gift drive. On December 21<sup>st</sup> they'll be doing this year's food boxes, but ahead of that there's Thanksgiving and the 600 needy families TFD took care of last year. They provide Thanksgiving and Christmas meals, plus presents for needy kids at Banner UMC Hospital.

If you'll recall, the weather was pretty ugly during this year's Firefighter Chili Cook-off. As a result, they did not bring in what they normally do. The needs in the community weren't washed away by the rain. If you'd like to donate, please contact Mike Wintrode at [mwintrode@hotmail.com](mailto:mwintrode@hotmail.com). He can get you all the details about how to participate. Or you can mail a donation to TFFA, Attn: Mike W. / Adopt a Family at 2264 E. Benson Hwy, 85714.

There's rhetoric, and then there are those who care enough to find the needs and meet them. We have both in this state, but only one deserves our thanks.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik  
Council Member, Ward 6

[Ward6@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:Ward6@tucsonaz.gov)

## **Events and Entertainment**

### **Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair**

**November 28 - 29, 2015 | 9 am – 4 pm**

### **Reid Park, just west of the DeMeester Outdoor Performance Center**

This free event will draw in more than 100 vendors from all over the Southwest, ranging from artists, crafters, photographers, painters, potters, jewelers, and more. Visitors are encouraged to use the Concert Place entrance from Country Club Road for ample free parking. [www.tucsonaz.gov/parks/announcement/holiday-arts-and-crafts-fair](http://www.tucsonaz.gov/parks/announcement/holiday-arts-and-crafts-fair).

### **Shop Local Saturday**

**Saturday, November 28, 2015**

Tucson Medical Center is once again sponsoring a day of free streetcar rides on Shop Local Saturday. Save your cash and ride the Sun Link Tucson Streetcar for free. Sun Link connects riders to five unique districts along its 3.9-mile route: the University of Arizona, Main Gate Square, 4th Avenue, Downtown and Mercado San Agustin.

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

### **ACA and Your Healthcare Options**

**Sunday, December 5, 2015 | 10 am & Tuesday, January 12, 2015 | 5:30 pm**

**Donna Liggins Recreation Center, 2160 N 6th Ave**

The Black Women's Task Force of Tucson and United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona want you to have the answers you need to understand the Affordable Care Act and what your healthcare insurance options are. Presentations will be given by experienced Navigator Debra Johnson from United Way. Debra will be available to schedule free, unbiased one-on-one appointments after the sessions. For more information, contact Debra Johnson at (520) 903-3950.

### **Ongoing**

**Tucson Museum of Art**, 140 N Main Ave | [www.TucsonMusuemofArt.org](http://www.TucsonMusuemofArt.org)

July 17, 2015 – January 3, 2016: *"Museum as Sanctuary: Perspectives of Resilience"*

**Tucson Convention Center**, 260 S Church St | [tucsonconventioncenter.com](http://tucsonconventioncenter.com)

**Meet Me at Maynards**, 311 E Congress St | [www.MeetMeatMaynards.com](http://www.MeetMeatMaynards.com)

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

**Mission Garden**, 929 W Mission Ln | [www.tucsonsbirthplace.org](http://www.tucsonsbirthplace.org)

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

**Children's Museum Tucson**, 200 S 6<sup>th</sup> Ave | [www.childrensmuseumtucson.org](http://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](http://www.tucsonbotanical.org)

September 11, 2015 – January 3, 2016: *"Nature Connects, Art with LEGO Bricks"*

**Southern Arizona Transportation Museum**, 414 N Toole Ave |

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

**UA Mineral Museum**, 1601 E University Blvd | [www.uamineralmuseum.org](http://www.uamineralmuseum.org)

**Jewish History Museum**, 564 S Stone Ave | [www.jewishhistorymuseum.org](http://www.jewishhistorymuseum.org)

**Fox Theatre**, 17 W Congress St | [www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org](http://www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org)

**Hotel Congress**, 311 E Congress St | [hotelcongress.com](http://hotelcongress.com)

**Loft Cinema**, 3233 E Speedway Blvd | [www.loftcinema.com](http://www.loftcinema.com)

**Rialto Theatre**, 318 E Congress St | [www.rialtotheatre.com](http://www.rialtotheatre.com)

**Arizona State Museum**, 1013 E University Blvd | [www.statemuseum.arizona.edu](http://www.statemuseum.arizona.edu)

**Arizona Theater Company**, 330 S Scott Ave | [www.arizonatheatre.org](http://www.arizonatheatre.org)

**The Rogue Theatre** at The Historic Y, 300 E University Blvd | [www.theroguetheatre.org](http://www.theroguetheatre.org)