

Ward 6 Staff



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Ward 6 Newsletter

TUCSON FIRST

February 6, 2017

In this issue...

Half-Mast	1
Tucson Police Advisory Council	2
International Relations—SB1468	2
Pena Nieto Letter	6
Policies Being Rescinded	7
Open Meeting Laws	8
Kozachik in the Oval Office	8
More Reaction to Executive Orders	9
Academia and Religious Responses	10
Temporary Restraining Order	11
Ethical Advocacy in an Evolving Political Climate	13
Grant Road Widening	13
More Development	14
Local First: January 8th Memorial	16
Voting and Felons	17



Last Monday a shooting occurred on the SW side of Tucson in which one guy was killed, and the shooter ended up in custody. They evidently knew each other and decided this was an appropriate way to settle a dispute.

And on Thursday of last week there was a double homicide up in Pinal County. The investigation is just beginning – the only thing that’s certain is two more lives lost in a tragic incident.

Families and friends grieve over the loss, and the vast majority of people in the City are totally unaware this continues week after week. But it does – and up in Phoenix they’re again pushing a bill to allow shooting guns in the city limits, and another to open public buildings to weapons again. And on the Federal level there’s talk of eliminating the need for background checks on mentally ill people who have been declared incompetent to handle their own finances and other daily affairs. Ask law enforcement if they agree with any of that and they’ll tell you “no.”



Important Phone Numbers

Ward 6 Office
791-4601

Tucson Police
Department
911 or nonemergency
791-6813

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 Tucson
791-5071

Planning and
Development
Services 791-5550

Pima Animal Care
Center
724-5900

Pima County Vector
Control
Cockroaches 724-3401

Continued: A Message From Steve

Tucson Police Advisory Council

TPD is forming a new Community Advisory Council intended to promote civic involvement in how our law enforcement policies are framed. We have a Citizen's Police Advisory Review Board (CPARB) that reconsiders how internal affairs cases were handled, but this new group will be looking more at policy questions.

Since he came on board, new Chief (not so *new* anymore) Magnus has made it a priority to reach out into the community and build relationship with residents. This new Advisory Council is an extension of that work. TPD will be assisted by the Policing Project coming out of the NYU School of Law in implementing this new initiative.



That Project has helped other jurisdictions look into issues such as when to release information gathered with Body Worn Cameras, and they're big on collecting arrest/death data, psychological impacts of being arrested, and privacy issues involved with license plate readers. There are a ton of public policy issues that may come before this

newly forming group. The goal is to rely on the Council to express areas of community concern, suggest groups with whom they should be addressed, and help to facilitate those meetings.

The CAC will serve as the liaison between TPD and the community. In that role the members will seek input from other residents and meet with TPD in public meetings to talk through what they've learned. In the reverse, they'll help to get the word out about new policies as they're developed.

TPD is right now taking applications for what will be this new 7 member board. There's a selection committee made up of representatives from:

- Border Action Network
- Pima County Public Defender
- Southern Arizona AIDS Foundation
- Tucson Chamber of Commerce
- Tucson Indian Center
- Tucson Urban League
- YWCA Tucson

Chief Magnus will be an informal part of the selection process.

To be eligible you simply need to live or work in Tucson. If you'd like to apply or find out more about this Council, go to www.tucsonpolicecac.org. The applications are due by March 1st, and the selections will be made by April 15th.

International Relations – SB1468

You may be interested to see the organizational chart for our present State Department in

Here's SB1468:

SB 1468

Introduced by
Senators Burges: Borrelli; Representatives Finchem, Kern, Leach, Shooter

AN ACT

amending Title 1, chapter 2, article 4, Arizona Revised Statutes, by adding section 1-272; relating to refugee resettlement.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

Section 1. Title 1, chapter 2, article 4, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended by adding section 1-272, to read:

1-272. Sovereign authority; refugee resettlement program; suspension; withdrawal; civil penalties; definitions

A. Pursuant to the sovereign authority of this state and article II, section 3, Constitution of Arizona, this state and all political subdivisions of this state are prohibited from using any personnel or financial resources to enforce, administer or cooperate with the refugee resettlement program, except as otherwise provided in this section.

That means the State Legislature is following suit with what the Trump Executive Order is trying to accomplish; suspending our refugee resettlement work. And they're targeting all resettlement agencies, and placing a monumental reporting requirement on the Auditor General that quite frankly is probably impossible to fully respond to. Here's the part of 1468 related to that:

C. During the period of suspension or withdrawal from the refugee resettlement program pursuant to subsection B of this section, each charity or other entity that participates in the refugee resettlement (my emphasis) program in this State for compensation shall:

1. immediately cease all refugee resettlement activities into or affecting this State.

Sec. 2. Refugee resettlement program; auditor general; report; delayed repeal; definitions

A. On or before October 27, 2017, the auditor general shall prepare and submit a report to the president of the senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives that contains the following information for the ten immediately preceding calendar years:

1. The total number of refugees who entered this state, categorized by country of origin and the specific category of persecution claim that served as the legal basis in support of the refugee status. The report shall identify the nature and source of any claim of religious persecution that served as the legal basis in support of the refugee status. The report shall identify whether the refugee entered this state after previously participating

in the refugee resettlement program in another state.

- 2. The percentage of refugees who received program benefits and the average duration of time the refugees received the program benefits.*
- 3. The annual cost to this state and its political subdivisions for program benefits and other publicly funded services or assistance received by the refugees.*
- 4. The number and percentage of refugees who received program benefits one, three, five and ten years after being admitted to this state.*
- 5. The number of refugees who paid Arizona income tax or Arizona employment tax during the first year after being admitted to this state.*
- 6. The annual total and per refugee amounts paid by the federal government to charities in this state participating in the refugee resettlement program in this state.*
- 7. The annual total and per refugee amounts paid directly and indirectly by charities in this state to refugees participating in the refugee resettlement program in this state, including the actual number of months or years the refugees receive the amounts.*
- 8. For each year, the number and percentage of refugees identified pursuant to paragraph 1 of this subsection who remain in this state.*
- 9. The general role of this state in conducting or otherwise participating in the background check and vetting process of refugee prospects seeking admission into this state to ensure that terrorists or potential terrorists do not enter this state.*
- 10. The general level of coordination between the office of refugee resettlement of the United States department of health and human services and this state, including:*
 - (a) The notification process of available refugee prospects.*
 - (b) The number of refugee prospects that this state chooses to accept based on available resources and budgetary considerations.*
 - (c) The vetting of proposed refugees for state homeland security purposes.*
 - (d) The nature and extent of background information provided to this state.*
 - (e) This state's ability to reject any refugee prospect for any reason and the finality of that rejection.*
 - (f) The allocation of refugees approved by this state to the cities or towns identified by this state for resettlement purposes to ensure that cities and towns can accommodate additional refugees.*

The City of Tucson does not administer any of the funds associated with the Federal Resettlement Program. But there are agencies all over town that receive those dollars. The bill is another example of the State dipping into Federal issues in which it is preempted. SB1070

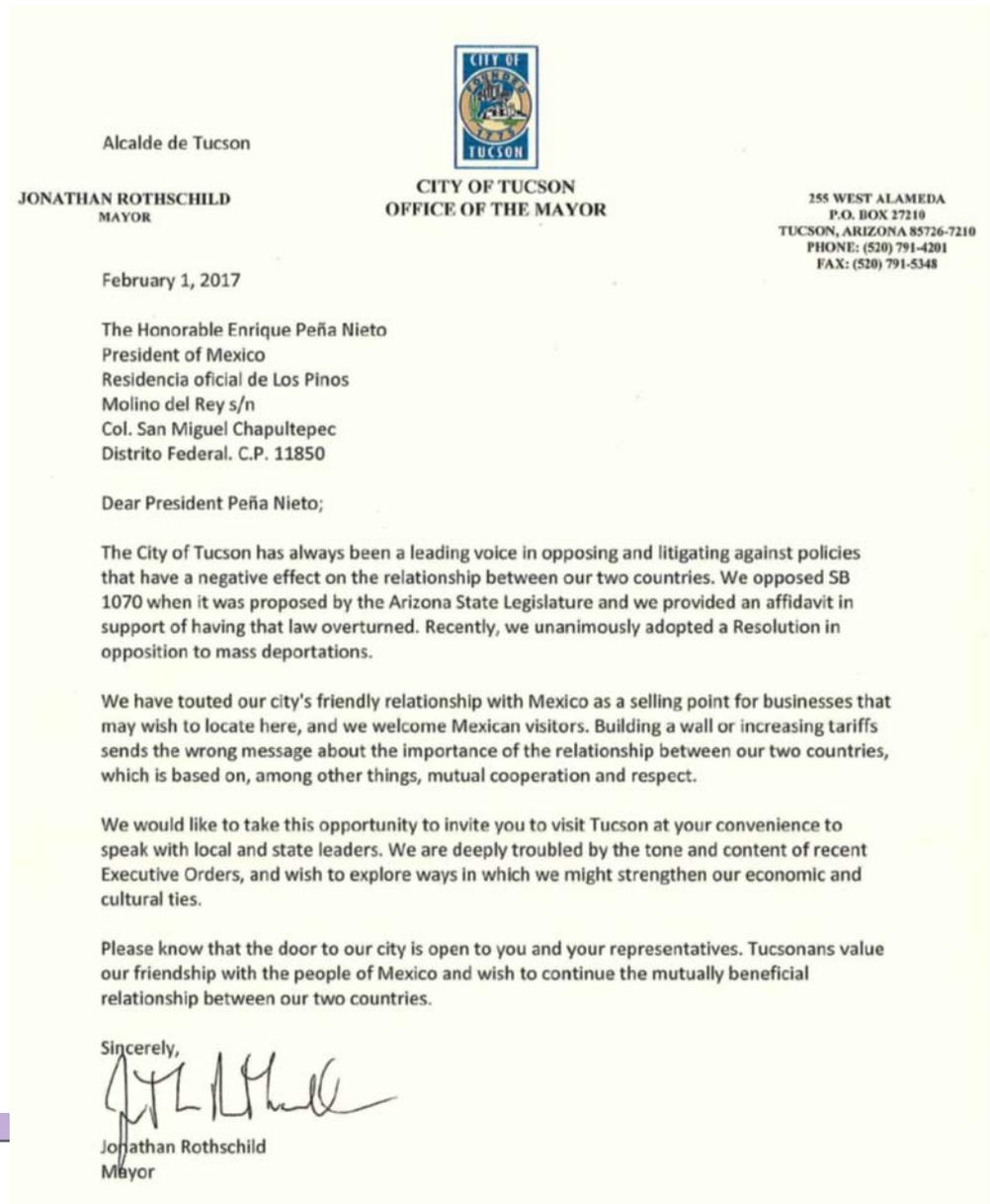
might have taught them that lesson, but here we go again on another round of litigation, the net result of which will be to harm this State's international reputation.

If Arizona chooses to withdraw from the Federal Program, it continues to be available to agencies. The authors of the bill are evidently targeting those agencies. But the State doesn't have the legal authority to cancel private contracts that exist between the Feds and non-profits.

As I've said before – in Phoenix, they legislate in anticipation of litigating. My speculation is that even the Republicans are so embarrassed by this bill being leaked to the press by the sponsor that it'll end up in somebody's top desk drawer and never see the light of day. But the damage is done again to the State's image, and to that of the State Legislature.

Pena Nieto Letter

Last week I suggested the M&C draft a letter and send it to Mexican President Pena Nieto inviting him to Tucson, and trying to mend the fence Trump – and now the State Legislature – are destroying. Due to Open Meeting Law issues, all 7 of us couldn't sign. But Jonathan can, and did. Here's that letter:



We as a governing body will continue to step up on behalf of the cultural and economic relations we have not only with Mexico, but with the Central American, Middle Eastern, African and other countries with whom many of us on the council have established ties. And we'll end up in court every time the State or Feds overstep their legal bounds – such as with SB1468.

Policies Being Rescinded

With all the coverage the Executive Orders have been given, the media has given scant attention to some very important regulatory changes being pushed through. The one's I'll share here are all related to environmental issues. And none are getting any public “vetting” – to use the word of the day the Administration is so concerned to ensure is taking place.

These are called in the jargon CRA's. That stands for Congressional Review Act. A 1996 law requires public agencies to submit to Congress regulations they've adopted. If you'll recall from the recent campaign, one of the rallying cries from the new Administration was rescinding regulations. The regulations can be blocked when that's approved by both Houses of Congress.

For example, both Houses have now approved and have sent to the President a recommendation to roll back a Securities and Exchange Commission rule related to oil, natural gas and mining companies. Under the rule they are to disclose payments they make to foreign governments. If Trump signs the CRA, that requirement goes away.



Also headed to the oval office for signature is a CRA that would nullify a Department of Interior rule that is intended to limit polluted runoff coming from the surface coal mining industry and ending up in nearby streams and other water sources.

(EPA Photo) According to the EPA, acid mine runoff comes mainly from both abandoned and active coal mines.

Some CRA's are only through the House, and are headed to the Senate. One would nullify an Interior Department regulation that requires oil and gas producers who operate on Federal land to reduce their methane output.

And these are headed into the Congressional pipeline for consideration, likely this coming week:

- a) A CRA related to a new permits, required of oil and gas operations that are on non-Federal land within the National Wildlife Refuge system.
- b) A CRA related to the EPA's “Accidental Release Prevention Requirements.” The safety related regulation would be eliminated if this passes both Houses and is signed by Trump.
- c) A CRA that would unblock oil, gas and sulfur drilling operations on the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf.

- d) A CRA intended to impose fines on oil and gas companies for “record keeping and reporting errors.” The associated civil penalties would be eliminated.
- e) A CRA regulating oil and gas development within the National Park System

There are plenty more of these making their way through Congress and headed towards the President’s desk for signature. Read what little bit I’ve shared and it’s pretty easy to spot a common thread. If it concerns you, let your Congressional representatives know that you’re aware, and that you care.

Open Meetings Law

The back story on the letter to Pena Nieto is that originally I had suggested we draft a letter and that all 7 of us (M&C) sign onto it. Our City Attorney felt doing so would raise questions about the Open Meeting Law. I think that’s a stretch, but the more important thing was getting the message out to the Mexican President that Tucson is not Trump.

We’ve had other differences of opinion on the application of the OML – the Broadway Citizen’s Task Force comes to mind. On Wednesday, March 1st, Tucson Residents for Responsive Government will host a presentation here at the Ward 6 office directly related to that topic. The meeting will run from 4pm until 6pm.

TRRG has invited Danee Garone, a staff attorney who works with the Arizona Ombudsman Office. The presentation will take a portion of the time, and the balance will be held for Q&A.

This event is open to anyone interested in this topic. Our City Attorney is invited – totally up to him and his staff, and I know they’ve got plenty on their plate juggling and responding to the multiple lawsuits hurled in our direction from the State and various other groups. But it’ll be a good discussion sorting out what’s ok, and what’s not. And where we make decisions simply out of an “abundance of caution.”

Kozachik in the Oval Office



So happy to have made it into the Oval Office.

More Reaction to Executive Orders

The reaction to what's going on in both D.C. and Phoenix is getting a response from a broad spectrum of people. Last week, in response to the refugee EO, UA President Ann Hart sent out this letter:

To UA students and employees,

The University of Arizona community has serious concerns about provisions of the January 27, 2017 Executive Order suspending nonimmigrant and immigrant visas from specific countries and suspending the United States' refugee program. The Order also leaves the status of green card holders working in this country legally ambiguous while suspending admission to the United States of foreign nationals from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen for at least 90 days.

We have received reports of students from other universities, as well as highly prized scholars, who were airborne en route to the U.S. at the time the Order was signed being detained upon arrival. We have also heard from University of Arizona students who are afraid to travel abroad, despite the legality of their visas, and we are deeply concerned for the wellbeing and treatment of our foreign students, scholars, researchers, and professors. This approach violates the principles on which international university communities of thought, learning, and research are based and will jeopardize the very mission and purpose of the university.

We oppose the Executive Order and believe that lawsuits challenging it will be successful. At least one temporary restraining order related to provisions of the Order has already been issued.

The Association of American Universities (AAU), the Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU), and the American Council of Education (ACE) are all working to persuade policymakers to address our concerns, and we all understand the importance of America's historic leading role in education, research, and learning, including students and scholars from around the world. The present challenge is no exception to this important role.

We recommend that international students and scholars at the University of Arizona postpone any planned international travel until this matter is resolved. The UA Office of Global Initiatives has been responding to inquiries throughout the weekend and is working to identify those in our community who are on personal travel and may be affected by the order and need our assistance.

*Ann Weaver Hart
President
University of Arizona*

The disruption to people's legitimate travel is the result of how poorly thought out the EO was. Even the President's own party is decrying the unintended consequences – and the intended ones.

Academia and Religious Responses

In addition to the response from the UA and other academic groups, the Executive Orders have generated reactions from a variety of religious groups. Last week several dozen Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Sikh and other religious faith leaders signed onto this statement opposing what we're seeing from D.C.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA MULTIFAITH RELIGIOUS LEADERS STATEMENT JANUARY 31, 2017

Southern Arizona prides itself in being an immigrant, refugee friendly region. We, the multi-faith religious leaders of Southern Arizona, express our wholehearted affirmation and support of those in our community who have fled violence and turmoil in their home countries and who have found their new home in Southern Arizona. We welcome them and cherish the gifts refugees and immigrants bring to our country.

As people from many faith traditions, many of whom have experienced persecution and prejudice in their histories, we affirm our solidarity with our Muslim neighbors and friends. We stand with them now in the face of religious discrimination and hate crimes directed toward individuals or communities, and we defend their civil liberties.

While we fully understand the need for security protocols and proper vetting procedures of immigrants and refugees, we repudiate the current administration's executive orders regarding asylum seekers, the border wall, the ban on the admission of any refugee for a period of time, as well as the ban on admitting all immigrants and non-immigrants from seven countries. This order applies to Syrian refugees, perhaps the most vulnerable. These orders are not in keeping with the values and moral fabric of our nation.

We call upon the President to rescind these orders and to take the lead in introducing a comprehensive immigration policy reform that would better meet the needs of our nation. We also call for the continued reception of properly vetted refugees as is our responsibility as a nation of compassion that has benefitted significantly from the contributions of refugees and immigrants.

In a climate of heightened anxiety, we call upon our neighbors and friends to reach beyond our fear and division to find common ground in welcoming the stranger and in fostering peace with love.

This was a wholly local effort. I'm sure it was mirrored in cities across the country. On Friday morning I joined a group of refugees, and a multi-faith group at Our Savior's Lutheran Church for a similar statement of support. State Representative Steve Farley gave the secular address, surrounded by faith leaders, refugees and those of us from the community simply there to lend support through our presence.

And on Saturday we held a large rally downtown in Presidio Park continuing the message that the EO's are not reflective of the values on which the nation was founded.

(photo credit: Chris Tanz)



At the Presidio rally we had Bishop Kicanas, Rabbi Loughheim, several refugees from the Islamic Center of Tucson, and lots of grass roots supporters. I was proud to speak to the group, and to stand alongside some Syrian and Iraqi refugees as they gave their stories. I was proud of Tucson for showing up in the numbers they did.

Temporary Restraining Order

Last Friday a judge in Seattle told Trump that he may not implement the refugee ban until it's determined to be legal by a Federal Court. Here are a few germane pieces of the TRO.

On January 28, 2017, the petitioners filed an Emergency Motion for Stay of Removal on behalf of themselves and others similarly situated.

IT APPEARING to the Court from the Emergency Motion for Stay of Removal, the other submissions, the arguments of counsel, and the hearing held on the 28th of January, 2017,

1. The petitioners have a strong likelihood of success in establishing that the removal of the petitioner and others similarly situated violates their rights to Due Process and Equal Protection guaranteed by the United States Constitution;

Due Process and Equal Protection are embedded in our Constitution. The judge concluded that both are likely being violated by the refugee ban.

And this ending Order from the court:

ENJOINED AND RESTRAINED from, in any manner or by any means, removing individuals with refugee applications approved by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services as part of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, holders of valid immigrant and non-immigrant visas, and other individuals from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia, and Yemen legally authorized to enter the United States.

If the Trump Administration wants to overturn the TRO, they'll need to get that done in the 9th Circuit of the Federal Court system. That'll take time, and given what we know about that Circuit, it's not likely they'd prevail. That means the restraining order is in effect until the U.S. Supreme Court would hear the case on appeal. The message for refugees, and agencies who work in their support is to keep doing the right things, working within the system, and ignore the "ban" issued last week through the Executive Order.

That's a lot of rallies. In an effort to address what may become "protest fatigue" I wrote this Guest Piece that appeared in last Friday's *Star*:

Once upon a time there was a new nation built on the idea that imposing a religious test for entry was illegal.

On January 27th of this year our newly elected President issued an Executive Order related to refugees. It contains language by which we will "prioritize refugee claims made by individuals on the basis of religious-based persecution, provided that the religion of the individ-

ual is a minority religion in the individual's country of nationality."

Let's be clear. The order bars people from majority Muslim nations from seeking refugee protection in the United States unless they're a member of a non-Muslim religion. That's a religious test.

And fast forward to the current session of the Arizona State Legislature in which SB 1468 proposes to "suspend our participation in the refugee resettlement program" entirely. Both the order and SB 1468 suspend the entire refugee resettlement program indefinitely. That includes not only Yemen, Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia and Sudan. Those were each called out for special treatment as being "detrimental to the interests of the United States." It also includes refugees coming from all African and Central American nations. Civilians living in war zones.

Refugees are a status defined in the U.S. Code. They're people fleeing persecution, in fear for their lives. The new administration and our state Legislature would shut the door on them.

We were once a nation in which people around the world knew they could find refuge from the ravages of war. Indeed, this country signed onto the Geneva Convention protocols, which specifically condemn the mistreatment of civilians living in war zones. Through his Executive Order, and through SB 1468, President Trump and the Arizona Legislature effectively suspend the moral high ground on which we signed the Geneva accords, and condemn the victims of war to the conditions from which a month ago they could flee.

Since the inauguration, we have seen edicts related to the environment, pipelines, tariffs, trade deals, walls, immigrant status, refugees, with likely more to come. To coin a sports metaphor, the new administration appears to be attempting to flood the zone — throw as much out at once so people lose track and don't know where to take a stand. It may be a good strategy, but the content of these orders reflects a reversal of the values on which we were founded.

Procedurally, the new president is receiving backlash even from many within his own party. They recognize the reality that we are a representative republic and governing by simply barking out orders isn't how our system is designed to work. It lacks the voice of the people.

Back in the late 1960s many of us took to the streets in protest against the war in Vietnam. The protests continued for three years. It was grassroots moving against the establishment. It finally worked, and the country brought our troops home from what had been a poorly conceived and poorly managed conflict. Thousands of lives were unnecessarily lost.

Today we see protests once again. One day they're about a pipeline. The next about a wall, or immigrants, or trade agreements, or refugees. Peaceful protesting is our right. Back in the '60s we had one focus. Now, every day there's a new fire to run into.

I encourage our citizens to exercise their right to speak out against the morally vapid Executive Orders and legislation being churned out by the new administration and our State

Legislature.

Protest with class, and protest peacefully. But don't fall prey to protest-fatigue and lose focus. Choose the issue you feel most passionate about and let your voice be heard. For me, for today, it's speaking up in support of the victims of war who until now could count on the moral framework on which our nation was founded and come here as refugees from intolerable conditions.

Choose your issue and stake your claim. Stand for the values on which this country was founded.

Steve Kozachik represents Ward 6 on the Tucson City Council. Contact him at Ward6@tucsonaz.gov

Lots of work being invested by lots of people. I believe it'll have a positive effect.

Ethical Advocacy in an Evolving Political Climate

On March 6th, the UA will host Clara Pratte. She'll give what is a very timely presentation on how to engage in rally's and protests – how to engage the political issues of the day. In addition to having been the Director of Native American Affairs in the SBA for the Obama Administration, Clara is a Senior V.P. for our D.C. team, Bracy, Tucker, Brown and Valanzano.

The presentation will include Q&A. Kiva Auditorium isn't huge, so they'd like you to RSVP if you're planning on attending. All the information's included in the flyer.

Kanbay Program in Applied Ethics Presents:

Clara Pratte

March 6, 2017

Kiva Theater— Student Union Memorial Center
University of Arizona

5:00pm— Refreshments
5:30pm— Lecture and Q & A
6:30pm— Discussion

Ethical Advocacy in an Evolving Political Climate



Clara is a citizen of the Navajo Nation and a University of Arizona graduate with a distinguished history of advocacy for the Navajo Nation on all federal policy matters. She was the Obama Administration's Director of Native America Affairs in the Small Business Administration. She is currently Senior Vice President at Bracy, Tucker, Brown & Valanzano an advocacy firm and the founder and CEO of Strongbow Strategies a federal services company in Washington, DC.

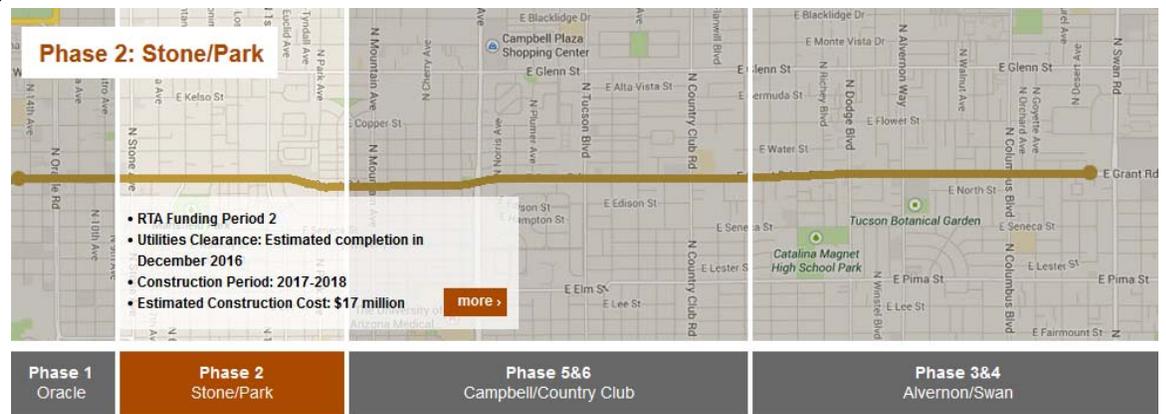
If you are interested in attending,

Please RSVP to Anna Hultquist at annahultquist@email.arizona.edu by Monday, February 27, 2017.

Grant Road Widening

Whew. Time to pivot.

If you go to the RTA website you can find the Grant Road project link easily enough. On it you'll find this graphic:



Note the “more” tab. It takes you deeper into the planning document for the phase now being designed – Stone to Park. You can similarly get more project information by clicking on the other segments shown on the map.

Phases 3&4 are closing in on being fully designed. Construction for that segment is targeted for 2018 – 2020. And the final phases are early in the planning stages.

The Grant Road Coalition is a group of the neighborhoods and stakeholders who have formed to provide a vehicle for public input. One of the intersections that has been hotly discussed for literally decades is Campbell/Grant. I remember when there was talk of separated interchanges where Grant would go under Campbell. For lots of reasons, that plan never came to fruition. How the intersection ends up being developed is still an important public conversation.

The Coalition is looking for your input on how you’d like to see that intersection designed. Not so much from the standpoint of where the curb lines are located – that’s already decided. The conversation now is what sort of retail and built-environment will be welcomed. To get feedback, a survey has been developed. It’ll take you 5-10 minutes to complete. Here’s the link:

www.grantroadcoalition.com

The deadline for returning the survey is February 21st. This is a key portion of the full Oracle to Swan, \$167M project, so if you live by or travel through that area, it’s worth your while to share your feelings on how you’d like to see it developed.

More Development

I’m going to conflate a couple of items within this section. One is the impact to our revenue stream caused by the incentives we offer to development. And the other is an upcoming student housing project that might be breaking ground on a new model that will effectively by-pass public input, and may also take the property off the tax rolls.

This is a spreadsheet that shows the property taxes we’ve received from some student housing projects. I choose them to make a couple of points. First, they are important pieces of our economic resources, and second, when we offer incentives that take them off the tax rolls, we have to make sure the benefits we gain in other areas make up for the loss. That’s how the Gift Clause of the State Constitution works. Taxpayers have to be made

whole if we're giving tax breaks.

Development Name	Address	Property tax
The Junction at Ironhorse	504 E 9th St	2013: \$6539.50
		2014: \$21,440.84
		2015: \$179,864.54
		2016: \$190,605.71
Hub at Tucson	1011 N Tyndall Ave	2013: \$15,632.31
		2014: \$3,580.68
		2015: \$496,071.22
		2016: \$521,267.39
Hub on Campus II	1023 N Tyndall Avenue	2016: \$5,657.82
The District on 5th Apartments	550 N 5th Ave	2012: \$34,315.39
		2013: \$47,2647.14
		2014: \$568,024.19
		2015: \$577,367.06
The Cadence	350 E Congress St	2015: \$ 564.78
		(City ownership via GPLET)

What's not shown are impact fees we receive. They are an additional important financial element for us. But you can see these large student housing projects yield some significant dollars.

On Tuesday we were to have had an item in which staff is proposing a cap on the incentives we offer in the downtown development area. The piece being proposed for a cap is the amount of construction sales tax we offer as an incentive to the project. Staff is suggesting we set a \$150K limit. I've asked some questions about how they came up with that figure, and the item has now been pulled for what I suspect is a more thorough explanation.

We need to make sure we're not killing the projects by setting an arbitrary cap on the incentives. If lending institutions are on the edge of loaning private dollars, look at the property taxes these projects yield and it's easy to see we need to tread lightly if we're implementing a cap that will cause the lenders to walk away.

I've asked what level of outreach was done – hearing conflicting reports from staff and developers. That needs to be clarified. And from the memo we were given, it's not at all clear how staff came up with some of the examples of taxes projects will generate. They say a "\$4M project will yield \$50K in construction sales tax." That's just over a 1% tax rate. Maybe it makes sense, but we need to get better documentation of how the number is derived before just signing onto a policy that may have significant impacts on new construction. We don't want to kill the golden goose.

And I mentioned a possible student housing project being considered by the UA that might

be framed in a way that takes it off the tax rolls. You can see that could mean in the neighborhood of \$500K per year to the City, not counting lost impact fees. Setting aside the idea that the model may eliminate any public input with the predictable effect on the credibility of the UA, the financial impacts are potentially significant if we can't address that issue before deals now being contemplated are finalized.

In the past 7 years, we've seen lots of positive development in the downtown core. The market is changing, and so is the economy. When, and to what extent we begin to pull back on some of our incentives is a balance; keep the development coming, but begin to recoup some portions of the incentives we've previously offered to kick-start the projects. More to come – there are not absolutely clear answers.



Local First
ARIZONA

January 8th Memorial

This news deserves to be our local first item this week.

Here's some good news on legislation coming out of D.C. Both our House and Senate delegations have submitted bills that would designate the proposed site for the January 8th Memorial as a part of the National Park system. Here are links to the full text of both bills.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/362/text>

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senatebill/62/text/is?overview=closed&format=txt>

115th CONGRESS
1st Session

H. R. 362

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the January 8th National Memorial in Tucson, Arizona, as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

January 6, 2017

Ms. McSally (for herself, Mr. Franks of Arizona, Mr. Schweikert, Ms. Sinema, Mr. Biggs, Mr. O'Halleran, Mr. Gallego, Mr. Grijalva, Mr. Smith of Washington, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Mr. Price of North Carolina, Mr. Costa, Ms. Roybal-Allard, and Mr. Fitzpatrick) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

The general idea is that by becoming a part of the National Park system, the Memorial Foundation will be better able to secure funding for its maintenance and operation. Under the terms of both bills, the January 8th Memorial Foundation would manage the "park" while also reaching out for on-going financial support.

Getting bi-partisan support on this sends an important message as to how meaningful this Memorial is for not only our region, but as a National commemoration as well. The committee who has been working on the design and now on this designation, deserve high marks for their efforts. If you'd like to send along comments of gratitude, contact the Chair of the Foundation, Crystal Kasnoff @ crystal@tucsonsmemorial.org.

Crystal tells me that there will be similar bi-partisan bills coming from the State Legislature soon, too. It's nice to see we can all agree on at least this.

Voting and Felons



I'm going to close with this important item. There's a lot of misunderstanding on whether and how ex-convicts can have their voting rights restored. Since Arizona has the 6th highest incarceration rate in the nation and the highest in all the Western States, this issue affects a lot of people.

The Department of Corrections makes up over 10% of the State budget. We have a punishment oriented system, the result of which is a 50% recidivism rate, and people finally walking out of prison not sure what their rights really are as they relate to restoration of rights they had before going to prison. We have what are called "truth in sentencing" laws that mandate *all* prisoners serve at least 85% of their sentence.

Built into that is a system in which people coming out after a first felony conviction have their voting rights restored automatically once they're off all of their post-incarceration supervision, and have paid all their fines. But after a second or subsequent conviction, they have to apply for restoration. Neither of these is widely known, even among ex-convicts.

On Tuesday, February 28th from 2pm until 5pm, there will be a free workshop in which rights restoration will be the entire theme. It's intended for people who have Arizona or Federal convictions, and who have already completed their sentences.

The event is being hosted by the Pima County Clerk of the Superior Court, the James E. Rogers College of Law, the Pima County Public Defender, and the Primavera Foundation. It'll be held at the 10th floor conference room in the Pima County Public Defender's Office.

Participants should bring all of their paperwork related to their conviction with them. And if you need an Arizona Certificate of Absolute Discharge, you can find the request form at this link:

<http://www.primavera.org/html/sustainability/restorecivilrights.html>

People who have "paid their debt to society" (I've never quite liked that phrase, especially considering some of the reasons people find themselves behind bars) do not have to live out their lives as 2nd class citizens. Voting rights restoration is one step away from that status. If you have questions about this forum, please contact Alonzo Morado at 882.5383, or email him at amorado@primavera.org.

Sincerely,

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

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steve Kozachik".