

Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik
Council Member



Ann Charles



Donovan Durband



Teresa Smith



Christal Ferree



Bonnie Medler



Ward 6 – Newsletter

A Message from Steve

MAY 31, 2011

No council meeting this week due to the combination of a furlough day last Friday and Memorial Day on Monday, so I'd like to take this space this week to share some thoughts on where we go from here now that we have a budget in place.

Before moving on, thanks to the Arizona Daily Star for running a front page article on Friday, May 27th that affirms public safety response times will in fact be impacted by the reductions we just implemented. KVOA TV4 also ran a segment on the same topic.

To have said otherwise during our recent budget discussions was simply not looking at the facts. What's done is done - moving on to next year now.

If we are going to avoid another year of cuts and fee increases, we have got to be about the business of business. Job creation has to be our #1 priority. Not slash and burn development, but appropriate work that will help to draw us out of the economic downturn we have worked through for both of my first two budget cycles. We have a natural ally in that effort, one with whom unfortunately to date we have not played well together. That's the Rio Nuevo Board. I am going to continue to urge that we come to terms on a settlement agreement with that Board and in doing so find a way to move forward in private sector development within the TIF District. I continue to believe that we should be meeting in, at the very least, an ad hoc sub committee with some of their Board to engage in an on-going conversation that will bridge the gap that exists between us. We will not establish a workable relationship by "talking" attorney-to-attorney and we'll just keep wasting your money by doing so. I talk regularly with individual members of the Board. That informal and individual relationship needs to be expanded to more Council members and more Board members. We're spending your money - not wisely at the present time / not wisely for the last dozen years according to the Auditor General's report. It's well past time that we begin.

Why should the Rio Board care: because they're broke and can barely pay their own debt service. Why should the City Council care: because job creation benefits the entire community. And there's the looming specter of the State Legislature poised to remove the Tax Increment Financing money that is generated in Tucson and that belongs here. I'll be asking Council to consider several initiatives in the coming weeks that are all geared towards fattening the Rio Board kitty (TIF money) and in that manner try to break down the barrier that has existed between us since the Legisla-



**Important
Phone Numbers**

- Tucson Police Department
911 or 791-4444
nonemergency
- Mayor & Council Comment Line
791-4700
- Neighborhood Resources
791-4605
- Park Wise
791-5071
- Water Issues
791-3242
- Pima County Animal Control
243-5900
- Street Maintenance
791-3154
- Planning and Development Services
791-5550
- Southwest Gas
889-1888
- Gas Emergency/ Gas Leaks
889-1888
- West Nile Virus Hotline
243-7999
- Environment Service
791-3171
- Graffiti Removal
792-2489
- AZ Game & Fish
628-5376



Continued: A Message From Steve

ture seated them back in 2009. If we can't sail in the same boat, at least we can watch the other boat alongside of us rise in the rising tide once we adopt some ordinance changes aimed at spurring job growth. The TIF District is a huge rectangle that goes right down the middle of the City, all the way from downtown to Wilmot. There's a formula by which taxes generated in that region above the statutorily established baseline are to stay in the City and be used for economic development. Those are the dollars we stand to lose if we keep this arms length relationship in place. I've been pretty public in stating my differences of opinion with some of the Legislators and some of the Rio Board members and yet there's a greater good that needs to prevail above those issues. It's time.

A part of that job creation matrix of incentives will include some consideration of how we balance the need for development in the District boundaries and at the same time do it in a way that doesn't simply result in a huge chunk of asphalt running from downtown out to the east side. It is essential that we promote business in a way that does not sacrifice real and serious environmental concerns. Studies related to the "heat island effect" are current and are worth your exploring. You can do so by driving up to Phoenix and walking around their downtown. Have they built out their downtown core? Yes. Is the place almost unbearable in the summer? Yes. But look at these numbers:

	Locale Tree Canopy Coverage	Annual Rain High	>90 degrees Low	<32 degrees
Minneapolis	32%	29.3"	14 days	159 days (ugh)
Phoenix	13%	8.3"	168 days (ugh)	5 days
Tucson	<10%	11.8"	150 days	17 days
Atlanta	37%	50.2"	36 days	48 days
Chicago	17%	36.3"	17 days	129 days

That second column should make you catch your breath. Do we have to promote economic growth within the Rio District? Yes. Can we do it while at the same time recognizing that we cannot just lay down blacktop and call it progress. We must, and responsible developers will join in singing that chorus. They live here, too. So stay tuned for more on this. It's a complex issue but one that impacts every kitchen table budget balancing exercise that is going on around the community.

One of the areas in which I have voiced a difference with the Rio Board is in the fact that numerous local subcontractors who did work on the East Entry of the TCC have not yet been paid for their work. I mentioned this last week, and by way of update, I am compiling a list of those companies, have asked the City Attorney to review with Rio what they need from us (City) in order for them to pay their bills, and I will keep press-



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John
McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jon Kyl (R)
520-575-8633

Congresswoman
Gabrielle Giffords
(D)
(8th District)
520-881-3588

Congressman
Raul Grijalva (D)
(7th District)
520-622-6788

Governor Janice
Brewer (R)
Governor of Arizona
602-542-4331

Toll free:
1-800-253-0883

State Legislators

Toll Free
Telephone:
1-800-352-8404
Internet:
www.azleg.gov

Mayor Bob Walkup
791-4201

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

ing on this until they're paid. This is an example of people having done work and now being caught in a legal battle that exists between the people upon whom they relied for payment of services rendered. If we as a City (or Rio, or Turner/Sundt) ever want any of these local subcontractors to bid on our work again, we need to make them whole for the work they've already done and for which they're owed compensation. Figure out the legalities on your own dime. These folks are our neighbors and they have employees (also our neighbors) to pay. More to come.

The City has adopted an all mail-in voting system for this election cycle. Some of the details are still being worked out, but some decisions have been made. First, register to vote if you plan on taking part in the election. Contact the City Clerk if you haven't already done that. Registered voters may visit any one of the voting locations and perform any of the following:

- a) Drop off your "voted" vote-by-mail ballot
- b) Bring your vote-by-mail ballot, cast the ballot in person and drop it in the ballot box
- c) Receive and vote a vote-by-mail replacement ballot.

Here are the voting locations:

Randolph Golf Complex - 600 S. Alvernon Way
Quincie Douglas Library - 1585 E. 36th Street
Clements Center - 8155 E.Poincianca Drive
St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church - 1145 E. Ft. Lowell Rd.
Udall Carol West Senior Center - 7200 E. Tanque Verde Rd
Valencia Branch Library - 202 W. Valencia Rd

Each of those locations are open on August 30th and November 8th from 6am until 7pm

Tucson City Clerk Elections Center - 800 E. 12th Street
This location is open August 10th - August 29th from 8am - 5pm, M-F
August 30th from 6am - 7pm
October 19th - November 7th from 8am - 5pm, M-F
November 8th from 6am - 7pm

Vote or don't complain.

On a lighter note, I want to thank the staff from the Arizona State Museum (on the UA campus, not asu - the name is simply a fluke of unfortunate history!) for a wonderful tour of their facilities last week. The group who took us around included Darlene Lizarraga (Mktg Coordinator), Dr. Beth Grindell (Director), Dr. Patrick Lyons (Assoc. Director and Head of Collections), Teresa Moreno, (Associate Conservator) and Andrew Higgins (Assistant Curator of Ethnographic Collections.) The Curator of Ethnological Collections, Diane Dittmore came in and joined us as well. You'll note that the group is comprised of highly skilled and committed professionals who put their heart and soul into making your experience at their facility both enjoyable and educational. I'm sure they were vastly underwhelmed by my scientific contributions to the dialogue - thanks go out to them for their work. Now that school is out, you can avoid some of the usual crowds - hours are 10am - 5pm, Monday through Saturday. It's out of the heat and something the family can do together.

And if you think with school being out there's nothing happening in the downtown area, here's a brief list of KXCI sponsored events that may be of interest:

6/2 Poco and Firefall @ Fox Tucson Theatre

6/3 Dick Dale @ The Hut
6/4 Chris Burton Jacome Flamenco @ Plaza Palomino
6/4 Stone River Boys @ The Hut
6/7 Sarah Jaffe and Old 97s @ Plush
6/10 Buddy Guy @ Rialto Theatre
6/10 Rickie Lee Jones @ Fox Tucson Theatre
6/10 Ellis Paul @ Plaza Palomino

Over the weekend I had the opportunity to join in a purely non-partisan, non-ideological event for the benefit of veterans. The organization Comin' Home is located here in Tucson, works with the support of CODAC and is in the business of touching the lives of veterans who are having housing and other reintegration issues. The services offered include emergency shelter, street outreach, halfway house placement, PTS treatment, and more. This is a home grown organization that has been quietly treating veterans since 1989. The event to which I was invited to speak included Dave Croteau (Green Party) and Frank Antenori (Republican State Senator). For an evening we set aside political differences and agreed that addressing the needs of those who have served on our behalf was the greater good focus of the event. I am grateful to my friend Victoria for having invited me to participate and to Dave Ewold for having organized this event. I invite you to look up "Comin' Home, Inc" on the web site and educate yourself on how this program is operating under the radar screen in our community. As with most non-profits, they could use some financial help, if you are so moved.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6
www.tucsonaz.gov/ward6