

Ward 6 Staff



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Council Member



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Ward 6 – Newsletter

A Message from Steve

JUNE 16, 2011

The reason I invest the time in these newsletters every week is to try to keep you up to speed on the business we're conducting at City Hall that effects your pocketbook and our community. I don't take any pleasure in being on the short end of votes and yet due to the partisan make-up of the council, that's often the case. Generally I'm comfortable in simply acknowledging that I have a differing viewpoint, but can also see the other side of an issue. Tuesday night's council meeting had a couple of items in which I haven't quite reached that level of comfort.

Each year, all 6 Ward Offices are allocated an equal amount of money from the General Fund for operations. That includes everything from salaries to stationary and from copies to cars (for those council members who are still driving City owned vehicles). Our adopted budgets for FY'11 were \$359,160 per Ward. For the past year, I and my staff have worked hard to manage the Ward Office Budget allocation responsibly. We are estimated to end the fiscal year nearly \$85,000 under budget. As a rule, any funds remaining at the end of a fiscal year are swept into the General Fund to pay for deficit mitigation. This year, having been unable to convince M&C to allocate any extra funds for road repair, I requested that \$75,000 of our remaining budget capacity be reallocated to the Department of Transportation, earmarked for road repair in Ward 6. At every single neighborhood association meeting and in nearly every informal conversation I engage in with constituents, the condition of our roads is a topic on peoples' minds.

The practice of reallocating funds from a Ward Office budget to special projects is not unique. It is my belief that if a Councilmember and his staff are frugal and can afford to adequately run their office under budget, it is perfectly appropriate to use savings for the betterment of the Ward. It's Ward Office budgetary capacity and it has been done before by current members of this Council. So, I was surprised Tuesday night when Councilmember Uhlich pulled my agenda item from the consent agenda, challenged it, and put to a vote. I was even more surprised that on a 5-2 vote, the rest of the Council and the Mayor (Councilmember Cunningham supported my effort) decided that they would hold that \$75,000, consider pooling it with whatever the other Ward Offices have been able to save and consider uses other than what I had intended. The short message is that my desire to spend \$75,000 fixing roads in Ward 6 was not allowed to go forward by the majority on the Council. City Staff is to return on July 6th with a report and recommendations as to how the pooled money should be spent. Their stated goal is to try to fund one square mile of



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

road repair per Ward. I would rather use the \$75K for targeted Ward 6 road rehabilitation and charge the City Manager and his staff to come up with other sources of funding for the City wide work. If other Ward Offices have money left at the end of this fiscal year, I would support their using it to reach needs unique to their Wards.

Regardless of what the majority decides on July 6th, I'll continue to extend that consideration to them and congratulate each one who has not blown their budget. I will also continue to advocate for Ward Budget money to be used for Ward specific needs. Otherwise, let's just establish a pooled M&C budget at the start of the fiscal year and all pull from the same pot. That's not how the budget process is designed and for the rest of the Council to reshape it into that form Tuesday night was disrespectful of the needs and interests of the Ward 6 residents.

We also revisited the RTA Kolb Road extension on Tuesday. You'll recall that this is the RTA project that was initially projected to cost \$9M, but is now up to \$22M and is still in design. In other words, that cost will continue to escalate. The M&C have been unyielding in their intent on moving that project forward, despite the clear cost issues, based on the contention that it was "voter approved." There are two problems with that concept; first, if I ask you if I can borrow \$10, and I go into your wallet and take out a \$20, I would be hard pressed to convince you that you had approved. The M&C are not making that connection. Also, I learned that the drainage capacity of the Kolb Rd. intersection is insufficient to carry the sheet flow in the event of a large monsoon rain. To resolve that issue, the intersection has a crown designed into the project in order to move the water away from the intersection. The problem is that the crown is going to divert excess sheetflow into the neighborhood and into Udall Park. That means the project will ignore the warning about drainage capacity and take the chance of flooding peoples' homes or ruining archeological sites in the park. I tried to get the council to agree that that too is not what was "voter approved." The vote was 6-1 against my attempt to put the project on hold until a proper drainage plan was designed and until the public had an opportunity to weigh in on the proposed solution. Although the City Attorney was not prepared on Tuesday to affirm this, it is my belief that if the City moves ahead with a design that results in flooding somebody's house and the City had guilty knowledge that that was a possibility, you the taxpayers will be on the hook for repairs. The TDOT Director will check on my contention that there is a drainage problem - even if he is able to successfully contradict the hydrological report I received, the project is still significantly over the "voter approved" budget. The RTA just authorized the sale of another \$152M in bonds to keep their projects moving forward. It is my concern that in not too many years, this will be referred to as the Rio Transit Authority - the legacy of Rio Nuevo seems to live on, just using a different taxing source to fund the work.

And speaking of Rio Nuevo, last week I brought to the attention of M&C the fact that nearly two dozen sub-contractors who had done work on the East Entry of the TCC nearly two years ago have still not been paid for their work. I contacted 11 of the subs and got from them invoices of the amounts due. Those 11 totaled over \$300K. I drafted a letter for all of the M&C to join me in signing directed at the Rio Board. It stated that



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)

we expected them to pay the sub-contractors with Rio money and for them to continue fighting with Garfield Traub (developer) and Turner/Sundt (builder) to get their money back.

Fast forward to Tuesday. Having learned that none of the subcontractors have been paid the money due, I elected to ratchet it up a notch. I drafted another letter, this one directed at the Southern Arizona Legislative Delegation who, late last year, drafted their own letter to the Rio Board and identified them as an Agent of the State, instructing them to refrain from signing a term sheet agreement with the City. In my letter to those legislators I suggested that if they felt they had the authority to compel the Board to refrain from signing our agreement, certainly they should have that same authority to compel them to pay the subcontractors. There are five legislators involved. Here is the link to view a copy of the letter I sent to them. (<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/6-15-11.pdf>) There are a couple of things that we know for certain; the debt is not that of the City, but is owed by the project team (Rio, Turner/Sundt and/or Garfield Traub.) We also know that the money is owed. If our "private sector minded" Southern Arizona Delegation is concerned, they will get the businesses paid.

How about an upbeat council topic - Tuesday afternoon we gave staff the go-ahead to schedule a public hearing on a proposed Historic Sign Ordinance. The ordinance would allow us to keep in service signs that were built pre-1961, or that follow other similar redesign/reuse standards written into the ordinance. It is my belief that these retro signs are fun, unique, and that they add character to our City. I was happy to join my colleagues in moving this ordinance to the public hearing stage of final adoption.

Over the past two weeks I have had the opportunity to participate in ride-alongs with both TPD and TFD. My purpose was to educate myself on what these men and women do on a daily/nightly basis in the interest of protecting the safety of the public. In just a few hours with TPD, on a Wednesday evening in mid town, there were three felony busts in which the police confiscated two crack pipes, one meth pipe and two weapons. On a Sunday evening with TFD, three people were transported to E.R. for care, while we were listening in over the radio to other units across town handling similar life-safety issues, as well as one house fire in progress.

Among the four neighborhoods that surround the Grant/Alvernon intersection, during the month of May the following incidents were reported:

- Aggravated Assault	9
- Burglary	24
- Theft from Vehicle	12
- Auto Theft	11
- Narcotics Violations	22
- Homicide	1
- Robbery	1
- Graffiti	4 *

*And I'll just add that this is a small percent of what actually goes on all across town and the number doesn't begin to tell the true story.

Two points that I'd like to make. We have a significant public safety problem that has only

been exacerbated by the City's failure to add personnel to either TFD or TPD due to the budget cuts to those agencies. With that in mind, it is critical that you be your neighbors extra eyes and report any suspicious behaviors that you observe. Go to this website for some pointers: <http://pimasheriff.org/files/8412/6929/9304/HomeSecurity.pdf>

The other point is for us to remember that every one of the men and women who you see pull up in a squad car, fire truck or paramedic's truck spends their workdays putting their own safety on the line for you and me. They have homes, families, bills to pay and all of the normal domestic pressures that you and I also face. I would encourage you to give them a thumbs-up when you see them out and about. I'm certain they'll appreciate the thought.

I'm in the process of scheduling a meeting that will involve all of the Ward 6 neighborhoods to meet with our public safety agencies and talk about their recommendations as they relate to crime in our City and how you can and should respond. As soon as that is booked as to time/place/date, we'll get the word out to you.

A few weeks ago I mentioned a promotion that was about to kick off - *Sunday's on the Strip*. It is geared up now and will have its opening on Father's Day at a variety of businesses along Speedway Blvd. The first weekend will feature a Sausage Fest, a Crawfish Boil and a Pool Tournament. The events will be at 3 different locations on Speedway Blvd and begin at 10am. All Sundays on the Strip participants will offer a Father's Day special and the FREE Shuttle, provided by Big Frog's Transportation, will loop Speedway Blvd, stopping at each participating merchant's location between Campbell and Wilmot. To get a complete list of which businesses are participating, check out www.sundaysonthestrip.com

This November we will elect a new mayor, and three council seats are being contested. The League of Women Voters of Greater Tucson is conducting a free workshop on Planning Forums on Saturday, June 25th, 9:00 to noon at the Sam Lena-South Tucson Branch Library at 1607 S. 6th Ave. (a couple blocks south of 22nd Street at the South Tucson government complex). The purpose is to show you how to conduct a candidates issues forum. If you think your organization would like to host such an event, I'd encourage you to participate in what the League is offering on the 25th.

This week I was introduced to a woman who is involved with finding foster homes for dogs. The goal is to get them out of shelters and into a transitional home while an adoptive home is located. Her rescue is Arizona Basset Hound Rescue and they take bassetts and bloodhounds from shelters, owner relinquish, and humane societies. The website is www.azbassetrescue.org. It's a great way to save a dog while they find a permanent home.

Sincerely,



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

Meet and Greet with Steve K. at Sir Vezas

Ward 6 Councilmember Steve Kozachik invites the community to a Meet and Greet at Sir Vezas Taco Garage. This event will occur on Sunday June 26, 2011 at Sir Veza's Taco Garage located at 4699 E Speedway Boulevard, from 1:00-3:00 in the afternoon.

Come join the Councilmember and share your thoughts, ask you questions, or simply just listen to what others have to say. All are welcome at this event. This event is designed to allow residents and constituents get to know Councilmember Kozachik and connect with the community.

Also, come and support locally-owned Sir Veza's Taco Garage. This event is done in conjunction with the growing event, Sunday's on the Strip.



Father's Day on the Strip, June 19

Sundays on the Strip presents Father's Day on Speedway Blvd with three different events: a Sausage Fest, a Crawfish Boil and a Pool Tournament. The events will be at 3 different locations on Speedway Blvd and begin at 10am. All Sundays on the Strip participants will offer a Father's Day special and the FREE Shuttle, provided by Big Frog's Transportation, will loop Speedway Blvd, stopping at each participating merchant's location between Campbell and Wilmot. Other Sundays on the Strip merchants will have a Father's Day Sunday special. The merchants include Sir Veza's Taco Garage, Trident Grill, Casa Video, Lucky Strike Bowl, May's Counter and more. For complete list and info on the weekly specials go to: <http://www.sundaysonthestrip.com/> or click "like" on their Facebook page at: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Sundays-on-the-Strip/175367612513367>

Cinema La Placita Outdoor Film Series presents "Father of the Bride" on Thursday, June 16 at 7:30 p.m.

