

Ward 6 Staff



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Ward 6 – Newsletter

A Message from Steve

JULY 27, 2011

Let me begin with a few comments on the actions of the Rio Nuevo Board last week (calling for forensic audits of two projects and cancelling the Garfield Traub Hotel contract). Then I will get to some items that are sort of Ward 6 “newsy” before jumping into some broader issues that I’ve been sharing with you about.

As a general statement, I support the actions of the Rio Board. They have a fiduciary obligation to get to the bottom of the Rio Nuevo spending, regardless of where that leads. My hope though is that this can be brought to a conclusion quickly so the City and Rio can move forward on projects we agree need to be done - the TCC remodeling for example.

With respect to the Garfield Traub contract, I was trying to get the hotel cancelled over a year ago. I’m glad to see the Rio Board is finally joining me in that goal. What cannot be lost in this discussion though the fact that some combination of Garfield Traub and Turner/Sundt Construction companies owe local subcontractors lots of money for work they did on the East Entry of the TCC. If those companies want to demonstrate a concern for local work, and local subcontractors, they’ll step up to the plate and pay their bills, irrespective of the condition of the contract between Rio and Garfield Traub.

The Board has every right, - in fact they have an obligation to the taxpayers, to make sure the millions of dollars spent on the various Rio Nuevo Projects was spent responsibly and according to the law. I believe they make a mistake though if they allow these audits and investigations get in the way of our ability to move forward together on the few projects on which we agree. If the public sees that all the Board is accomplishing is spending money on attorneys, and not moving the ball forward with respect to projects, they’ll suffer the same legacy as the former Rio Board does.

I continue to hold out hope that the City and Rio can find common ground, even during this time of FBI investigations and Forensic Audits.

The City conducts periodic Brush and Bulky pick up’s throughout the year. Some of the Ward 6 neighborhoods are due in the upcoming few weeks. Please click on the following link and you’ll see both a map of the areas and the schedule for when the pick-ups will begin in those respective locations

http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/esd/2011_BB_Wall.pdf



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

(you may have to enlarge the map on your screen – there’s a lot of information crammed onto one page). If you’ve participated in the past you know how user friendly this service is. If you’ve got trimmings or if you’re a pack-rat that needs to off-load some junk, this is your opportunity.

Also, the political campaign season is upon us. With that you will begin to see some visual spam on your computer. Last year the Democratic Party requested the email lists from each Council Ward office. This year two different Republican campaigns requested the same. Both last year and this year I objected to the City giving out those email addresses. Both times the City Clerk advised me that they’re public records and that I cannot stop their distribution. What I have done is request of the current candidates using the list that they eliminate all Ward 6 email addresses from their list serve. You can also contact the campaign and ask to be dropped from their list if you get some of the material and do not want to continue receiving it. Whether or not that occurs is up to the campaign, but it’s worth a try if you don’t want to have political material arrive unsolicited in your inbox.

Last week I took the opportunity to join TPD on an undercover “John” Sting. For the uninitiated, a “John” is the person who is soliciting a prostitute. He’s the guy everyone has been asking about in the story of the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11). If your sense is that these are just a bunch of frolicking college guys out for some kicks and no harm is being done, let me correct that illusion. During the Sting operation we caught six men - none were college aged, all soliciting sex for a price, and all enabling the act of prostitution in our neighborhoods. Oh yes, this was in mid-town, not out in some outlying area. And if you’ll recall a few weeks ago when I wrote about the hooker arrests in which I participated, the real ones (as opposed to the TPD decoys) were carrying crack cocaine, meth and weapons. The “profession” constitutes the overt physical, chemical, and psychological abuse of women in our community. It furthers drug running in our community and is only made possible by willing participants. Each of the “Johns” we arrested was booked into jail. Hopefully they come out with a greater sense of commitment to keeping our community free from all that comes with sex for sale on our City streets.

The TPD officers who conducted the Sting were professional in their demeanor and they were all committed to cleaning up the blight from our neighborhoods. The three TPD “decoys” were the young women you pass in the grocery store every day. One was a young mom. They all risked their own safety in participating in this operation. Their making themselves the target of solicitations was degrading at every level, even if it was “for show.” The fact that they were dressed normally and simply standing near a bus stop, but were subjected to being hassled by the slime who stopped to try to pick them up, should make each of us take a moment and reflect on the safety of our own wives, sisters, daughters and female friends. They each have a right to walk the streets without being propositioned. Guys, earlier I referenced a Biblical story. That Book also states you should “treat younger women as sisters, with absolute purity” (1 Timothy 5:2). I don’t want to get preachy, but given what I have witnessed on our City streets, it’s not bad counsel. Thanks to the men and women who risk their own safety daily in support of our City.

Ok, shifting gears – last year Governor Brewer announced that she was going to name an Arizona Commerce Authority, the purpose of which was to aggressively recruit businesses into the State. This week she named the members of that Board. They represent a broad cross-section of various sectors of the business community from around the State. Looking



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://
ems3.tucsonaz.gov/
infoguide](http://ems3.tucsonaz.gov/infoguide)

at the list I can honestly say that there are some of those sectors I believe we're currently adequately represented in, and others that need a boost. That's an individual perspective. But what is clear is that they each come to the Authority with the goal of working to improve our State's economy. In that, I support their efforts and hope to be called upon to assist in whatever way I can. Here are the members of the Governor's Commerce Authority, with their individual affiliations:

Members of the Arizona Commerce Authority Board of Directors:

- Co-Chairman, Jerry Colangelo – Principal Partner, JDM Partners
- Richard Adkerson – President and CEO, Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold
- Drew Brown – Founder and Chairman of the Board, DMB Associates
- Michael Bidwill – President, Arizona Cardinals
- Roy Vallee – Executive Chairman, Avnet
- Craig Barrett – Chairman of the Board and CEO (Retired), Intel
- Mary Peters – President, Mary E. Peters Consulting Group
- Gary Abrams – CEO and President, Abrams Airborne Manufacturing
- Mike Ingram – CEO and President, El Dorado Holdings
- Michael Manson – Co-Founder and Executive Chairman, Motor Excellence
- Candace D. Wiest – President and CEO, West Valley National Bank
- Victor Smith – President and Owner, JV Farms
- Phillip L. Francis – Executive Chairman, PetSmart, Inc.
- Doug Pruitt – Chairman and CEO, Sundt Construction
- Paul Bonavia - Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Tucson Electric Power
- Tim Jeffries – Founder, P7 Enterprises
- Stephen Macias – President and CEO of Pivot Manufacturing
- Don Cardon – President and CEO of the Arizona Commerce Authority

Over the past three weeks, I have been gathering information related to the roll-out of the new 9-1-1 Emergency Response System at the City Communications Center. Each week there has been a different angle about which to share. During the first week it was exposing the fact that there were glitches in the new system. During the second week it was my calling for the elimination of furloughs, and reclassification of existing Fire/EMS-911-TPD dispatchers so we can address the staffing issues at the Center. The system problems continue and the Qwest technicians continue to try to resolve them. The City Manager has committed to look at the costs associated with both the furloughs and the reclassifications and to take appropriate action.

This week there are both good and not so good items to share.

Good – the City has finally put together a committee that includes front-line dispatchers to work with and advise the Qwest technicians on the troubles they’re encountering.

Bad – this should have been done before the system was purchased; talk to the user group and learn something about their work before deciding on a new system.

Good – Some progress is being made on system corrections

Bad – Some of the problems are significant and still need resolution. One in particular is of concern. There is a feature called an Alerting System. What it does is “alert” a given fire station that they’re being dispatched to a scene. The alert is both audible and visual – sound and lights. The trouble is that sometimes the lights go off with no sound/sometimes there is audio with no lights to alert the firefighters/sometimes the alerting system works well, but it alerts the wrong station. They’re working on it – and the dispatchers hope their signals are received properly with each event.

Good – there are several of the dispatchers who have shared, and who continue to share their experiences with me. Otherwise, none of this would be in the public domain. Why?

Because...

Bad – the City hierarchy has told them that they are not to report their experiences, but to allow information to filter out through management. I call that a “gag order.” The City Manager disputes that label and supports the policy. The policy was requested by the City Attorney’s Office as a way to control potential liability that might accrue to the City over the many issues related to the new system.

I understand wanting to manage liability. I also believe there’s a larger principle at issue: the safety of the public. You own the 9-1-1 system. You have a right to know the progress, or not, of the repairs being made to it. The best source for that information is the people who work the dispatch boards daily.

For that reason I requested that the City Manager instruct the management of the Communications Center to lift the ‘gag order’ (in fairness, the City Manager says it’s not a “gag order” – they were just told not to speak out. Some might call that a distinction without a difference.) He refused. As long as it is in place the workers are boxed into the position of either speaking freely and being subject to insubordination charges and discipline, or keeping quiet and suffering the compunctions of conscience of knowing what they know, but not having an outlet through which to share their knowledge with the public they serve. I sympathize, and I’ll continue to work through the City Manager’s Office to try to improve their working conditions, wages and work towards the elimination of their furlough days.

Oh, and their right of free speech might also be a nice touch to be restored by the City.

Much as he’d like it to be otherwise, this issue isn’t going away until leadership from the City Manager’s office results in serious changes in relation to the various issues going on at the

Communications Center.

Insuring the safety of the public is one of the core commitments the Mayor and Council are charged with by Charter. In that, there are three legs to the stool; Police, Fire and Dispatch (each is supported by I.T. - but that's a topic that I'm still investigating). We need to be strong and competitive in all three of those areas or the weak link theory will trump response times and having sufficient personnel to deal with the many and varied issues confronted on the streets daily by these men and women. It's with that end in mind that I'm continuing to spotlight the events of the Dispatch Center, just as I have shared about the other two agencies in previous newsletters, and from the M&C study session table throughout the course of our budget conversations.

Finally, it's with sadness that I report to you that Christal will be leaving the Ward 6 team after this week. Any of you who have dealt with our office know the vibrancy she brings to her work. We'll miss her and wish her well as she moves to new employment. Thanks for what you've brought to the office, Christal.

Sincerely,



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

Back To School Supplies Drive

Every child should start the new school year with the supplies they need... Aviva Children's Services is asking you to help children in need with the following school supplies.

New Backpacks for all ages *Notebooks

***3 Ring Binders *Calculators *General School Supplies**

AVIVA Children's Services is a non-profit agency that provides services and donations to children who are victims of neglect, abuse, poverty and are in the care of Child Protective Services. Drop off location: Ward 6 Council office 3202 E. 1st Street

Super Summer Sale on 4th Avenue

Come and listen free music on 4th Avenue and a Spectacular Merchant Sale to boot on Saturday, July 30 · 10:00am - 11:30pm. Enjoy original live music at four locations along 4th Avenue while shopping at over 100 locally owned businesses. Spectacular savings on clothing, gifts, home décor and more. Have lunch at one of over 20 Restaurants, listen to local artisans music and shop the savings till you drop. More information at www.FourthAvenue.org