



Ward 6 Staff



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Council Member



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Ward 6 Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 17, 2010

A Message From Steve

Last night we hosted the Ward 6 Town Hall to discuss both Propositions 400 and 401. The crowd overflowed capacity, with standing-room-only for the 3-hour presentation and Q&A. My take-away reaction from the meeting is this:

- a) The public is leery of passing the Charter Amendments, primarily because of the Mayor and Council salary increases that are included in the package. The proponents feel the four elements of the proposition play well together as a budget-neutral Charter change that will result in better governance. The opponents question the process by which the measures arrived on the ballot, and have issues with respect to giving the city manager unchecked authority to discharge certain workers.
- b) There exists a huge trust issue between the general public and the city government, specifically with respect to how we as city leadership have spent tax dollars. That is the primary hurdle voters will have to cross when weighing the balance between adopting a sales tax increase vs. the probability of laying off large numbers of city workers, including public safety workers if the tax measure fails.

Both Proposition 400 and 401 have websites pro and con. Visit them. Do your own homework and educate yourselves before voting on the measures. Both have very important implications for our community, not only in the months to come, but in the much longer timeline.

If you missed the meeting last night, you can watch it on Access Tucson at the following times:

- Monday, 9/20
- Tuesday, 9/21
- Wednesday, 9/22

Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout October at 8:00 p.m.

Sundays throughout October at 7:00pm; **Wednesdays** throughout October at 3:30pm

You can find Access Tucson on Channel 74 with Comcast, and on Channel 99 if you have Cox.

Thanks go out to the volunteers from Access Tucson who took a large part of their day and evening setting up, shooting, and editing the town hall.



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

Development Services

791-4505

Southwest Gas

889-1888

Gas Emergency/ Gas Leaks

889-1888

West Nile Virus Hotline

243-7999

Environment Service

791-3171

Graffiti Removal

792-2489

Continued: A Message From Steve

Another thanks goes out to my friend Alice, who correctly pointed out to me that in my attempt at giving the high points of the various Propositions that will appear on the ballot in November, with respect to Prop 110, I neglected to mention that a very important change incorporated in its language is that it allows for land swaps, an issue that could have implications related to encroachment concerns in the areas surrounding Davis-Monthan AFB, among other areas.

Vote smart. Take the time to participate as an informed voter.

The City Council is still wrestling with the budget. Next week I have asked that we discuss the various elements of my Plan D, and any other suggestions other council members might want to air. The voting public deserves to hear in open forum how we each stand on these issues before we place them in a package.

Another continuing issue is whether or not we are going to move forward with the Downtown Convention Center Hotel project at this time. I have asked the city manager to produce the "Fact Sheet" to which he has referred; a document he says will contain what the City considers "absolutely critical" if we are going to participate in this deal. We'll also continue to talk about the Guaranteed Maximum Price, but my perspective continues to be that if the financial terms (the exposure of the General Fund) fail to result in an acceptable risk, the cost is less relevant to the discussion.

To end on an up-note . . . we were presented with a review of the many projects that have begun in the downtown area. It includes a good mix of retail, entertainment, and residential opportunities. The UA student housing RFP is out on the street and a variety of other players are emerging in the market. These past several months have seen the beginnings of a change in confidence among some of the investors who have been sitting on the sidelines. These are the "singles and doubles" I've been preaching. Whether or not the market conditions are ripe for swinging for the fence (the hotel project) remains to be seen. That's the importance of the financial plan we're working on with the Rio Nuevo District Board.

Sincerely,

Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6
<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/ward6>

Join MOCA

When: 25 September 2010

Where: Museum of Contemporary Art
265 S. Church Avenue, Downtown Tucson

Time: 4:00pm

Join Moca for a Discussion on the Current State of the Fourth Estate Reporter and author Mort Rosenblum and other journalists will engage in a panel discussion moderated by Nancy Sharkey, former Senior Editor of the New York Times.

In a wired world, with a 24/7 stream of information flowing to our perpetually lit screens, how do we make sense of the world around us? How do we make critical distinctions about the quality of information or the integrity of those reporting and producing? How do we separate what's important from what's merely popular? What is the current state of the fourth estate? MOCA invites the public to join Rosenblum and fellow journalists for a discussion on these important topics.

The event is FREE and open to the public, but reservations are strongly encouraged. Please email info@moca-tucson.org to make a reservation.