

Ward 6 Staff



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Ward 6 Newsletter

TUCSON FIRST

September 21, 2015

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Use of City Facilities

Each month we host over 100 groups of all kinds at the Ward Office. Now that we're entering the home stretch of an election season, I need to make clear some guidelines for what can and cannot be done on City property as relates to advocacy.

We welcome all non-profits to use our facilities to meet as schedules permit. Each is free to set its own agenda, which might include picking and choosing ballot initiatives to discuss. However, because the use of the facility is the use of a City resource, the meeting has to be impartial. Meetings can include discussion and even debate of the ballot measures, but if the presentation is anything but purely informational material, you must provide an equal opportunity to all viewpoints on those measures.

Further, if you're promoting one side of a ballot measure, you cannot do that within the Ward facility by passing out flyers or holding up signage. That's also true for outside the building on the City property directly outside the doors.



Important Phone Numbers

**Tucson Police
Department**
911 or nonemergency
791-4444

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 Wise
791-5071

**Planning and
Development
Services** 791-5550

**Pima Animal Care
Center**
724-5900

**Pima County Vector
Control**
Cockroach: 443-6501
Mosquito: 243-7999

Continued: A Message From Steve

These rules comply with a recent Attorney General's ruling – we need you to be respectful of the A.G. opinion.

Sun Tran

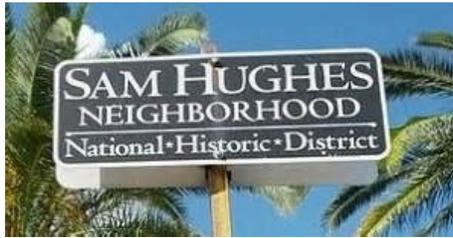
By now you've heard the strike was settled. More on that below, but it's important that this piece of the news get out up front.

If you're a rider with an active 30-Day Pass, a 30-Day Express Pass, or a 30-Day Economy Pass on a SunGo Card, you will be receiving 42 days on the pass without extra charge. The purpose is to make you whole for the days lost as a result of the strike. The additional days may take until the end of this week to load onto your card.

If you're a GO Tucson Mobile Ticket App customer with any of those Passes on the mobile app, you need to call 792.9222 for details on how your days will be credited.

If you'd like a complete description of the adjustment policy, check out this Sun Tran link: <http://bit.ly/1izG0Ce>

Historic Tax Credits



Reminder that this week, on Wednesday at 5:30pm, we're hosting a meeting at the Ward 6 Office during which you'll be able to learn about the qualifiers that can make your home eligible for some rather significant property tax credits. I've teased this event in the last few newsletters – this is the week.

We'll have representatives from our Historic Preservation Office and the County Tax Assessor's Office on hand to describe both what it takes to qualify and how you actually get signed onto the program. My bride and I got our house included, and it's nice to see a little more disposable income than had we not.

This is a program made possible through the State. It doesn't cost you anything to participate, and in fact it saves you money. We'll hang around as long as it takes on Wednesday to get your questions answered. The people who know this stuff will be in the room, so I'd encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity.

Midtown Police Update

Along the lines of upcoming meetings that may be of interest to midtown residents, here's a 'Save the Date' suggestion for Saturday, November 14th. Beginning at 10am and lasting until 2pm at the La Quinta Inn (102 N Alvernon), our Operations Division Midtown will be presenting their first-ever "Safe Seniors" event. TPD is the lead agency on this, but they've also corralled participation from the State Attorney General's office, the Association for Resources and Choices "Elder Shelter," the U.S. Postal Inspector, Pima Council on Aging, the Southern Arizona Legal Aid folks, Michael McDonald and the Community Food Bank, and the Pima County Health Department.



Important Phone Numbers

Senator John
McCain (R)
520-670-6334

Senator Jeff
Flake (R)
520-575-8633

Congresswoman
Martha McSally (R)
(2nd District)
(202) 225-2542
Tucson Office: 520-
881-3588

Congressman
Raul Grijalva (D)
(3th District)
520-622-6788

Governor Doug
Ducey (R)
602-542-4331
Tucson office:
520-628-6580

Mayor Jonathan
Rothschild
520-791-4201

ZoomTucson Map
[http://
maps.tucsonaz.gov/
/zoomTucson/](http://maps.tucsonaz.gov/zoomTucson/)

The purpose of the event is to put on a ‘safety fair,’ during which agencies will be able to describe fraud, scams and instances of attempted (or successful) exploitation of our seniors. There will also be agencies on hand to describe areas where seniors can turn for assistance in the community. We have a significant senior population in midtown, and this event is specifically aimed at serving that population more effectively.

Credit for this event goes to Captain Mike Gillooly, Officer Dan Lucas, and Sgt. Rick Radinsky from the TPD Fraud Unit. You’ll be able to thank the other agencies represented and the local businesses who have stepped up to provide refreshments at the event in person. If you are a senior citizen or are close to seniors, please let them know about this event and/or offer to get them to it. Broadway and Alvernon is smack dab in the middle of Ward 6, so you’re close, regardless of where you live in the Ward.

More on Police

One more TPD related item – we’re looking for members of the community who would like to serve on the Citizen Police Advisory Review Board (CPARB). Currently there are four advisory, non-voting positions open. The term is for two years.

This Commission was started back in ‘97. Its purpose is to promote a constructive and open citizen-police partnership and dialogue. The Commission reviews cases, studies police-related issues, and can make recommendations to M&C on policy issues. I’ve sat in on some of its meetings and have heard reports on the use of body cameras, ‘stop-data’ as it relates to racial/ethnic demographics, and a self-test TPD gave to its personnel on racial bias. It’s interesting material.

These are the qualifications for applying:

- Must be a resident of the City of Tucson
- Must never have been convicted of a felony
- Must not currently be a peace officer
- Must attend monthly meetings of CPARB
- Must participate in Board activities including appropriate training

If you’d like to be considered, you can contact us at the Ward 6 Office (791.4601), or send a letter of interest (not to exceed three pages) to the City Clerk’s office, attention Karisa McMillan. Her address is PO Box 27210, Tucson, 85726-7210. Make sure to include your full name, address, and phone number in that packet, plus a brief description of your community involvement. CPARB meets at the Ward 6 Office, so as with the Safe Senior event, its midtown, central, and convenient for most.

Let’s Talk Education

On the same night we adopted a Memorial directed to support of the Brady Code of Conduct, we also sent a nudge to the State Legislature and Governor related to education funding. Credit to Council Member Romero for crafting that message. Here’s the language we adopted:

A MEMORIAL

RELATING TO EDUCATION; URGING THE ARIZONA LEGISLATURE AND

GOVERNOR DUCEY TO REVISIT THE FISCAL YEAR 2016 BUDGET AND RESTORE EDUCATION FUNDING.

WHEREAS, the Arizona Legislature adopted and Arizona Governor Doug Ducey signed a Fiscal Year 2016 state budget that cuts funding for education from kindergarten through the graduate college level, causing long-term negative impacts to limit seriously business growth and new-business attraction, and

WHEREAS, this budget cuts \$352 million from direct state assistance to elementary and secondary education, including \$30 million from joint technical education district programs; and

WHEREAS, this budget eliminates state assistance to community colleges in Pima and Maricopa counties; and

WHEREAS, this budget cuts \$99 million in state assistance to the state's public universities, \$28.4 million of which comes from the University of Arizona; and

WHEREAS, all of these public education districts and institutions were subjected in prior years to significant state budget cuts; and

WHEREAS, all of these public education districts and institutions have pursued innovative ways to deal with the past cuts, but now are faced with a harsh prospect of greatly diminished abilities to educate our children and youth; and

WHEREAS, the Arizona Constitution's promise of a quality public education for all state residents now is in more serious jeopardy than ever before; and

WHEREAS, the future and promise of an Arizona with an educated populace and a healthy economy would be enhanced greatly if the 2016 state budget allocated additional funding for public education.

NOW, THEREFORE, YOUR MEMORIALIST, THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TUCSON, ARIZONA RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Mayor and Council urges the Arizona Legislature and Governor Ducey to reverse the 2016 Fiscal Year budget cuts on assistance to education in order to restore education funding adequate for the state to attract companies and institutions that provide good-paying jobs, but need and demand quality educational offerings for employees and their children.

It went out to the Governor, our local State delegation, the President of the State Senate, and Speaker of the State House.

Check out these data:

- a) **Unemployment Rate:** The combined unemployment rate for youth between the ages of 16 - 19 and 19-24 in the City of Tucson is 31.1% (<http://factfinder2.census.gov>)
- b) **Poverty Rate:** The poverty rate for households with school-aged children in the City of Tucson is 33.5% (<http://factfinder2.census.gov>)
- c) **Graduation Rate:** The average graduation rate for identified schools is 63%.

There is an undeniable link between failing to complete high school and poverty later in life. The State is concerned with economic development. Fully funding education equates to economic development. The data don't lie.

Will the Memorial cause a sea-change up in Phoenix? Not likely, just as the Brady Code Memorial won't do so on the topic of gun safety. But in both cases, we as a governing body have an obligation to our constituents to speak up on these important issues. We did, and we'll continue to do so.

AmeriCorps

Also on the education front, we joined on with the AmeriCorp program. Eight Tucson high schools will be a part of the local project. The schools include Catalina High School, Desert View, Flowing Wells, Palo Verde, Pueblo, Santa Rita, Sentinel Peak, and the S.T.A.R. Academic Center. Pursuant to our Memorandum of Agreement, AmeriCorps members have begun serving at each of those schools.

Each of the schools will receive eight fulltime AmeriCorps members. Their responsibilities will include building relationships with the surrounding neighborhoods, with the kids in the schools, and with their families. The intent is to teach through community-based involvement. It's going to ensure the families are aware of available services – social, tutorial, and otherwise.

Sixteen of the half-time AmeriCorps members will work with non-profit service providers. The goal there will be to assist in service delivery to the high schools. Also included in this effort is the Pima County One Stop Career Center. This is a local, County, and Federal educational effort. Through this partnering, it is our intention to increase graduation rates locally and to help needy families access the services we have available throughout Tucson and Pima County.

The Mayor's office has dedicated 10% of one of his staffers (Karla Soto) to this work. We're also dedicating 10% of Diana's time toward making sure the City piece of this is fully staffed and getting done what the families, students, and schools need and deserve.

Through our local work, we hope to send a continuing message north to Phoenix that even if they've given up on our kids, we haven't.

More Education

This is a photo from inside the Richard F. Caris Mirror Lab, located on the UA campus – actually on the east side of Arizona Stadium. Look up at the east side of the stadium and you'll see what looks like a Shriner's Cap. That's the top part of the mirror casting gear.



Last Friday, Alison, Amy, and I toured the facility. The event was recognition of Mr. Caris' gift to help fund what will ultimately be a \$500M project. Dr. Joaquin Ruiz and plenty of other smart people are working in this astronomy and optics effort, with the goal of increasing our knowledge of our own origins by looking back in time in the universe.

The UA, which is affiliated with the National Optics and Astronomical Observatory, headed by our own Dr. Buell Januzzi, is recognized worldwide as a leader in space research. The Great Magellan Telescope, being constructed from the seven largest mirrors in the world, is just a piece of what goes on through the UA.

Many thanks to Mr. Caris for his gift, and to the faculty and staff at the UA for continuing this enormously important work in the face of budget reductions coming at them from the State.

A Final Education-Related Add – Student Towers

On the other end of the 'smart people' spectrum, we've already seen two incidents this semester in which kids have been tossing debris off from the balconies at the student housing towers over by the Islamic Center. The difference this time around is that management, working with their own in-house security and TPD, has been proactive in addressing the incidents.

Most recently, officers responded to Level, where a tenant turned in a co-tenant after watching him toss a beer can from the 14th floor. Nobody below was injured – dumb luck. But the kid whose identity was confirmed by the video cameras that are now in place was given a \$1,000 fine, and his balcony has been locked off for the remainder of his lease term.

Management is 100% on board with a zero tolerance response. The work we did last year at around this time has paid off in a new and very productive relationship between Next, Level, Hub, UAPD, TPD, the towers' in-house security, the UA Dean of Students and Community Relations people, and our office.

If you have incidents in your neighborhoods that involve UA students, first try to connect with them and get them to act in a cooperative, neighborly way. Failing that, there's the 24 hour UA hotline (282.3649), calling 911 for extreme partying, and getting in touch with us at Ward 6 for our involvement.

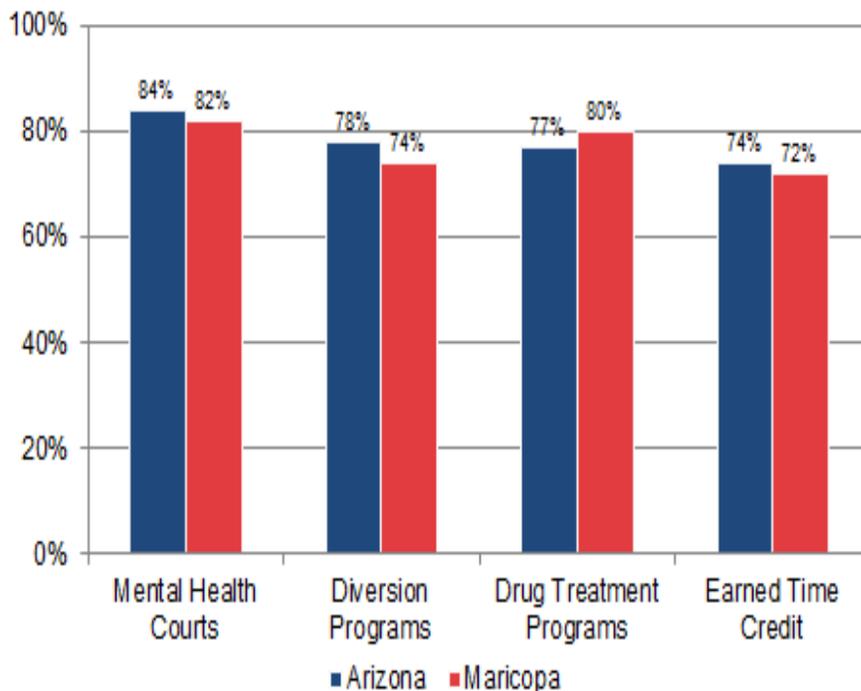
Thanks to the Level management for taking care of these incidents. We're grateful to the students who acted on their own to bring to the attention of management the kid who tossed the can.

Crime, Education, and Incarceration

Even up in Maricopa County, the residents of this state recognize the value of alternatives to incarceration. Above, I showed data related to unemployment, poverty, and education.

There's also a correlation between those metrics and involvement in the criminal justice system. Not all non-violent offenders need to be tossed into jail. Here's data that show taxpayers in this state support that notion:

SUPPORT FOR ALTERNATIVES TO PRISON



Grover Norquist isn't what you'd call a wild-eyed liberal. And yet, even he sees the need to address prison reform laws. Here's a quote from the guy:

"Today's criminal justice system is big government on steroids, and the responsibility for taming its excesses falls to those committed to smaller government: conservatives. We fight against big government, excess spending, unaccountability, and bureaucracy in nearly every other segment of spending."

Arizona has the sixth-highest incarceration rate in the US and the highest of Western states, including California. The State budget for the Department of Corrections is over \$1B this year. It's the third largest agency share of the budget, taking 11% of the State General Fund. Since 2003, the Corrections budget has grown by over two-thirds.



It would be hard, even for those deeply involved in the private prison industry, to deny the fiscal and social wisdom of prison and sentencing reform. Expect much more on this to come.

Downtown Tucson Gift Card

I'm going to interject a quick note to break up the more hard newsy stuff – the introduction of a new Downtown Tucson Gift Card that's good for discounts at over 70 downtown shops and restaurants. Each of the businesses that are participating is locally owned, so all of the proceeds from sales of the card stay in our local economy. Local First Arizona and the Downtown Tucson Partnership (DTP) have signed onto this. You can see more details on each of their websites.

The card is an eGift card – it's completely digital. You can purchase it through the DTP website at www.downtowntucson.org and download the InstaGift app onto your smartphone. From there, you can access, view, and redeem your card. You don't have to carry it around with you in order to use it at, say, a night out at a local downtown restaurant. Some of the businesses signed up include Hydra, Proper, Hotel Congress, 47 Scott, Empire Pizza, Playground, the Rialto, Roasted, and Johnny Gibson's Downtown Market.

Kudos to Caitlin Jensen and Michael Keith from the DTP for pushing this out on their site. Click on the link and it's the first thing you'll see in the upper left. This comes just in time for those of you who don't wait until December 24th to start thinking about the gift giving season. And, it's also good for just a nice night out on the town.

Upcoming Development – Two Proposed Hotels

Later this week, we'll be voting on the approval of what's called a "Notice of Intent" to enter into a tax incentive agreement. The development will be a Marriott Residence Inn that will be located at Main Gate, across the street from the existing University Marriott. The intent is to compliment with new price points the hotel that's already nearby. Both will be on the Streetcar line, and both will be attractive to UA visitors.

This project has already gone through the required third party economic analysis. We approved moving forward with the incentive package at our last M&C meeting. The project will consist of 180 suites, a restaurant, 5,500 square feet of new meeting space, about 10,000 square feet of retail space, and a 140 space parking garage. On the top floor will be a UA Club, available to UA current and past faculty and staff, as well as alumni.

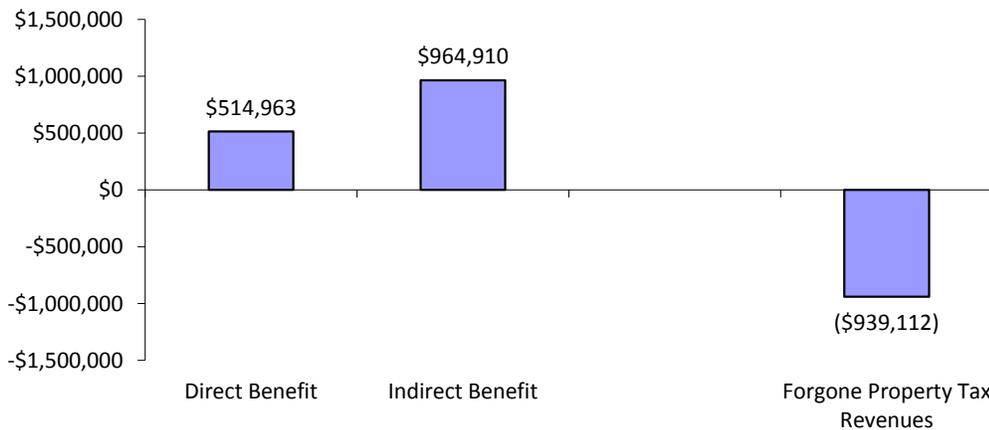
The total value of the project is around \$38M. When completed, it'll employ 155 full- and part-time workers. We're dedicating 45% of site specific taxes that will be generated by the project with the requirement they be used for public infrastructure and project improvements. The benefits to the development will be approximately \$2M. The *direct benefits* back to the taxpayers over the incentive period are estimated at being right at \$5M.

I highlight the 'direct benefits' because I've long had questions about giving incentives to projects in which the benefits given to the development exceed the direct benefits going back to the taxpayers. Those who rely on indirect benefits to meet that threshold cause me to really look hard at what's being built, how it fits into what we're doing downtown, and how close the direct benefits are to the amount that the development is asking for. The Marriott clearly checks the right boxes.

Arizona Hotel

...and yet, we'll be considering another project in early October that is again causing me to ask some questions about how we balance what we're giving in terms of incentives against what we're receiving in return.

VALUE OF PROJECT TO STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



The Arizona Hotel will be located immediately west of the Ronstadt Transit Center. Once the RTC is improved, the hotel property will significantly increase in value. The graph shown above is how the direct benefits compare to the property tax revenues we will forego if we approve the incentives being requested.

Eventually we'll start receiving the property taxes (after 8 years), but the following graph shows what we get in the interim.

**STATE AND LOCAL REVENUE IMPACTS NET OF INCENTIVES
ARIZONA HOTEL REDEVELOPMENT**

	City of Tucson			County, RTA and Schools			State of Arizona			Total Public Benefit
	Property ¹	Sales ²	Total Benefit	Property ³	Sales ²	Total Benefit	Sales ²	Pers Income	Total Benefit	
Direct Impacts	\$0	\$151,975	\$151,975	\$0	\$44,444	\$44,444	\$318,545	\$0	\$318,545	\$514,963
2015 (const)	\$0	\$18,868	\$18,868	\$0	\$11,167	\$11,167	\$125,070	\$0	\$125,070	\$155,105
2016	\$0	\$14,858	\$14,858	\$0	\$3,714	\$3,714	\$21,757	\$0	\$21,757	\$40,330
2017	\$0	\$15,341	\$15,341	\$0	\$3,835	\$3,835	\$22,410	\$0	\$22,410	\$41,586
2018	\$0	\$15,877	\$15,877	\$0	\$3,969	\$3,969	\$23,082	\$0	\$23,082	\$42,929
2019	\$0	\$16,393	\$16,393	\$0	\$4,098	\$4,098	\$23,775	\$0	\$23,775	\$44,266
2020	\$0	\$16,884	\$16,884	\$0	\$4,221	\$4,221	\$24,488	\$0	\$24,488	\$45,594
2021	\$0	\$17,391	\$17,391	\$0	\$4,348	\$4,348	\$25,223	\$0	\$25,223	\$46,962
2022	\$0	\$17,913	\$17,913	\$0	\$4,478	\$4,478	\$25,979	\$0	\$25,979	\$48,370
2023	\$0	\$18,450	\$18,450	\$0	\$4,613	\$4,613	\$26,759	\$0	\$26,759	\$49,822
2024 (post-GPLET)	\$10,146	\$23,985	\$34,131	\$107,243	\$4,613	\$111,856	\$26,759	\$0	\$26,759	\$172,746

	City of Tucson			County and Schools			State of Arizona			Total Public Benefit
	Property	Sales	Total Benefit	Property	Sales	Total Benefit	Sales	Personal Income	Total Benefit	
Indirect (Employee-Driven)	\$34,421	\$45,410	\$79,831	\$345,552	\$14,370	\$359,922	\$160,946	\$364,211	\$525,157	\$964,910
2016	\$4,303	\$5,676	\$9,979	\$43,194	\$1,796	\$44,990	\$20,118	\$45,526	\$65,645	\$120,614
2017	\$4,303	\$5,676	\$9,979	\$43,194	\$1,796	\$44,990	\$20,118	\$45,526	\$65,645	\$120,614
2018	\$4,303	\$5,676	\$9,979	\$43,194	\$1,796	\$44,990	\$20,118	\$45,526	\$65,645	\$120,614
2019	\$4,303	\$5,676	\$9,979	\$43,194	\$1,796	\$44,990	\$20,118	\$45,526	\$65,645	\$120,614
2020	\$4,303	\$5,676	\$9,979	\$43,194	\$1,796	\$44,990	\$20,118	\$45,526	\$65,645	\$120,614
2021	\$4,303	\$5,676	\$9,979	\$43,194	\$1,796	\$44,990	\$20,118	\$45,526	\$65,645	\$120,614
2022	\$4,303	\$5,676	\$9,979	\$43,194	\$1,796	\$44,990	\$20,118	\$45,526	\$65,645	\$120,614
2023	\$4,303	\$5,676	\$9,979	\$43,194	\$1,796	\$44,990	\$20,118	\$45,526	\$65,645	\$120,614
Total Direct and Indirect (2015 to 2023)	\$34,421	\$197,385	\$231,806	\$345,552	\$58,814	\$404,366	\$479,490	\$364,211	\$843,701	\$1,479,873

¹ Based on city property tax rate of 1.4304%. Incorporates depreciation on personal property which is excluded from GPLET.

² Direct sales tax includes only net new sales tax and excludes existing sales from Miss Saigon restaurant.

³ Based on county/school property tax rate of 15.1194%.

Focus on the top half of the graph. That's the direct impact on us and the other jurisdictions that would forego the property tax benefits under the incentive. That's a lot of zeros on our side of the ledger. Looking at the bottom half of the graphic shows how the indirect benefits change the picture.

What I've discussed with our City Manager is how, in cases where the project clearly relies on indirect benefits to make sense, we might at the very least write into our agreement that we continue to receive the value of property taxes we're already receiving from the property for the eight-year term of the incentives.

In this case, the City currently receives \$1,731 annually from the unimproved property, though the total property tax received for all jurisdictions is just over \$22K annually. If we are going to offer the eight year tax incentive, we might want to consider not giving away every penny of what we're already receiving. At least that offsets some of the disparity between the direct benefits we get from the construction and such, and the total value of the incentives we give to the development.

When I started doing this in 2009, we were giving away \$1 per year leases. One of the

first things I worked for was market rate leases, or 25% of market for non-profits. We have clear precedent for making financial changes in areas where we're being excessively generous with your money. I'm interested in that discussion in the case of tax incentives, too.

The proposed Arizona Hotel development will include a mix of sixteen market rate and affordable housing units, plus retail and office space. The retail includes the existing Miss Saigon restaurant and another restaurant that'll be new to the area. The office is a relocation of the Prescott College administrative functions. It's a good project, but I want to use this as the starting point for possibly changing how we look at tax benefits, retaining at least what we're receiving from projects in their unimproved state.

There's no reason to lock into how we do things just because that's how we've always done them. Whether this is the moment to rethink the GPLET tax incentives remains for our discussion around the table. I look forward to having that conversation next month.

Bus Strike

This is a Media Release I issued last week.



**CITY OF
TUCSON**

Council Member Steve Kozachik
Ward 6

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Steve Kozachik
Ward 6 Council Member
(520) 791-4601
Ward6@tucsonaz.gov

Date: 09/17/2015
TDD: 791-2639

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The settlement of the transit strike will allow thousands of citizens and businesses throughout the City to regain some regularity in the conduct of their daily affairs. The Community is the winner as the strike comes to an end.

Throughout the work stoppage, many of us on the Mayor and Council have weighed in on a variety of issues surrounding the strike. If any good comes from the past 44 days, it will be the strike serving as the catalyst for a reexamination of how we fund and manage our transit operations. Too many of our constituents and too many budget decisions depend on how we address those issues for us to allow a simple return to the status quo.

I look forward to joining my colleagues, City staff, our management team, the union, and the community in taking time to address these significant issues in a measured and thoughtful manner.

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Everybody on the M&C knows we have to revisit the way we do transit in this community. I will be interested in hearing perspectives from our regional partners in the RTA/PAG, the management firm we have under contract, City staff, the union, and other stakeholders. It will be through a blending of input that we'll move from what we have in place to a system that's more fiscally sustainable and less subject to interruptions in service. Other jurisdictions do it; so can we.

We are also responsible for providing Sun Van service to our disabled community, and for operating the Sun Link streetcar. I've asked for an October 8th study session item on those two labor contracts, the budget issues each is facing, and, most importantly, how the management team intends to approach contract negotiations so we avoid a strike in either of those two systems. After the disruption the community experienced over the past month plus, we need to hear that our team is fully engaged in a constructive give-and-take with labor on the Sun Van and Sun Link contracts.

Primary Election

A quick note – this is the turnout data for the recent primary election.

	2015	2011	2007
Active Registered Voters	225,105	266,448	251,565
Ballots Cast	33,010	44,356	31,828
Percentage (%)	14.66	16.65	12.65

If you aren't registered, call our City Clerk's Office (791.4213) and they'll help you with that. If you are registered but not on the Permanent Voter List with the County, you need to sign up if you want a mailed ballot. Either way, the turnout for this primary was pretty weak. Get involved or don't complain.

Homeless Ordinance

I'm going to close with a short discussion of what's going on with our attempts to balance rights, needs, and responsibilities related to the homeless population we see largely in the downtown area. There are lots of moving parts – and I often hear comments like 'just take care of it.' That comes from both the people who want us to 'clean up' the downtown core and from people who advocate for the City to provide a camp site for those in need. If it were that easy, it'd have been done a long time ago, both here and around the Country.

We have designated parks. You enjoy them all over town. We don't place limits on whether or not you can sit and lie down in the parks. We don't place limits on how much 'stuff' you can bring into parks when they're open. People hold parties and just hang out in parks all over the City. That's how it should be.

When we recently shut down Viente de Agosto park in downtown, it was the result of what had become an unacceptable level of mess in the area. We cleaned it up, so that once again it does not detract from the downtown aesthetic. But shutting down parks is not the way we're going to address the needs of the homeless and others.

After we shut it down, many of the people who were in Viente simply moved over to the area outside the main library. That's a City park, too, officially called Jacome Plaza. People have a right to be there during the day, just like Reid Park or Kennedy Park. After hours, however, the park closes and everyone is asked to move.

What you're not allowed to do in any area of town is conduct drug deals, fight, aggressively panhandle, or create a nuisance and mess that's in violation of our ordinances. It's also illegal to distribute non-packaged food without a County Health Permit. Recently, we have stepped up our law enforcement in Jacome Plaza, and we're busting people on pretty much a daily basis for dealing drugs and many of the other things I listed above. Similarly, the County has advised a local church that its members are not allowed to distribute

unpackaged food and drinks without a health permit. That's a standard that applies to everybody, regardless of status.

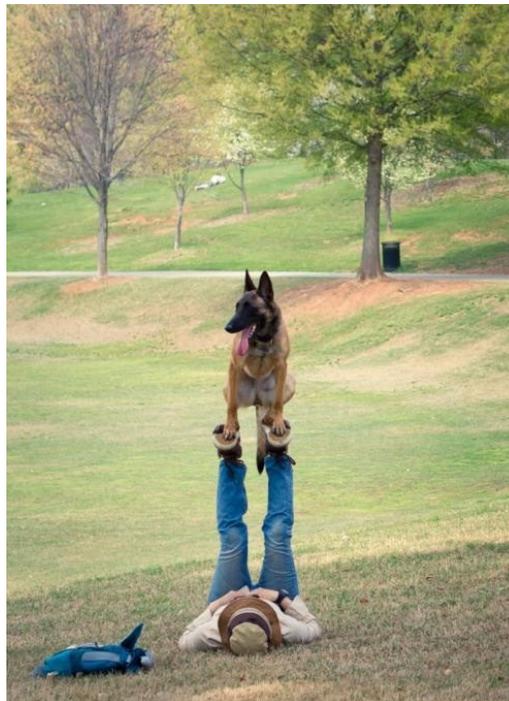
The Police and Fire Departments are spending an inordinate amount of time circulating around the downtown plaza. The surrounding businesses and the public in general have legitimately called for that presence, given the nature of the activities they see taking place in and around the area. But, as with closing parks, we can't continue to simply cite and arrest people and call that our response to the balancing of needs and rights.

I've engaged the faith-based community in finding areas where food can be distributed in compliance with County health codes. We're also looking for the kind of low demand shelter sites that I've written about previously. Discussions continue about some of the 'huts for housing' ideas that are in place in other jurisdictions. And social service providers are still doing daily outreach in an effort to place individuals in the service niches they need.

We're aware of recent rulings from the Department of Justice related to appropriately addressing the status of a person and being sensitive to peoples' life needs when redrawing ordinances. We eat. We sleep. Yet we have an obligation to the community to respect the rights of all when it comes to the free flow of foot traffic and commerce.

This issue is not being ignored, and it's not as easy as simply saying 'deal with it.' We're a compassionate community, and we're a community that must also respect the investments people have made in their places of business. Last week, my staff and I met downtown with the Mayor, City Attorney, our Parks people, and TPD. In the aftermath, we contacted the County to assure health codes were being properly administered. We committed to continue our work on a compassionate but balanced redraw of our ordinances. That'll be done, and it'll be done in a way that balances the needs and rights of the entire community.

No balancing act worth doing is easy. I know there's a level of impatience, but as I noted, if this were easy, it'd have been dealt with long ago.



Sincerely,

Steve Kozachik
Council Member, Ward 6

Ward6@tucsonaz.gov

Events and Entertainment

Circle of Nonviolence / Community Collaborative

Monday, September 28, 2015, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

St. Francis in the Foothills United Methodist Church, 4625 E River Road

A combined meeting of the Greater Southern Arizona's four Circles of Nonviolence and Collaboration. For more information, contact Moji Agha at moji.gha@gmail.com or (520) 325-3545.

mossadeghlegacyinstitute.blogspot.com/p/america-for-nonviolence-anv.html

Mexican Baseball Fiesta

Thursday, October 1 – Sunday, October 4, 2015

Hi Corbett Field, 700 S Randolph Way

The fifth annual Vamos a Tucson Mexican Baseball Fiesta will be held at midtown's Hi Corbett Field this year and will include four teams from the Mexican Pacific League: the **Naranjeros de Hermosillo, Yaquis de Obregón, Aguilas de Mexicali and Cañeros de Los Mochis**. Tickets are available at the Hi Corbett Field box office or online at

www.MexicanBaseballFiesta.com.

National Circus and Acrobats of the People's Republic of China

Thursday, September 24, 2015, 6:30 pm

Fox Tucson Theater, 17 W Congress St

Direct from Beijing, The National Circus and Acrobats of the People's Republic of China presents "Peking Dreams." A performance of movement, color and wonder incorporating elements of acrobatics, Chinese circus and Peking Opera, "Peking Dreams" invites audiences into an artistic world full of history as the actors' flawlessly perform astounding acrobatics in colorful costumes and elaborate make-up. Read more: foxtucsontheatre.org/presents/national-circus-and-acrobats-of-the-peoples-republic-of-china/.

Ongoing

Mission Garden, 929 W Mission Ln

Saturdays 8 am – 12 pm, April to November; 12 pm – 4 pm, December to March

A re-creation of the Spanish Colonial walled garden that was part of Tucson's historic San Agustin Mission. Features Sonoran Desert-adapted heritage fruit-trees, traditional local heirloom crops and edible native plants. *For guided tours call 520-777-9270 and leave message.*

Children's Museum Tucson, 200 S 6th Ave

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm; Saturday & Sunday: 10:00am - 5:00pm

www.childrensmuseumtucson.org

Tucson Botanical Gardens, 2150 N Alvernon Way

September 11, 2015 – January 3, 2016: "Nature Connects, Art with LEGO Bricks"

www.tucsonbotanical.org

Jewish History Museum, 564 S Stone Ave

www.jewishhistorymuseum.org

Fox Theatre, 17 W Congress St

www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

Hotel Congress, 311 E Congress St

hotelcongress.com

Loft Cinema, 3233 E Speedway Blvd

www.loftcinema.com

Rialto Theatre, 318 E Congress St

www.rialtotheatre.com/

The Rogue Theatre at The Historic Y, 300 E University Blvd

www.theroquetheatre.org

Arizona State Museum, 1013 E University Blvd

www.statemuseum.arizona.edu

Arizona Theater Company, 330 S Scott Ave

www.arizonatheatre.org

Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N Main Ave

July 25, 2015 - October 11, 2015: Arizona Biennial 2015

www.TucsonMusuemofArt.org

Meet Me at Maynards, 311 E Congress St (north entrance on Toole)

A social walk/run through the Downtown area. Every Monday, rain or shine, holidays too!

Hotel Congress Check-in begins at 5:15pm.

www.MeetMeatMaynards.com

UA Mineral Museum, 1601 E University Blvd

February 7, 2015– February 7, 2016, 10:00 am – 5:00 pm

"Meet the Trilobites – Arizona's First Inhabitants," this exhibit at the Flandrau Science Center and Planetarium features world-class trilobite fossils from around the globe.

www.uamineralmuseum.org

Southern Arizona Transportation Museum, 414 N Toole Ave.

Tuesday – Thursday, Sunday: 11:00am - 3:00pm; Friday & Saturday: 10:00am - 4:00pm

www.tucsonhistoricdepot.org