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Ward 6 – Newsletter

DECEMBER 27, 2011

A Message from Steve

You are “the City”

One of the themes we constantly hear in the media is references to “the City.” We are fighting a potential lawsuit by Rio Nuevo filed against “the City.” The County wants us, “the City” to pay more money than the voters approved for a new Courthouse. Now there is an initiative put forward by a coalition of business, Rio and the Legislature that, if implemented in full could result in “the City” writing a check to Rio in the neighborhood of \$15M annually.

I’m going to continue to touch on each of these topics in this, and future newsletters. The point I want to drive home though is that when these other entities speak about money “the City” has or will have to fork over, it’s all coming out of your wallet. Sure, the elected body makes decisions, but every penny spent, invested or otherwise disposed of (lawsuits, for example) began this morning in your home when you turned off your alarm clock, got up and went to work to earn a paycheck.

In terms of dollars and cents, “the City” doesn’t exist outside of you. I’d ask you to think in those terms when you hear Rio, the County, the Legislature, or whomever talk about “the City” having to ante up cash. It’s yours.

My goal is to continue to pound home that message so people who can potentially tap your resources have you to answer to when they use “the City” as a euphemism to hide the real target of their raid on the cookie jar.

City/County Courthouse

This is seven year old news. In 2004, the taxpayers authorized the sale of \$76M in bonds to build a Joint City/County Courthouse. Since that time, taxpayers have been paying debt service on those bonds through the payment of your property taxes. The vast majority of those taxpayers reside within the City limits. The Bond Committee authorized spending \$12M of those Bond dollars on a non-voter approved project – the Superior Court renovations. Earlier this year, the Board of Supervisors voted to only build a shell of a building and to fund the interior renovations with more of your money. We don’t know how much. The 2004 Bond package identified just over \$6M in design and project management fees. Now you are being told you will need to fund over \$23M in those fees to get the building up and running.

What is out of the ordinary about this set of facts is that usually, nobody questions these sorts of things.



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

For example:

Do you remember when your County sewer fees were increased last year? Nobody raised an eyebrow when at the Board of Supervisors session during which that occurred, they also sold \$165M in Sewer Revenue Obligations – the sale of bond-like financial instruments (similar to the City's Certificates of Participation) that technically do not fall under the legal definition of bonds, and that do not need voter approval as do regular bonds. One might call that bad faith with the taxpayers. Why? Because this occurred at a time when the voter-approved bonding capacity against sewer user fees had fallen to zero. The \$165M effectively doubled that debt, thus the sewer rate increase. You had no voice in that decision. But they raised your sewer fees to pay for it.

Here's an example of how your water bill breaks down now – taken from a billing statement issued to a Ward 6 constituent:

Total Ccf's consumed during billing cycle – 5

Total Bill - \$61.17

| | | |
|------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Breakdown: | Environmental Svcs Fees | \$17.87 |
| | Sewer volume | \$25.70 |
| | Water volume | \$16.13 |
| | Miscellaneous | \$1.47 |

Trash and County fees both exceed the water portion. You did not vote on the increase in sewer fees. In fact, unless you read this article by Andrea Kelly from the Arizona Daily Star, you'd have been blind sided by it:

http://azstarnet.com/news/local/govt-and-politics/sewer-fee-increases-to-begin-july/article_c1cf319b-a98e-5108-a69a-f41dea8a3f6c.html

What the money was spent for was to protect the County's ability to keep the ADEQ at bay and thereby control wastewater in the region, and therefore growth of the incorporated jurisdictions. If you don't believe me, call the Marana Town Council and ask for their opinion. I would think Oro Valley, Green Valley and Sahuarita would be looking over their shoulders, too.

The real issue here is that, to quote a recent Star article – it's the way we do things in Tucson.

We spend your money, and don't think twice about coming back for more, alleging that if you don't ante up, it'll only cost you more later.

We ask the wrong questions, and therefore get the wrong answers.

The questions:

Did the voters approve a joint facility? Yes

Were they assured that \$76M would build it? Yes

Has it? No

Has the City had a representative at the meetings at which project decisions were made?

Yes (not an effective presence, clearly)

Was it right that the County spent your money on non-voter approved work? No (\$12M undeniably on Superior Court – up to an additional \$17M in design/project management.)

There was an IGA from back in 2005 that put the County Board of Supervisors "in exclu-



Important Phone Numbers

sive control” of how the bond dollars were spent. The millions of bucks stop there. Here’s a copy of that IGA:

<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/12-27-11corthseiga.pdf>

Note that it’s signed by Mr. Huckleberry and Mr. Hein. Both are now County employees.

That’s the history. How do we move forward?

The County has threatened to build something you did not approve – a County only facility.

And they toss out the threat that they will make the surrounding landscape an eyesore if the City doesn’t concede to what they call the City’s “fair share.”

You, the City taxpayers have been paying for this project since its inception through your property taxes. You have paid your “fair share.” The burden shifts to the County BOS to affirmatively direct the County Administrator to credit the City with the \$12M improperly spent on the Superior Court facility, and some significant portion of the \$17M in over design fees. If they do not, it’s the same old way we do things in Tucson – you pay, and pay again.

There’s an election coming in 2012. Everybody will be on record as to how he or she looked out for the interests of the City taxpayers as this unfolds. The City (you) should be credited with money spent for reasons you did not authorize, and not charged twice for it. And you deserve a nicely designed landscape.

In the alternative, there’s \$30M left in the original bond allotment. The City is a 58% occupancy tenant in the not-yet-built joint facility. We have an arguable right to 58% of the remaining money – use that \$17M to do tenant improvements in the City Courthouse and leave the County with their dirt lot.

If the joint facility is built – if the County makes the appropriate credits to the City for the way the money was spent – you should not be charged a lease amount from the County to be housed in the shared facility that your tax money largely built.

So – let’s be clear about the financial credits due to the City. And let’s not threaten to shaft the downtown ambience with a project that is ugly and does not address the aesthetic issues everybody who lives, works or visits downtown expects of the governing bodies who manage policy for the region.

Budget

Right after the first of the new year, we will start to talk about the budget. For me, the issue of the very highest priority is going to be public safety. And the #1 item under that umbrella is going to be fixing our roads. That is absolutely a public safety issue.

For each of the past two budget cycles I have tried unsuccessfully to have significant dollars allocated to the repair and maintenance of our roadways. We received good news that our sales tax receipts are about 5% over what we saw last year. We are also hearing that police and fire pension costs are going to eat up all of that, and more, by a factor of three. Those pension costs are controlled in Phoenix. We cannot address them directly locally but they have a definite impact on the rest of our budget.

We continue to have a General Fund obligation to Sun Tran that has only increased each of the last two years (oddly, by about the same amount that police/fire pensions are rising this year – there is no correlation, but the numbers are nearly the same - \$10M). The State has

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)

traided our Highway User Revenue Fund dollars, money that would have otherwise been available for fixing our roads. We are joined with other jurisdictions trying to recoup those dollars, but even if we do, they won't be sufficient to pave what needs to be paved.

A couple of newsletters ago I shared some data on how we get around. Those numbers were dated. Maia Ingram, from the Living Streets Alliance shared current trend data with me. Here's how we travel:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Car | 74.7% |
| Carpool | 9.3% |
| Public Transportation | 2.8% |
| Bicycle | 3% |
| Walk | 3.1% |
| Work at Home | 4.7% |
| Motorcycle | .4% |
| Other (?? Hot air balloon?) | 1.9% |

So the roads are in horrible condition, and the vast majority of how we travel revolves around using them. This budget cycle we have absolutely got to make that our #1 priority. I'm laying it out there now and hope I find support from the rest of council.

RTA

Continuing on the transit theme, here's the current financial statement from the RTA.

RTA Financial Statement, FY 2010-11

Revenues (in millions)

Sales Tax \$ 64,760

Bond/Investment Income \$ 151,458

Other \$ 6,120

Total Revenues \$ 222,338

Expenditures

Roadway Improvements

Total Roadway \$ 41,038

Safety

Intersection \$ 10,091

Transit Corridor Bus Pullouts \$ 2,011

Elderly & Pedestrian \$ 776

At-grade Rail/

Bridge Deficiencies \$ 761

Signal Technology \$ 642

Total Safety \$ 14,281

Environmental & Economic Vitality

Greenways, Bikeways,

Pathways & Sidewalks \$ 1,590

Transportation-related

Critical Wildlife Links \$ 688

Small Business Assistance \$ 527

**Total Environmental
& Economic Vitality \$ 2,805**

Transit

Sun Tran Services Expansion \$ 5,596

Special Needs \$ 1,981

New Buses &

Maintenance Facilities \$ 4,682

Neighborhood Circulator \$ 4,197

Modern Streetcar \$ 14,371

Total Transit \$ 30,827

Administration Expenses# \$ 1,860

Total Expenditures \$ 90,856

Surplus/(Deficit) \$ 131,482

Year-end Fund Balance \$ 192,721, 000

Some additional thoughts –

- This year the RTA Board authorized the sale of another \$152M in bonds. Your ½ cent sales tax is the funding source for that – to be repaid by 2026.
- They approved that sale, saying that revenues were insufficient to continue the projects planned for the second five-year project cycle. You can see their financial condition from their statement, above.
- In the course of reviewing some projects, they have Value Engineered some of the cost over-runs out of planned design. While that's a good thing from a cost perspective, there are potential troubling implications for the visual result of the projects as they relate to what the voters approved and/or what the neighborhoods along the roadways expect. More openness and transparency in how these decisions are arrived at would be a nice touch.
- The Streetcar is about to begin. That \$200M project is going to challenge the City General Fund from the standpoint of O&M costs. Several millions of dollars per year will be involved. We cannot ignore that as we talk about the transit item during our budget discussions. And finally, there is currently talk about another County Bond proposal coming (back to that, again) to fund roadwork around the Raytheon facility. The buffer is certainly a worthy project. My question is why we are putting it in front of you in a way that will most certainly be presented looking like the Christmas tree in your living room, adorned with added projects that will only escalate the cost of the really necessary portion of the buffer. I'd like to see some creative minds move that project from the County over to an RTA funded project so we're getting a specific project, not loaded down with what the Feds would call 'earmarks.' If that's not legally possible, its up to all of us to ensure we're being asked to fund that which is necessary, and not being asked to fund other work in order to get to the one that matters that may appear down-ballot.

Transit issues are huge. Their costs are immense, the implications for our quality of life are evident every time you drive down Grant Road, and the potential for waste and abuse of your tax dollars exists due to the way the funding sources are secured. Too often you're offered a package deal that forces you to fund unnecessary projects in order to fund the ones that are really desirable

by the majority of us. Too often the initial funding fails to cover the promised projects. Too often you're asked to dip into your wallet, yet again.

It's how we do things in Tucson. It doesn't need to be that way.

Sun Tran

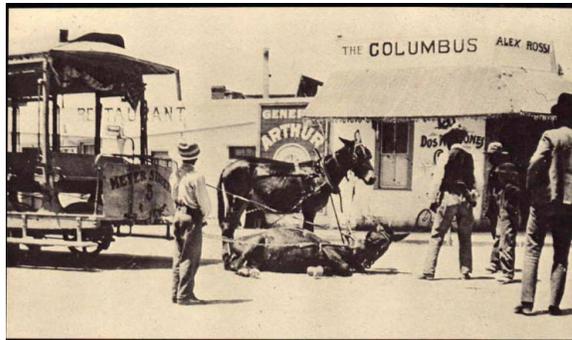
We're entering into a new selection process for the operations of Sun Tran. The current operator, PTM just transferred their GM over to Austin. So regardless of whether or not we stay with PTM, a new management team will be in the saddle.

Some relatively good news is that ridership on Sun Tran is up over budgeted expectations, and fare box revenues are also slightly up over budgeted expectations. The fare increases did not chase people away from the busses.

We still have a large challenge in how we fund this, and the rest of our transit system. It's one of the major elements of our budget and will consume some significant portion of our attention as we enter budget talks.

Caption Contest

Lightening things up a bit – I'm going to issue a "Caption Contest" related to this photo. It's still transit – 1890 Streetcar.



The winner (Ward 6 Staff will decide – Ward 6 staff cannot enter and vote for themselves) will win a \$20 gift certificate to eat at Sparkroot (not funded by taxpayer dollars – I'll take it out of my grossly overpaid salary, just for fun).

Rialto/Rio Nuevo

I'm on my honor with the City Attorney not to mess with our mediation effort with respect to the City and Rio. So I won't mention that, except to say that some of the dynamics appear similar to what is happening over at the Rialto.

Should the Rialto get a free ride? No, and when you're reading through this and start to feel as though I'm suggesting that, come back and re-read this paragraph. And, for the record, the Rialto Foundation is not asking for a free ride.

The Rialto lease began in 2005. The purchase was done using cash on hand for \$1.85M. Rio Nuevo does not have any debt on the building and so any money it receives in lease payments, or other payments is simply cash flow to the District. The Rialto Foundation is paying lease money directly to Rio. It's gravy to the Board. The deal is not at all like the County Bonds where there is debt be-

ing paid from taxpayer money. The Rialto transaction happened, and now the issue is how to earn a legitimate return on that investment for the taxpayers.

Small clubs are in a tough market. The Rialto is paying in the neighborhood of \$3,600 per month to Rio. They've asked to have Rio take another look at that. The Rialto Foundation is a non-profit. Rio is its landlord. Rio owns the asset, just as they do the TCC.

The way the lease reads is that starting in 2014, the Foundation can purchase the building for some as yet to be determined cash amount. The strike price will be the amount of TIF money that has been spent on the theater at that time. Assuming that Rio doesn't help improve their asset any more between now and then, the cost to purchase it would be in the \$2.2M range. It's unlikely that the Foundation will have the money. In addition, after 44 years, ownership of the building automatically reverts to the Foundation, or if it doesn't exist at the time, to Rio, which will sunset well before that, so effectively, the City will own the theater if it is not purchased ahead of the end date. The current Rio Board wants to ensure that doesn't occur – a curious goal for a group that won't be around to see it play out.

The media has carried some surface level reports about this issue, leaving readers with the impression that the Rialto Foundation is asking for a free ride. The fact is that they requested a reduction in their current lease agreement (remember – cash flow to Rio, not the payment of any existing debt service) but increasing over time as the theater recovers along with the economy.

Rio rejected that notion and sent this “Draft” of a counter proposal to the theater. Note that this was not sent to the Foundation, nor was it sent to the Foundation's counsel, but to the G.M. of the theater – a person not empowered to cut a deal. And, the theater was given two days to reply.

Here's the draft:

<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/12-27-11rialtoftprop.pdf>

(I was not given this Draft by the G.M. I do not want him to take any heat from Rio about my having, or sharing it. In my opinion, it's a public document and you should have an opportunity to see how the District is dealing in your downtown area.)

Let me make a couple of points:

First, the statement that the District's revenue stream has decreased is simply factually incorrect. TIF dollars are up, and increasing by several millions of dollars per year since this lease was first signed.

Next, the District raises the red herring of it being locked in by the “Gift Clause.” That's the State Constitutional issue of a governing body not giving away tax payer money in excess of the value received. The truth is that Rio is exempt from the Gift Clause under the Constitution. It's a taxing district. The claim is bogus. Here are the relevant excerpts from the Arizona State Constitution and Statutes, which, by the way are also public documents that can be accessed, even by members of the Rio Board:

State Constitution - Article 13, Sec. 7:

7. Irrigation and other districts as political subdivisions

Section 7. Irrigation, power, electrical, agricultural improvement, drainage, and flood control districts, **and tax levying public improvement districts**, now or hereafter organized pursuant to

law, shall be political subdivisions of the state, and vested with all the rights, privileges and benefits, and entitled to the immunities and exemptions granted municipalities and political subdivisions under this constitution or any law of the state or of the United States; but all such districts **shall be exempt from the provisions of sections 7 and 8 of article IX of this constitution.**

Rio Nuevo is a stadium district that was created by the legislature under ARS 48-4201. Section I of that chapter reads:

Subject to limitations imposed by this chapter, by intergovernmental agreement and by the ordinance or resolution authorizing the formation of the district, **the district is a tax levying public improvement district** and a political taxing subdivision of this state...

So, what's Article IX, Section 7? The Gift Clause of the Constitution.

Three simple steps:

Rio is a taxing district

Taxing districts are exempt from the Gift Clause

Rio is exempt from the Gift Clause.

The Board is spending tens of thousands of your dollars to get attorney's to counsel them on this stuff. I just gave it to them for free.

Looking at the terms of the Draft that they are calling "abatement" is also an interesting journey. In Orwell's *1984*, there were terms called "newspeak." Some of this would qualify. (In case you never read the book, "newspeak" is deliberately ambiguous and contradictory language used to mislead and manipulate the public.) I report / you decide.

- It is now 'abatement' to tell the Foundation to sign a lease for more space with the owner of other parts of the block.
 - It is now 'abatement' to tell the Foundation that Rio will take a % of its gross bar receipts
 - It is now 'abatement' to tell the Foundation that it must make a minimum amount of capital improvements.
 - It is now 'abatement' to tell the Foundation that it must relinquish its option to purchase the theater.
 - It is now 'abatement' to tell the Foundation that it must take out insurance naming Rio as additional insured
 - It is now 'abatement' to tell the Foundation that it must fire one of its managers
 - It is now 'abatement' to tell the Foundation that it must take out additional Liquor Licenses
- And, it is now 'abatement' to tell the Foundation that it must pay Rio's attorney's fees.

Newspeak. Some of those items are perfectly legitimate. The insurance requirement is legit / the Liquor License is legit / if they agreed on personnel issues, so be it – but those are hardly "lease abatement" items. And to place the Draft in the hands of the GM two days before a response was due is bad faith.

I am not suggesting a free ride. The Rialto is not asking for one. What I am suggesting is that every penny Rio receives from the Rialto is free money to the District. To the extent that it suggests the Rialto is in the driver's seat as it relates to going bankrupt, that's false. Rio holds that trump card, and in the same manner as it appears to have unclear motives with the City in mediation, the terms

Of this Draft struck me as being cut from that same bolt of cloth.

Rio can close the doors of the Rialto by forcing them into bankruptcy. Or, Rio can realize that every dime it gets from the facility is found money, and work with them to be successful. There are private sector supporters willing to assist. I would hope a rational solution is found so that corner doesn't go dark, and we end up with a change on the marquee from "We love you Gabby" to the seal of the Great State of Arizona.

Downtown Tucson Initiative/Revitalization

I submitted an Op. Ed. to the Star related to a proposal recently delivered to Rhonda Bodfield (Star reporter) related to downtown development. I have linked the entire proposal at the end of this newsletter. First, the Op. Ed.

In a 10 page memo sent to the Arizona Daily Star, it was revealed that "various parties have formed the Downtown Tucson Initiative, Inc." whose stated goal is to facilitate private sector development in the "Rio Nuevo Area." Those "various parties" sought and received input from certain members of the Rio Nuevo Board and from the State Legislature. It also received input from individuals who are in litigation with the City of Tucson. The party whose input was not sought is the City of Tucson.

Let's be clear. Every member of the Tucson City Council, and every member of the City of Tucson Staff has a vested interest in seeing our community thrive. That's the reason we are serving. What the DTI proposal does is to transform a "taxing district" (Rio) into a development authority made up of unelected and unaccountable appointees of the State Legislature, embedded within the jurisdiction of a Charter City. Ceding to such a group unilateral policy, regulatory and spending authority strikes me as unwise.

In the last legislative session, SB1339 was proposed – a bill that would have rolled back any regulation imposed by a non-elected State commission that had an impact on the private sector. If it applied at the State level, one would think the same principle would apply locally. And yet, as we have seen with numerous pre-emptive bills aimed at the residents of Tucson that ignore the principles of local government, consistency isn't always the hallmark of our State Legislature.

The issue is about governance, not business. Without a strong business sector, the City has no funds to provide core services. But the DTI proposal gives away property taxes and site specific taxes generated from improvement, imposes regulatory burdens on a City staff that has been reduced to meet fiscal challenges, and gives development authority to an unelected, appointed board.

A significant issue about which DTI is either uninformed or being less than forthright is the fact that Rio is exempt from the State Constitutional Gift Clause. That means, they can give away taxpayer dollars to the private sector in a manner that a government cannot. Article 13, Section 7 of the Constitution states that **tax levying public improvement districts**, now or hereafter **shall be exempt from the provisions of sections 7 (Gift Clause) and 8 of article IX of this constitution**. Rio Nuevo was created under ARS 48-4201. Section I of that chapter reads: **the district is a tax levying public improvement district** and a political taxing subdivision of this state... Pretty easy to connect those dots

misspent. The solution to that is not to allow Rio, the Legislature and local businesses to carve the local governing body out of any proposed solutions and put in place a package that gives development authority to unaccountable representatives of the legislature in a way that thwarts the intent of the State Constitution and puts at risk the community concerns that we at the Council hear relative to appropriate development. That has bad faith written all over it.

Finally, the DTI proposal changes the way the City “Match” requirement is to be provided. Currently, the City can count in-kind work towards its part of revitalization of the District. Under the proposal, the City would have to write a check to Rio for the Match. In addition, the TIF calculation that goes to Rio is changed, and the City would have to find in-house funding sources for lost impact fees. Combined, those three funding changes could result in the City having to find upwards of \$15M to \$20M annually, much of which would be written in the form of a cash payment directly to Rio.

I suspect that if those were the rules of the game presented to the voters back in 1999, the result of the vote may not have been approval of the Rio project. Again, it strikes me as bad faith to shift that burden back to the taxpayers of Tucson 13 years after they voted otherwise.

Too many relevant voices have been left out of the crafting of this proposal. In particular, the taxpayers, and those of us who actually have to answer for our decisions.

Here are a couple of thoughts that I didn’t include in the Op.Ed. The Star limits the number of words:

When you read the proposal, keep an eye out for cash obligations that are being written into the deal. They suggest that the City pay Rio cash in the “match requirement,” and a recalculation of TIF that the District would receive (by the way, TIF revenue is up, not down). Also, the proposal shifts a cash burden of impact fees to the City (we’re already trying to sort out SB1525, another cost shift onto the City for impact fees – sent to you from the Legislature). If each of those were adopted, the cash out of pocket (out of General Fund) imposed on the City could touch \$15M - \$20M annually.

The proposal references the original intent of Prop. 400 and the establishment of the District. No place in any of the originating documents does it suggest that the City pay this unelected body those levels of cash out of your pocket. It’s unlikely that the idea ever would have seen a ballot if that had been the case

So, with that as a prelude, here’s the proposal submitted to Rhonda Bodfield:

http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/12-27-11dti_proposal_final.pdf

PACE Legislation

If the Legislature would like to assist with some good legislation, here’s an item I’ve been looking around for State level sponsors to step forward. Since the funding source is property tax, I’ll be asking the City legal folks if we can adopt something locally and (as with the potential texting-while-driving ban) demonstrate to the State that we can move good policies forward, even where they’ve tried and failed.

The acronym PACE stands for “Property Assessed Clean Energy.” It’s a way that local govern-

ments can assist people in financing renewable prequalified energy projects on their private property (solar systems, energy efficiency projects, water conservation measures, etc.) and avoid the large up front costs generally associated with that sort of work.

The local government establishes an "Improvement District" within which individual property owners can opt-into the PACE financing strategy. A bond is issued, secured by their property, and the debt service is paid through fixed payments tied to their property tax bill. The debt stays with the property, even if the property is sold. Owner participation is totally voluntary within the District, and those who opt-in are the only ones who pay the additional assessment.

I know there's discussion about the City establishing a "Business Improvement District" for the purpose of allowing tax incentives for private sector development. If we can do that, I'd like to see us also consider a PACE related "Improvement District."

I mention the State because in 2009 they considered something similar to this and it died in committee. I have the legal question in front of the City Attorney, and, consistent with my predisposition to do what we can at the most local level of government, I'd like to try to get this put in place either at the City, or at the County level (they're the property tax assessors).

If the City can't do this unilaterally, while we may not be in agreement on the Courthouse issue, if there's a way we can get PACE adopted with County participation, we should be big enough people to compartmentalize our disagreements and work together where we can.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik

Arts and Entertainment Events Calendar

This week at the arts and entertainment venues in the Downtown, 4th Avenue, and Main Gate areas . . .

Menorah Lighting to celebrate Hanukkah

Main Gate Square will light its giant Menorah each night at sundown through December 28, to celebrate Hanukkah.

Main Gate is located on University Boulevard between Park & Euclid.

Parking is free after 5:00pm in the Tyndall Garage with a merchant validation.

www.MainGateSquare.com

Rialto Theatre, 318 E. Congress St.

Saturday, December 31, 8:00pm. “**New Year’s Eve: Viva Mexico y Su Musica**” (Latin Dance), with Sergio Mendoza y La Orkestra y Salvador Duran. 18 and up.

www.RialtoTheatre.com

Ongoing

Tucson Museum of Art, 140 N. Main Ave.

Ongoing exhibitions:

“**Who Shot Rock and Roll: A Photographic History, 1955 to the present**”

“**El Nacimiento**”, in La Casa Cordova

www.TucsonMuseumofArt.org

Children's Museum Tucson, 200 S. 6th Ave.

Tuesday - Friday: 9:00am - 5:00pm; Saturdays & Sundays: 10:00am - 5:00pm

www.childrensmuseumtucson.org

Meet Me at Maynards

A social walk/run through the Downtown area

Every Monday, rain or shine, holidays too!

Maynards Market and Kitchen, 400 N. Toole Avenue, the historic train depot

Check-in begins at 5:15pm.

www.MeetMeatMaynards.com

Tucson Farmers’ Market at Maynards

Saturdays 9:00am – 1:00pm

On the plaza at Maynards Market & Kitchen. 400 N Toole in the Historic Train Depot

Santa Cruz Farmers' Market

Thursdays, 4:00 – 7:00pm.

Mercado San Agustin, 100 S. Avenida del Convento

Science Downtown: Mars + Beyond

Thursday through Monday, 9:00am to 5:00pm (until 6:00pm on Fridays and Saturdays, and until 9:00pm on 2nd Saturdays). 2-for-1 admission from 5:00 to 9:00pm on 2nd Saturdays.

300 E. Congress St.

<http://www.sciencedowntown.org/index.html>

For other events in the Downtown/4th Avenue/Main Gate area, visit these sites:

www.MainGateSquare.com

www.FourthAvenue.org

www.DowntownTucson.com