

Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik
Council Member



Ann Charles



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Ward 6 – Newsletter

A Message from Steve

AUGUST 10, 2011

It has been nearly a month since Mayor and Council last met. With that, we had a very full agenda. In these newsletters, I always try to hit what I consider to be the high points of the meetings. For your own information though, you can always find on-line what we have coming and what we've talked about in the past by going to the City of Tucson web site, searching the City Clerk's link and going into Council agendas and minutes.

Let's begin where I don't want to end, on a negative note.

The Vice-Mayor is a position that rotates from Ward to Ward every eight months. That process was begun by a December 2005 action by the then Council. Moved by Steve Leal and seconded by Karin Uhlich, the following was made: "to return to the practice of having the Vice-Mayor position rotate between Council Members every eight months, so that every Council Member will have one eight month cycle within their four year term." The last six rotations have gone from Ward 6, 3, 1, 2, 4 and 5. The time has come to rotate back to Ward 6 so the residents of this Ward can take their turn being represented by the Vice-Mayor.

Last night, the Council took that very simple, and not deeply meaningful ceremonial position, and turned it into a partisan vote by returning it to Council Member Uhlich, Ward 3 and skipping over the Ward 6 residents again. I thought we had found a way to fill the potholes. They seem to have uncovered a new one last night.

Prior to casting my vote I stated that the clear next step in the rotation was back to Ward 6, and that their action looked like either a personal, or partisan move – or both. But if I'm going to be consistent in my commitment to try to work with this group, I can't fight over every little battle. So after pointing out the obvious I voted to support the selection and called the action my tossing out an olive branch, emblematic of my desire to work in a positive manner with the group.

I could spend time passing along to you the attempts made at justifying the move, but it's not worth your time reading it nor my time presenting it. It is my strong belief that people not only want, but they deserve, to be represented by elected officials who will govern in a manner that reflects public policy made for the greater good, not in a manner that reflects partisanship such as this. I tossed the olive branch. I'm hopeful that at least one of them will pluck it up and let's start to work



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

together and lay the labels aside.

Ok, that's behind us. Now, onto public safety – or as I prefer, the safety of the public.

Last week I mentioned staffing levels of TPD, TFD and the 911 center. Since that time, the Arizona Daily Star ran an editorial about TPD staffing levels and took exception to what was perceived to have been scare tactics used by the City during the run-up to the Prop 400 sales tax vote...I did not support the sales tax increase.

I also felt that the instruction coming from the City Manager's Office to reduce the budget by 15% across the board was ill-conceived and bad policy. The result would have been untenable reductions to our public safety capability. We ended up reducing Police by 7.5% and Fire by 6.7%. The eventual reduction in the 911 Communications Center was not 15%, but the staffing hole was dug early in the process when, having been given the instruction to prepare for that number, General Services management stopped filling vacancies and allowed attrition to take its course.. Thereby reducing staff and putting us in the position in which we now find ourselves; that is, understaffed at the 911 dispatch center.

There are two links that I'd like to share. One is related to TPD staffing levels, and the other to the 911 staffing levels.

Chief of Police Villasenor wrote an opinion piece for the Arizona Daily Star. Having done that once or twice myself, when I saw his, I knew that it would never see the light of day in the form in which it was written. Given their space limitations, the Star limits opinion pieces to about 600 words. The Chief's is several times longer than that. So, in order for you to see his full response to the Star editorial, I include here a link to his full letter http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/guest_opinion.pdf

The Chief correctly points out that we are down nearly 200 officers from where we were just a short time ago. That's not good for the safety of the public by anybody's standards.

The 911 Call Center is having trouble restaffing because we are not competitive in the marketplace with the salaries we offer. The following link will show you how we compare with other jurisdictions around the State.

http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/az_cities.pdf

In response to some of my questions related to our inability to compete, City Staff has taken the position that "the pay is behind market as the City has not granted merit raises in four years." And yet, the conclusion is that the pay is "determined appropriate." It's only appropriate if your goal is to remain understaffed.

A few words on the Staff's responses to my other questions related to the Communications Center. Statements such as the following demonstrate the manner in which the



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)

pre-planning for, and the actual cut-over to the new system has been fraught with mis-steps:

- “The Meridian Group (911 dispatchers), Qwest representatives and Communications Center Management began meeting in late July” (Note: these meetings should have begun before the new system was implemented and they should have also included representation from surrounding agencies who rely on our system as a hub).
- “Number of dropped calls upon transfer cannot be counted by the new system”
- “Dropped calls have been reduced significantly and current instances have been minimal (1-2 daily). (Note: If you can’t count them, how do you know how many there are? And assuming you do know there are “1-2 daily” that’s not acceptable for an emergency call center. During our study session yesterday one of the dispatchers texted to me stating that she had experienced two dropped calls during the days work shift.)
- “There have been almost no recent reports of missing ALI (automatic location indicator).” (Note: I spoke with dispatchers all last weekend. They’re reporting to me that it happens every shift.)
- Regarding having somebody monitor your call: “The call taker must trigger this monitor. Previously, the observer was able to join at their discretion.” (Note: the trouble is that by the time the call taker receives the call, insures that they have a location and that the caller was not dropped (the two most important items in the call) triggering a monitor is nearly a moot point. If the call is not monitored from the beginning, the most critical information is not being given that second set of eyes and ears.)
- Regarding lengthy ring times: “The lengthy ring times can be attributed to the previously identified ACD issues” (Note: true to a point, but they can also be attributed to being understaffed.)

And a comment about being understaffed – when a call taker in the dispatch center is working multiple events simultaneously, it necessarily puts our TFD workers’ safety in jeopardy. If TFD in the field calls for TPD back up, or if TFD in the field is working an active fire and misses an alert warning of an imminent roof collapse, the lives being endangered are those of our first responders. City staff may talk all they want about compressed wage scales, but when peoples’ lives are at stake, a little compression might be the price we have to pay.

The point is that we have had this new system in place since May 25th. I get contacts daily from call takers who work at the Center. They were not engaged by the City Manager in personal dialogue until two months after the system was in place. Outlying jurisdictions that rely on us still are waiting for that invitation. It is imperative that the City Manager immediately engages his Meridian Group, the other 911 Administrators from around the region and the Qwest service technicians, all in the same room at the same time and sort out the remaining issues. This group is months behind schedule in having met. This needs to be the top priority for those involved until the issues are resolved.

Let me give you a few items we moved on yesterday that reflect the sort of initiatives we can pursue when setting aside party differences. One is a strong alliance with our Mexican trading partners. A few months ago, I sent my staff co-worker Donovan Durband on a trip with the Cabelleros de Tucson, the MTCVB and some City Staff on a relationship building trip into Mexico. The group met with mayors and business leaders throughout their visit.

The Mexican trade market is absolutely critical for us to develop. Already, Mexico sends over 24 million visitors into Arizona annually and those visitors spend over \$900M in Pima County alone. This M&C are united in further building on the relationships we have with our brothers and sisters south of the border.

On Tuesday, the M&C also unanimously gave direction to the City Attorney to bring back to us language codifying a Primary Jobs Incentive Program. This is a program in which employers who bring into the community investments exceeding \$5M, create over 25 new (primary non-retail jobs) that pay in excess of 150% of the mean annual earnings in this region, and who offer a healthy fringe package are allowed a menu of permit fee waivers, construction tax offsets, and more. This is yet another example of how we can move some very good initiatives forward as a group, not being bothered by partisanship or unhelpful personal one-upsmanship sorts of games.

Another example – we adopted an outline of how the City will form Development Agreements (DA) in the future. The City of Tucson, throughout the Rio Nuevo era when the City was using Rio Nuevo as an arm of its own operations, got itself into several DA's that have proven to be ill-conceived. This new outline will simplify the process and will simplify what we ultimately adopt as new Development Agreements in the days ahead. We'll see how much is owed the City, what the deliverables are, when they're due and what the City has to do in exchange. Pretty easy. As with the other examples cited above, this is the type of agreement we can arrive at when we work in tandem.

We did a lot of good yesterday. We ended it on the Vice-Mayoral note – unfortunately.

One quick note on the vote-by-mail process. I confirmed with the City Clerk yesterday that at each polling station there will be an option for a person to cast an electronic vote if they choose to do so. The machines will technically be on site for use by the disabled, but if you're not clogging up lines and getting in the way of those for whom the machines are intended, go ahead and use them if you're more comfortable doing that than in casting a paper ballot. You won't see that option advertised but they won't tell you that you cannot exercise it if you're not jeopardizing the ability of a disabled person from voting.

Finally, let me end by tossing kudos to City Staff and to the rest of the M&C for passing a Letter of Intent with the University of Arizona Department of Intercollegiate Athletics – my 'other' employer – to begin to finalize details of moving Arizona Baseball from on-campus over to Hi Corbett Field. Due to a clear conflict of interest, I could neither participate in the negotiation of the terms of the LOI, nor could I participate in the discussion or yesterday's vote. But I can support it and share the outline of the deal with you.

Playing on campus, the 'Cats have not been drawing enough of a fan base to come close to breaking even financially. Director of Athletics Greg Byrne has done a considerable amount of due diligence related to looking at the pros and cons of moving to Hi Corbett. With no guarantees of it being a 'sure thing' and having to defend the move to those who feel staying on campus is the right thing to do, Greg has elected to take a risk, invest in improvements at Hi Corbett

and move the Wildcat Baseball program over there (pending successful negotiation of the details of the agreement.).

I've been a UA baseball fan since 1968. I've worked in the department since 1987. It sure is convenient being able to walk across the street and catching a few innings during a lunch break. But there is merit in giving this a try, from angles related to recruiting, post season play, concessions revenue, parking conveniences, and more. I applaud Greg and the ICA staff who worked on this deal. I applaud City Staff who put the deal together, and I applaud M&C for having the foresight to see this as a deal that contains the seeds of being a winning answer to the question of what we do to activate the facility with a quality anchor tenant. If the deal gets done, I'll have to look into buying my colleagues on Council some Wildcat gear to wear over the other labels we seem to wear that they allowed to come between us at the conclusion of last night's meeting.

I'll be watching for their emails containing their t-shirt and baseball cap sizes as representing olive branches of their own.

Sincerely,



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

Men's Wearhouse National Suit Drive - Accepting donations August 1-31

Bring your gently used professional attire to Men's Wearhouse to benefit at-risk men transitioning into the workforce. All donated items are given directly to Old Pueblo Community Services to distribute throughout the community. They ask that all donations are in ready-to-wear condition- clean and on hangers for the clients. They are collecting:

- | | |
|---------------|----------------------------|
| ◇ Suits | Sport coats |
| ◇ Slacks | Dress shirts |
| ◇ Dress shoes | Ties and other accessories |



Please bring your items to Men's Wearhouse and Tux at the Tucson Mall, upper level near Macy's 4500 N. Oracle 887-0010. To find out more, visit www.nationalsuitdrive.com

2nd Saturdays Downtown

Please visit 2nd Saturdays Downtown this Saturday, August 13, 2011 for a free and family-friendly event. The event runs from 6 p.m. to 10:30 p.m and features music from a variety of bands and specials for local businesses. Please visit <http://www.2ndsaturdaysdowntown.com> for more information.

Congress Street Entertainment District Events

This week at the entertainment venues on and near Congress Street in Downtown Tucson

Rialto Theatre, 318 E. Congress St.

Thursday, August 11, 8:00pm. Little Big Town (contemporary country), 8:00pm

Friday, August 12, 8:00pm. The Tubes (rock)

Saturday, August 13, 8:30pm. Nipsey Hussle (hip hop)

Fox Theatre, 17 W. Congress St.

Saturday, August 13, 7:00pm. *Celebrate Tucson*, a free concert featuring The Gabriel Ayala Trio, Rahe & Illumination, Reveille Men's Chorus, and Suerte. In conjunction with 2nd Saturdays.

The Screening Room, 127 E. Congress St.

Friday, August 12, 7:00pm. *New Films by Tucson Youth*

Saturday, August 13 (5:00pm, 6:30pm, and 8:00pm), and Sunday, August 14 (3:00pm).

Puppets Amongus presents "The Adventures of Thread Bear and Dust Bunny"

Late Night Theatre at Beowulf Alley Theatre Co., 11 S. 6th Ave.

Friday, August 12, and Saturday, August 13, 7:30pm

Hamlet 1.0, a multimedia, multiple-platform telling of Shakespeare's classic tragedy