

Ward 6 Staff



Steve Kozachik
Council Member



Ann Charles



Donovan Durband



Teresa Smith



Bonnie Medler



Diana Amado



Ward 6 – Newsletter

A Message from Steve

SEPTEMBER 9, 2011

A few quick points that I don't want lost in the body of the newsletter this week:

First, the City Manager issued a congratulatory report last week about the City retaining the current Air Operations Center mission at Davis Monthan. To the extent that we have avoided losing our Center to Tyndall AFB in Florida, he is correct. To the extent that we did not win the transfer of their jobs to DM, he has settled for a tie. And the truth is that while we did not lose our Ops Center during this Federal budget tightening exercise, we cannot rest on that and assume it's safe for the next go-around.

I was in touch with our lobbyists immediately after having received the City Manager's memo and they confirmed that "the DOD is being asked to make recommendations for cost cutting in the next 12 years." The City cannot afford to assume DM and the AOC will not again be under scrutiny. Write your Congress representatives, members of the DM50 and local military leaders if you have that connection and urge them to begin even now advocating for this Center to stay, and if consolidation is to occur, that we be awarded the expanded mission when cuts are made.

Last week I was honored to be included in the "Where's El Lobo" program along with Supervisor Richard Elias and Congressman Raul Grijalva. Odd bedfellows, but all in agreement that the work of Defenders of Wildlife has been invaluable in the restoration of the Mexican Grey Wolf into the region. The work of Eva Sargent, Southwest Program Director for Defenders has been instrumental in bringing together the various competing interests relative to how the reintegration is being conducted. There is now an "Interdiction Committee" that is overseeing an Interdiction Trust Fund, administered by stakeholders including everybody from environmentalists to ranchers (not mutually exclusive, I might add) helping to make the recovery program one that works for all parties. There are fewer than 50 Grey's left. Working together, that number can grow in a way that does not threaten other interests in the region.

There is now taking place a community-wide contest that involves finding life sized likenesses of the Grey's pasted onto walls of various participating building around town. It's an awareness building and educational contest that also includes some pretty unbelievable prizes. Go to the website www.defenders.org for the details.



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

On Thursday, October 6th, Coaches Night Out will be held at the UA Student Union Grand Ballroom. Lute Olson will speak and it is a benefit for the UA Cancer Center. For those of you familiar with Coach O, you'll understand the connection. You can sign up on Facebook at Coaches Night Out Tucson, or email for details to info@coachesnightout.com. It will be sold out, so if you want to take part, it's less than a month away.

We will never forget those lost in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. It's been 10 years since thousands of our loved ones were killed and thousands more were injured. And though 10 years seems a long time, chances are you remember exactly where you were when the towers hit. The Anniversary will be celebrated-remembered-mourned in several ceremonies around town. The one I want to alert you to is being organized by TFD, TPD and the military, all of whom represent the finest among us and who are the sister agencies to those who stepped into harms way 10 years ago and saved lives, in some cases at the cost of their own.

On Sunday at 8am, Fire Central, just west of the TCC, will begin the ceremony. Following that, there will be a short walk to TPD HQ for an 8:30 ceremony. Then a procession from downtown to Reid Park where at the Band Shell Dr. Richard Carmona and the Tucson Pops will continue the remembrance. They will be joined by Mayor Walkup and Col. James Meger (355th Fighter Wing Commander – DMAFB). Of course I'd encourage your support of some portion, if not all of this event.

Three important items that we addressed in Wednesday's council meeting were a new Cox Communications license agreement, discussing facility needs that exist at the TCC and how to get Rio Nuevo to step up to the plate and take care of their building, and finally the forced resignation of City Manager Mike Letcher.

I've shared my thoughts on the Cox agreement in previous newsletters. They're a wonderful community partner that provides a menu of products. Some of the deal points that we approved on Wednesday:

- a) License agreement good for ten years - The existing agreement is for only five years. Cox will use the additional time in the new agreement to demonstrate to investors that they have a long term commitment from the City. That will enable them to more easily expand and improve infrastructure throughout the valley. A ten year deal is at the short end of what is the norm around the State.
- b) Public, Educational, Government channels – A new State statute limits the City's ability to compel Cox to negotiate any more than two PEG channels on their basic package and two PEG channels on their premium package. The decision as to which programming would be assigned to the various channels is completely up to the City to decide. We agreed to place the City channel on 12, Access Television on 20 (both on the basic tier), and TUSD on 120 (on the premium tier). Channel 875 is currently assigned to TFD for training purposes, but in as much as they don't really use it, we



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://
sms3.tucsonaz.gov/
infoguide](http://sms3.tucsonaz.gov/infoguide)

might use that space for some co-programming. What we told the City, Access and TUSD representatives at the meeting was to work together and decide on how to share, split, or co-program the air time on the three channels. It is important that they work together to maximize content on the limited channel space we have to offer to the PEG audience.

- c) While the current agreement doesn't expire until May 2012, we felt it was important to come to terms at this time in order to avoid having to enter into a Federally mandated formal negotiation process that would kick in as we neared the end of the existing contract. That process could have conceivably cost us in the \$1/2 million range to conduct a Community Needs Assessment and the net return would have more than likely been a negligible change in what we adopted on Wednesday. There was wisdom in our acting early on in the process.
- d) We will negotiate outside of the license agreement other terms that deal with Entertainment On-Demand, origination points and other similar items that are not mandated at certain levels by Statute.

I believe the result is good for the various stakeholders in the process and for the community in general. It's good to be in a position to give a good-news report this week.

...but all good things come to an end –

Rio Nuevo was back on my mind on Wednesday. I have written several times over the past year about my efforts at trying to get the new Rio Nuevo Board to work with the Mayor and Council. We have seen audits, investigations, negotiations and not much progress in the relationship. The taxpayers deserve better.

The Tucson Convention Center is owned by Rio Nuevo and leased from them by the City. The TCC management has put together a list of facility needs that bumps \$39M. I have asked Rio on several occasions to work with us on rehabilitating the TCC, pointing to the need to be responsive to the Gem show and pointing to 2008 Rio Nuevo Bond money that was initially earmarked for that facility. So in order to put some specificity, and hopefully a greater sense of urgency into the conversation, I got a hold of the facility needs list, highlighted areas of Code and ADA compliance items and asked our City Attorney and Finance Director how we can compel Rio to use some of their cash to fix those code related issues that exist within their building. The TIF receipts are now coming in at nearly \$13M per year. The FY'12 Rio budget shows over \$10M in cash on hand. And there is still about \$4M in cash left from the '08 Bond package. They have the money if they have the desire.

Rio has spent multiple thousands of dollars on attorney's, audits, investigations, a new Executive Director, and not a penny on any project of any sort since the new Board was appointed by the State Legislature and Governor. My intent was to give them a target, couch it in terms of an obligation they owned by virtue of being the landlord of the building, and indicating that they hold a potential liability if an accident were to occur that could be tied to the list of facility needs, and code violations in particular. They meet again next on the 20th of the month. Between now and then we have asked the Mayor to draft a letter to their Chair indicating our serious desire to move ahead with some of this important work and remind-

ing them that the venue about which we're talking was listed by the Auditor General as the Primary Component of the District and should have been their main concern since the day they were appointed. It'd be nice if a majority of their members took a hold of this message and started to chip away at the rather lengthy list of TCC needs. It will be interesting to see if they want to do that, or to simply continue to act as the previous Board did and fritter away your tax dollars in ways that do not generate tax revenue back into their own coffers. That was the M.O. of the initial Rio Board, back when the City used it as an arm of the City Now the new Board needs to exercise some leadership and autonomy from the Legislature and put some money into repairing their building.

We have an interim City Manager. Richard Miranda was serving as Deputy City Manager until today when the rest of the Council joined me in asking City Manager Letcher to step down, effective Friday. I phrase it that way because it is no surprise that I have been asking for this demonstration of accountability at the top for several weeks.

What might have finally convinced the rest of the Council to take this step was a memo issued by Mr. Letcher on Tuesday of this week. It was six pages of rather personal attacks on me, indictments of his own staff, and a total unwillingness to own the mistakes that have peppered his administration for the past year. In stead of reciting items from his letter, I will simply link to it and let you read it for yourself in its entirety. Here's the link http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward6/ml_letter.pdf

I will point to only two parts of the letter to make a point. On page 2, Mr. Letcher suggests that I had cited his recommendation to make across the board budget cuts of 15% as "creating all the problems" we experienced with the 911 call center. He said I was wrong. I say he didn't represent (or understand) my point. The fact is that after having told department heads to prepare for the 15% reductions, they complied and in the case of the General Services Director who then ran the Dispatch Center, the result was not filling vacancies caused by attrition. The result was indeed the staffing shortage we are now trying to resolve. That fact is indisputable. But it is not "all the problems" that developed under Mr. Letcher's watch relative to the Call Center. Those also include morale issues and technical issues. It was not until I forced the issue onto his plate by employing the assistance of the media and the gutsy move by some of the dispatchers to go public with me that we saw changes begin to be made. This was but one example of having to be forced to tackle an important issue. You do not establish yourself in the position of leadership of a \$1.3B organization by managing in a reactive and reluctant manner.

The other part of the memo that is important to point to is the several references to his own staff as being the cause of issues not reaching his desk. In fact, it was just last week that in another memo Mr. Letcher called out by name several people who worked for him, impugning their integrity publicly by suggesting that they were "leaking" information to the media. You do not establish a productive working relationship with your people by calling them out in public.

So, issues of transparency, accountability, respect and trust – and on Wednesday we voted for a change and will soon begin a wide ranging search for a new City Manager. Mr. Miranda will serve as interim, an appointment dictated by code. He was next in line and failing an affirmative

act by M&C to name somebody else, he will assume the post until we find a replacement.

I do not believe there was one person in the room on Wednesday who felt good about what occurred when Mr. Letcher was asked to resign. That is a hard and uncomfortable action to take. And yet, it was the unanimous belief on the part of M&C that it was the correct and timely decision to make. So we turn the page, move on and begin the search process. I have stated before, and continue to believe that, regardless of the difficulty of the action, staff all up and down City Hall, Mayor and Council, and most importantly the taxpayers needed this to happen. That doesn't make it easy, but it was right. As I stated in a text message I sent to him that Mr. Letcher found necessary to include in his memo, "Your looking for outside cover isn't the leadership people are looking for." Tucson City Manager is a job with great potential, serving as the CEO of a wonderful community. I am certain that we will have the cream of the crop to select from.

Sincerely,



Steve Kozachik

2nd Saturdays Downtown

Come to Downtown Tucson on Saturday, September 10 to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. See Todoro "Ted" Ramirez, A Son Y Sol , and Suerte on the Scott Avenue Stage. There will be fun, free, and family-friendly activities to participate in. Visit <http://www.2ndsaturdays.com/>



★ **September 16 Ice Cream Social Benefits Transplant Patients** ★

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★ Come out and enjoy an old-fashioned ice cream social courtesy of Isabella's Ice Cream ★

★ and Unity for Life. The proceeds will benefit the Foundation's Assistance Fund for lung ★

★ and heart transplant patients. Join the fun on Friday, September 16 from 11 a.m-1 p.m at ★

★ the University Campus main entrance under the green ramada near valet parking. Visit ★

★ <http://www.isabellasicecream.com/weekly.html> ★

★



Prepare your business for the Modern Streetcar Project

On Wednesday, September 21 at the University Services Annex Building (220 W. 6th Street) there will be a small business success workshop. They will cover what to expect from the Modern Streetcar, how to prepare, and how to keep your business thriving during construction. Events starts with a networking reception at 8:00 am and workshop at 8:30. RSVP to MainStreet 838-4352 or info@mainstreetinfo.org by September 19.

Congress Street Entertainment District Events

Playing this week in the venues on and near Congress Street in
Downtown Tucson. . . .

Rialto Theatre, 318 E. Congress St.

www.RialtoTheatre.com

Friday, September 9, Powhaus Presents Glitterball 3000

Saturday, September 10, Doug Benson

Fox Theatre, 17 W. Congress St.

www.FoxTucsonTheatre.org

Thursday, September 8, 7:00pm. "Pedal Driven"

Friday, September 9, 7:30 and Sunday, September 11, 2:00pm "LA Confidential"

Saturday, September 10, Descarga (As part of 2nd Saturdays)

The Screening Room, 127 E. Congress St.

www.azmac.org/scroom

"Poets on Congress," at 8:00 pm (As part of 2nd Saturdays)

Beowulf Alley Theatre, 11 S. 6th Ave.

www.BeowulfAlley.org

"Rough Crossing" by Tom Stoppard and Directed by Dave Sewell. Now through October 2.