

August 16, 2010

Fellow Tucsonans,

A few items to report on since my last communication:

I recently had the opportunity to shadow a City of Tucson building inspector during a routine inspection of a new restaurant opening here in town.

I learned that we have a complex system of rules and regulations that businesses must follow in order to obtain a Certificate of Occupancy. Inspectors check for compliance in areas such as structural/fire safety, electrical, plumbing and ADA compliance, to name a few. While I certainly understand the necessity of health and safety codes, I also understand the need to streamline the inspection process in order to decrease the time a new business must spend on code compliance before they are able to open their doors. The sooner a new business can begin operating and start generating tax revenues for our city, the better for everyone involved. It is what we must do in order to become a business-friendly town.

BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE

Last week I hosted over 30 business owners and representatives for my first business roundtable. The goal of the round-table was to listen to the concerns and issues that our local businesses face on a daily basis. The roundtable is also instrumental in building new relationships within the local business community. Everybody in attendance expressed how much they valued Tucson and the community, but shared a general sense of frustration about trying to operate a business here. I plan on hosting a bi-monthly roundtable in order to bring people together and to try to find common sense solutions. Please contact Demitri Downing in my office at Demitri.Downing@tucsonaz.gov for more information on upcoming roundtables.

SUN TRAN/RTA

As you may know, the City Council has had on-going discussion about transferring the Sun Tran bus system over to the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA). This conversation had begun well before my appointment to the City Council in May. I have two concerns; to do what is best for our transit system, and to make the best decision regarding our city budget (i.e. the taxpayers who fund it). For these reasons, I voted to support moving forward with the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) that had been negotiated by both governing bodies from the City of Tucson and the RTA board. Although my colleagues did not agree with me, and voted to keep negotiating the MOU, I know the entire council shares my concerns. This is a complex issue that will again be in front of the Mayor and Council sometime in the fall, so stay tuned.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT (NNO) 2010 WAS A GREAT SUCCESS

National Night Out was a great success and I would like to thank those that allowed me to share in some of their events and hear the concerns of their neighborhoods. NNO is America's night out against crime, happening on the first Tuesday every Aug. It can be as simple as turning on your porch lights and reacquainting yourselves with old friends and neighbors. We cordially invite you and your neighbors to take part in the years to come.

SECOND ANNUAL TUCSON BIRTHDAY CAKE CONTEST – AUG. 20, 2010

Come celebrate Tucson's 235th birthday by participating in the Ward 2 birthday cake contest. Tucson's Birthday month is sponsored by Tucson's Birthday Planners, a 501(c)3 corporation, and loosely assembled by an all volunteer organization dedicated to celebrating Tucson's unique history, cultural diversity, natural wonders and special place in the universe. Check out the link <http://www.tucsonsbirthday.org> for more information.

Councilman Paul Cunningham and the Ward 2 staff are doing their part by sponsoring our 2nd Annual Birthday Cake Contest on Friday, Aug. 20. Celebrity judges include Mayor Bob Walkup, former U of A basketball player Joseph Blair, former Ward 2 Councilwoman Janet Marcus, and Arizona place kicking legend Max Zendejas. Tucson 12 Host and former KRQ personality Betsy Bruce has already committed to making a cake called "Desert-licious" and there is plenty of room for more. The contest is open to the public. After the winners are declared, join Councilman Cunningham for the serving of the cakes! Cakes must be dropped off at the Ward 2 Council no later than 9a.m. August 20th. Please contact Justin Searle at Justin.Searle@tucsonaz.gov or 791-4687 for more information. The flyer and registration forms may be found in the following links: <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward2/2010Cakeoffflyer.pdf>
<http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/sites/default/files/ward2/2010CakeoffRegistrationForm.pdf>

ATTENTION: WARD 2 NEIGHBORHOOD LEGISLATURE MEET AND GREET HAS BEEN MOVED FROM SEP. 9 TO SEP. 7

Due to popular demand, the Ward 2 Neighborhood Legislature Meet and Greet will be moved from Sep. 9 to Sep. 7, the day before the next council meeting. This is so participants will have the opportunity to voice their opinions about upcoming Mayor and Council agenda items as well as the upcoming ballot items in November. It's also a good opportunity to address neighborhood concerns. For more information contact Justin Searle, Ward 2 Council Aide, at 791-4687 or email justin.searle@tucsonaz.gov.

When: Sep. 7
Where: Eastside City Hall 7575 E. Speedway Blvd., Rm. C
Time: 5:30-7 pm
Who: Neighborhood Association & Home Owner Association Presidents and Board Members
Food: Veggie Platters, Pizza, Soda etc...

SENIOR ANTI-CRIME UNIVERSITY FREE CLASSES HOSTED BY ATTORNEY GENERAL GODDARD - LEARN TO AVOID SCAMS, PREVENT FRAUD AND STAY SAFE!

What: Work with Arizona Attorney General Terry Goddard to learn to detect scams against seniors and to help others avoid frauds, scams and abuse. The Attorney General's Senior Anti-Crime University will offer classes in: Consumer Fraud & Scams, Personal Safety, Health Care/Medicare Fraud, Elder Abuse & Neglect, Financial Exploitation, Identity Theft & Investment Fraud

When: Sep. 16, 2010

Time: 1 – 5pm

Where: Tucson Medical Center Senior Services
El Dorado Health Campus
1400 N. Wilmot Road

Registration Required - Spaces Limited, for more information or to REGISTER ONLINE, go to the Attorney General's website, www.azag.gov/seniors/sleuths/sacu.html
Email: SeniorSleuths@azag.gov or call the Attorney General's Office, 602-542-2124

KIDCO

TUSD KIDCO sites begin Monday, Aug. 16, 2010. The Ward 2 site is Bloom Elementary. There are still vacancies in the East District. For registration information, contact Registration Services at 791-4877.

UDALL PARK SOCCER CONSTRUCTION UPDATE:

Udall soccer field construction is winding down to the final completion date scheduled for Aug. 20. The restroom concession building is currently being installed and on Aug. 16 the new sod will go down for the second field. The two new fields are scheduled to reopen in November.

UPCOMING EVENT

Sep. 23 – 6pm – Town Hall regarding November ballot initiatives.

WE ARE A DROP OFF POINT FOR ITEMS FOR DONATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING GROUPS:

- * THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK - Non-perishable foods
- * DIAPER BANK OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA - Infant/child/adult diapers
- * SAAF (Southern Arizona Aids Foundation) - Personal hygiene products and household cleaning products
- * TIHAN (Tucson Interfaith HIV/AIDS Network) - Personal care items for individuals and families in need
- * ICU - Eyeglass donations to a student-led organization that sends them to war-torn countries
- * CINDERELLA'S CLOSET - Prom dress donations so that all young ladies can have a beautiful gown for their prom. Please feel free to drop off prom dresses and accessories to any of the following sites:
 - Ward 2 Council Office (7575 E. Speedway)
 - State Farm Insurance Agency (6801 E. Camino Principal, Suite 103)
 - YWCA (525 N. Bonita Avenue)
 - Sahuaro Girl Scout Council Office (4300 E. Broadway)

- Bookman's (3733 W. Ina Road)

* DANCING IN THE STREETS AZ www.ditsaz.org (<http://www.ditsaz.org/>) - The power of dance to transform lives, to enrich community! DITSAZ is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that uses the excitement and discipline of ballet to guide children in achieving life skills. Please feel free to drop off gently used or new ballet attire i.e. pink tights, pink ballet slippers and pink or black leotards, as well as, gently used ballet costumes.

Respectfully,
Councilman Paul Cunningham