



WARD 2 COUNCIL OFFICE
PAUL CUNNINGHAM
COUNCILMAN

November 4, 2010

Fellow Tucsonans,

The past 10 days have been full of important decisions concerning the future of Tucson:

THE HOTEL:

As you know by now, the Downtown Hotel was voted down by Mayor and Council. Although I believe the concept of a major hotel in downtown Tucson is a good one, I felt the risk was too high for Tucson taxpayers, and could not support it.

RIO NUEVO AUDIT:

I have been on the Tucson City Council now for 6 months. Since that first month back in May, the Rio Nuevo Audit and its findings have been much anticipated. After reading the audit, it was clear there were problems from the beginning. There was never any clear focus on how the money was to be spent, and projects came and went without ever being completed. One of the central themes of the audit was that the money was spread too thin on too many projects, and plans for projects that were abandoned. The predominant recommendation suggests that the City focus its efforts on the central component of the district, which is the Tucson Convention Center. I support this recommendation of fixing up the TCC in order to generate more revenue for the City and accept the findings of the audit. I encourage everyone to read the audit for themselves.

http://www.azauditor.gov/Reports/Other/FAD/Rio_Nuevo_Multipurpose_Facilities_District.pdf

SALES TAX INCREASE VOTED DOWN (PROP. 400)

City voters overwhelmingly rejected the City's request for an additional 1/2 cent sales tax to fund core services. I held two town halls and a business roundtable on this issue before the election. I heard loud and clear that people living in Ward 2 (and throughout Tucson) felt that they could not pay any more in taxes. I did not vote with the majority of the Council to support sending Prop. 400 to the voters because I felt the timing was wrong, and that it would not pass. Now, we have really tough decisions to make. Although the City Manager has recommended across the board cuts; 10% to Police and Fire and 15% to all other departments, I do not agree with this formula. Non-core departments must take a bigger hit to protect public safety.

CHARTER CHANGES VOTED DOWN (PROP. 401)

City voters also rejected changes to our City charter. I supported referring these recommendations to the ballot. Among other changes, it would have made it easier to remove our high paid department heads that are afforded "civil service protection." Unlike any other municipal government in the State of Arizona, Tucson affords special protection to its highest paid employees. I believe the major reason these changes did not pass was due to the increase in Mayor and Council salaries. Council salaries will remain at their current level, at \$24,000 per year. Although I certainly can understand the sentiment regarding pay raises at this time, the fact is we will continue to have high paid un-elected staff, and low paid elected officials.

FAREWELL TO JUSTIN SEARLE – Justin came to the Ward 2 Council Office last January as an intern. After graduating from the University of Arizona in May, he joined the Ward 2 staff as a part-time council aide. In addition to the constituent services he provided, Justin also worked closely with our neighborhood leaders. Recently he decided to pursue a master's degree; therefore, Justin resigned to prepare for graduate school. Our neighbors will miss him and I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude for all his hard work! We wish Justin the best in his future endeavors.

MORRIS K. UDALL PARK SOCCER FIELDS

Last Saturday we celebrated the opening of the new soccer fields at Udall Park. We had a couple of soccer clubs play an inaugural 3-on-3 game on the new fields. The youth that were in attendance are very excited about the new fields. I would like to thank all the folks that worked on this project, all those in attendance including Supervisor Ray Carroll, Mayor Bob Walkup, Vice Mayor Shirley Scott and Councilman Richard Fimbres. I especially want to thank the voters that approved the 2004 Pima County Bonds that made this \$2.4M project possible.

CITY FURLOUGH DAY/HOLIDAY CLOSURE – This month the Ward 2 Council Office will be closed on Thursday, Nov 11 for Veteran's Day; Thursday, Nov 25 for Thanksgiving Day and Friday, Nov 26 for a furlough day.

FAMILY FESTIVAL IN THE PARK! The Tucson Parks and Recreation will be hosting the 5th Annual Family Festival in the Park on Saturday, Nov 20 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Reid Park. It's **FREE!!!** The festival will include:

- Admission to the Reid Park Zoo and rides on the Zoo Express Train
- 10-minute golf lesson at Randolph Golf Course Driving Range – 10 a.m. – noon
- Swimming at the Edith Ball Adaptive Recreation Center – Noon – 4 p.m. (Bring your swimsuit)
- Family activities and entertainment, demonstrations and displays
- Games, arts and crafts, jumping castles

Sponsoring agencies include: Tucson Parks and Recreation, KTUC 1400, KIIM 99.5, 97.5 BOB FM, KHIT 107.5 and the Dan Felix Memorial Fund. For more information, please call 791-4873.

EASTSIDE PARKS AND RECREATION

The USGS buildings located in Udall Park are currently under construction. Each of the three buildings will have substantial roof repairs done in an effort to prevent further deterioration to these historical buildings. The City's Historic Preservation Office has been working closely with this project which is estimated to be completed mid to late November.

The Carol West Senior Addition Health and Resource Fair will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 10 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., located at 7200 E Tanque Verde Rd. Come learn about resources that are available to adults 50+. The event will also include great exercise demos such as Sit and Be Fit, Line Dancing, Tai Chi, Zumba and Yoga.

The Spring 2010 Tucson Parks and Recreation Program Guide and Class Catalog will be available on Monday, Nov. 8. The Program Guide has complete information on leisure classes, KIDCO After-school, pools, sports programs, the department's Discount Program, and so much more. Please call Registration Services at 791-4877 for more information. Registration for City Residents will begin on Sun., Nov. 14. Registration for Non-City Residents will begin on Wed., Nov. 17.

CHRIS BURTON JACOME

I am very excited to announce that my friend and Tucson son, Chris Burton Jacome, flamenco guitarist and composer is in contention for a Grammy Nomination in the “**Best Contemporary World Album**” Category this year for his new CD, “LEVANTO”! Chris’ music can be heard scoring the **Emmy Award** Winning PBS television special: “Flamenco” broadcast in Arizona by KAET-TV. Most recently two of Chris’ original songs appeared in the film “Amreeka” which was a jury selection for the **Sundance Film Festival** and won the Fipresci Prize at the **Cannes Film Festival in 2009**. If you don't know him, you should! Please take a few moments to visit his website, www.chrisburtonjacome.com, read more about him and his accomplishments and listen to his music for yourself if you haven't already done so. You will not be disappointed. If you are a voting member of NARAS, please consider "LEVANTO" by Chris Burton Jácome for your vote in the "Best Contemporary World Album" Category.

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