

Dear City Family,

This past week I toured downtown Tucson with Michael Keith, the new CEO of the Downtown Tucson Partnership. Michael is a native Tucsonan who is a passionate advocate for all things in downtown Tucson.

I was thrilled to see all the new restaurants and businesses that have sprung up in the last year. In addition, Second Saturday's happen every second Saturday night of the month. Street performers, live music and jam packed streets are a sight to see. Over 10,000 people attended last month! Thanks Michael for all your hard work.

IMPORTANT VOTES BY CITY COUNCIL

This past Tuesday, I was part of 3 important votes that affect the future of Tucson:

SALES TAX REFERRED TO NOVEMBER BALLOT

As most people are aware, State and local governments around the Country are facing decreased revenue. It is the same with businesses and residents across the nation, but especially so here in Arizona. We have one of the highest foreclosure rates in the Nation, and in Tucson, close to 20% of the population lives at or below the poverty level. Although the City has made significant cuts over the past year, I believe there is more we can do before asking City residents to pay more. According to a recent article, Tucson has had a 5% reduction in the city workforce from 2000 through 2009, but city spending on workers' salaries and benefits has gone up 40 %, while inflation has been about 23.4%. In addition, our top paid Department heads still receive monthly car allowances, and we recently hired a Building Official at a salary of \$90,000 plus benefits.

I have

heard loud and clear from my constituents, that many people in my Ward live on fixed incomes, and City government needs to do the same. It is for that reason that I voted against referring the sales tax increase to the ballot.

CITY CHARTER CHANGES

Over a year ago, the Southern Arizona Leadership Council, a group representing business and employers in the region began the process of interviewing current and past Council members, Council

Aides and City Managers on how best to improve local government. After a series of public meetings, a diverse group including organized labor, business, environmental and non-profit agencies have come forward to support these 4 following recommendations:

1. Full time Pay for Mayor and Council which can be accomplished with no additional cost to taxpayers by reducing current Council staff.
2. Mayoral Parity which gives the Mayor the power to count as a quorum, second a motion and vote in the firing of the City Manager
3. Elimination of Civil Service Protection for Department Heads, which will make department Heads " at will employees", similar to the City Manager.

4. Move Mayor and Council elections to the same year, saving the City close to 1 million dollars.

Because I agree that these changes have merit and the potential to improve local governance, I voted to refer these changes to the ballot.

LAND USE CODE AMENDMENT, CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY RELIEF

A common complaint that I have heard since I have been appointed to the Council seat, is about the growing surplus of vacant and neglected buildings around town. The buildings become a magnet for crime and graffiti and bring surrounding property values down. In addition, it is not a simple process for someone to open a business in the majority of these buildings. Many older buildings on major streets have a hard time meeting parking requirements due to road widenings that have shaved off a lot of the property. It is because I want to see these buildings utilized, generating tax dollars and encouraging infill, that I voted to make it easier for new businesses to receive a Certificate of Occupancy in existing buildings. There were valid concerns voiced from neighborhood leaders about potential impacts. A sunset clause built into the ordinance makes me hopeful that if any issues do arise, they can be addressed at that time.

PARKS & RECREATION NEWS:

Senior trip: Mini Time Machine Museum Trip on Wednesday, July 28 12:30-4:00 p.m. A trip to a museum filled with miniatures, imagination and creativity. Cost is \$5. Sign up at Carol West Senior Addition front desk.

The Fall Program Guide and Class Catalog will be available for on-line viewing on Friday, July 16 and hard copies will be available on Monday, July 19.

McCormick Park received funding to install a new sidewalk from the basketball court to the comfort station at the east end of the park. With the new sidewalk installment, park users will have access from this end of the park.

Tucson Parks and Recreation offers a variety of senior activities and programs at various sites. Senior activity cards are available to purchase and allows participants in program activities. Participants currently involved at Tucson Parks and Recreation programs will have from July 1, 2010 through August 6, 2010 to purchase the new Senior Activity Card.

The fees include:

Annual:

\$25-Resident

\$30-Non-resident

Quarterly:

\$7-Resident

\$8-Non-resident

Daily Activity Pass:
\$1.50-Resident
\$2.00-Non-resident

WARD 2 SHRED-A-THON SPONSORED BY SHRED-IT & PCOA

We're having a shred-a-thon sponsored by Shred-it and the Pima Council on Aging
Saturday July 17, 8 am- noon

Ward 2, Eastside City Hall @ 7575 E Speedway

The first two boxes will be destroyed without charge. Additional boxes will cost \$10 per box. PCOA will also be collecting used cell phones to be recycled. All proceeds will be donated to Pima Council on Aging & Casa de los Niños.

For questions please contact Justin Searle at 791-4687 or justin.searle@tucsonaz.gov.

SECOND ANNUAL TUCSON'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION CAKE BAKING CONTEST:

Join Councilman Paul Cunningham as we celebrate Tucson's birthday with a cake baking contest on August 20, 2010. Categories include: Most creative, best tasting and best theme for Tucson's Birthday! For more information contact Demitri Downing at 791-4687 or demitri.downing@tucsonaz.gov.

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
- * CINDERELLAS 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- 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