



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

June 8, 2018

PAUL'S NOTE

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It is right to be concerned when you hear a story about human trafficking and the exploitation of children. That's why some of you called my office when several outlets said that both of these things were happening in a homeless encampment off of I-19.

The only trouble is that the story turned out not to be true.

The police were called out to check on the camp on May 29 after getting contacted by the public. The police took this seriously and used a lot of department time and personnel to investigate, which is hard to do given their staffing issues.

Aside from evidence that homeless people had recently lived there, they found no evidence of the activities that were being alleged. This is from the official police release:

On May 29, 2018, the Tucson Police Department responded to the site of what appeared to be a one-time homeless encampment located on private property in the area of W. Valencia Rd. and S. I-19. Several individuals from a group of affiliated homeless veterans discovered the site and expressed concerns about possible criminal activity at that location. Tucson Police Department officers, detectives,

and command staff conducted a thorough inspection of the site, spoke to the reporting parties, and collected evidence. Based on the department's investigation to this point, there is no indication this camp is being used for any type of criminal activity, including human trafficking. Yesterday, an unsubstantiated assertion was made that a body might be buried at the site. A cadaver dog was used to check the area with negative results.

The department has been in contact with the property owner who advised no one has permission to be on the property. The police department

PAUL'S NOTE (CONTINUED)

and property owners are working with City code enforcement officials to clear out the encampment and secure the property.

I am not happy that this got perpetrated, at least initially, by local journalists who didn't seem to ask themselves if the story that was being presented to them made any sense. This wasn't a failure for our entire local media: Tim Steller of the Daily Star and Dylan Smith of the Tucson Sentinel have both debunked these stories and called out outlets that pushed them.

In the days since this has hit the media, the incident has morphed on national websites into an alleged conspiracy that involves groups as diverse as Mexican corporation CEMEX, controversial company NXIVM, the Clinton Foundation and even the Libyan Provisional Government. I wish I was making this up. If you want to look it up on the internet you can, but life is really too short for you to waste your time.

There are so many things that disappoint me about how this has emerged. I understand how a reporter, just like a regular citizen, would get scared when they hear allegations about sex trafficking. I just wish a little more care was taken in evaluating the source that this information came from. I hope this is something they have learned from.

Another thing that disappoints me are the attacks on our police and on our mayor. It amazes me how many people in our community that support the police are at the same time alleging that they would be involved in a cover up of something like this. As for the mayor, there are a number of bizarre allegations out there that invoke his religion and his last name.

As Citizens we have a responsibility to evaluate information and news items, their credibility and their veracity. In our modern instant information society, too many rumors have the tendency to spin out of control. When this happens the unintended consequences can be dire.

LIVING HISTORY SUMMER CAMP

Your child can live Tucson's history at the Presidio Museum's summer camp. A child age 6—12 can become an early inhabitant of Tucson and experience history hands-on.

Children will make adobe bricks, tin ornaments, a family tree and a personal family crest.

Other activities include calligraphy, gardening, grinding corn by hand and presidio era games.

They will learn about nature, their ancestors and Tucson's multi-cultural history.

Click on the dates below for more information and to register!

June 4-8 and June 11-15 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm. Aftercare available until 5 pm.



TAP TAKEOVER AT SAGUARO CORNERS

Saguaro Corners and Uncle Bear's Brewery are partnering with the Humane Society of Southern Arizona to help support their mission to help the animals and people in our community.

The Tap Takeover will be on Wednesday, June 13th from 5 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Saguaro Corners, 3750 Old Spanish Trail, Tucson, AZ 85730.

Come by and participate in the raffle, win prizes, and enjoy the amazing selection of craft beers on the pet-friendly patio. \$1 from every pint will go to the Humane Society of Southern Arizona.

SUMMER SAFARI FRIDAY NIGHTS

Summer Safari Friday Nights 2018 continues at Reid Park Zoo. The program runs 6-8 p.m. every Friday until Aug. 3. Visit the Zoo during cooler evening temperatures, and enjoy the added benefits of live music, family-friendly animal features, and food and drink specials. The night features face painting, glitter tattoos, enrichment stations, the carousel, animal encounters, and more. Regular admission applies, but some activities require an additional fee. Tonight's theme will be "Go Blue – World Ocean's Day Celebration." Wear blue and get \$1 off admission.

For more information, visit: <https://reidparkzoo.org/event/summer-safari-friday-nights-2018/>

PARKS PROGRAMS

Activity Guide: Tucson Parks and Recreation's Activity Guide for summer 2018 has arrived, and copies are available for pick up at all Parks and Recreation facilities. It can be viewed online at: www.tucsonaz.gov/parks.

The Activity Guide contains complete information on leisure classes, KIDCO after-school, aquatics, sports programs, registration, and the Discount Program. Registration dates are as follows:

All leisure class listings are online at www.EZEEreg.com. Please see the Activity Guide for more information on registration and deadlines. Whether you enjoy being active in slow-pitch softball leagues, want to design amazing jewelry, or get healthy and fit, there truly is something for everyone at Tucson Parks and Recreation. For questions or more information on registration or programs, contact Registration Services at 791-4877.

Carol West Senior Addition: The Carol West Senior Addition at Udall features multipurpose rooms, lounge area with TV, computer adult learning center and pool tables. It is located at Udall Park and is open from 9 am to 4 pm Monday thru Friday.

Summer Track and Field: The City of Tucson Parks and Recreation department will be hosting the annual summer track and field and road race events Tuesdays and Thursdays in June and July. Track and field is every Tuesday, June 12-July 17, at Drachman Stadium, 501 S. Plumer. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m., and the meet begins promptly at 6 p.m. Events will include: long jump, turbo javelin (18 and under), shot put, 50 meter dash (5 and under), 100, 200 and 400 meter dash, 800, 1600, 3200 meter runs, 4 x 100 relay, and 4 x 400 relay.

Road races will be every Thursday, June 7-July 19, at Freedom Park (June 7 and 28), Lakeside Park ramada 1 (June 14 and July 12), and Reid Park southwest corner (June 21 and July 19). Registration begins at 5:30 p.m., with races starting at 6 p.m. Events will include: 1 mile predict, 2K short race, and 5K long race.

The costs for these events are \$3 for youth 17 and under and \$4 for adults. Ribbons will be given to the top finishers at each track and field meet and road race. More information can be found on the City of Tucson Parks and Recreation sports website, or call the Sports Unit at 520-791-4870.

Swim Lessons: Tucson Parks and Recreation, in partnership with the American Red Cross, to offer \$2 swim lessons to those who qualify. For details, call 791-2877 or visit tucsonaz.gov/parks

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Tucsonaz.gov/
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Remember to like
Paul on Facebook!

Please bring these items to the Ward 2 Office
for the following charities:

**THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK—Non Perishable
Items**

**DIAPER BANK OF SOUTHERN ARIZONA—
Infant/Child/Adult Diapers**

**TIHAN - Personal Care Items for Individuals
and Families in Need**

LIONS CLUB—Eye Glasses

**DANCING IN THE STREETS ARIZONA—Ballet/
Dance Equipment**

CASA MARIA—Plastic bags

**SR. JOSE WOMEN'S SHELTER—Summer items
and clothing, athletic shoes, back packs, tote**

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

The next Mayor and Council meeting will be on **Tuesday, June 19**. Regular Session starts at 5:30 pm following an afternoon study session. There is always a short call to the audience before the business portion of the meeting. Council chambers are located downtown at 255 W Alameda.

The agendas for the meetings are posted online at <http://cms3.tucsonaz.gov/clerks/mcdocs>

