



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

September 30, 2017

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PAUL'S NOTE

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A few weeks ago, I talked about how items get on the ballot. I didn't go into Proposition 406, which deals with compensation for Mayor and Council, much because the reasons for it being on the ballot are a bit more complicated.

Back in 1993, voters passed Proposition 100, which amended the city charter (you can think of it as Tucson's constitution) to establish a commission, called the Citizens' Commission on Public Service and Compensation, to set salaries for mayor and council. The commission can't have any city employees or a spouse or close relative of one. Their only responsibility is salaries of elected officials. They have no authority over the salaries of other employees or other parts of the budget.

According to the charter, this commission meets every odd numbered year for two months. At

the end of their term, they forward their recommendation to Mayor and Council. The commission is not, by the way, obligated to recommend a salary increase.

Whatever their recommendation, it goes before Mayor and Council to determine how it gets placed on the ballot. This year, there was a bit of a twist. The commission recommended two separate ballot questions: one for the mayor's salary and one for council salary. My colleagues chose to combine the questions, which has been the usual way it has been presented to the electorate.

The current salaries for Mayor and Council are \$3,500 and \$2,000 per month respectively. We still think of Mayor and Council as part-time jobs, but we aren't a small town anymore and haven't been for a long time. We oversee a \$1.43 billion budget and are

making decisions about city functions from water to public safety. If you think about what we do as a full-time, 40 hour a week job, that is roughly \$12.50 per hour for a council member.

The proposal would increase the salaries to \$5,775 and \$3,300 per month. That may seem a steep hike, but council salaries haven't been increased since 1999. A councilmember's salary would be \$20.62 an hour, still below the average for the city of Tucson (\$21.42, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics).

A common argument against raising the salaries for Mayor and Council is that elected officials don't deserve more money, but on the other hand if you want more people to throw their hat in the ring and run for office, the low pay and long hours are certainly a barrier.

PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED

Like I said, this was a mandatory ballot item (per the voters) and as always, the choice is yours.

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With that, it is probably a good time to remind you about the schedule for our upcoming general election.

You will be getting a publicity pamphlet next week. They will be mailed October 5. The final day for voter registration will be the 9th.

Remember that Tucson is doing an all-mail election. Because our election coincides with many school district elections, we are working closely with both Pima County Elections and the Pima County School Superintendent. We wanted to cut down the confusion of having several ballots mailed to you. Ballots will be mailed on October 11.

November 7 is Election Day. If you have trouble mailing your ballot or if you just like voting at a polling place, there will be one open in each ward.

However, whoever and whatever you decide to vote, make sure that you do this year.

FINAL CATURDAY AT THE ZOO

Enjoy the final Caturday Saturdays at Reid Park Zoo this weekend (regular admission applies), with a zookeeper presentation beginning at 9:30 a.m. Watch the featured animal enjoy enrichment, get your questions answered by staff and volunteers, visit a crafts table, get a temporary "CATtoo," and take part in additional activities and fun. This Saturday will focus on tigers. Meanwhile, the Zoo begins its October-May hours, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., starting Sunday. For more information, visit reidparkzoo.org



JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

The city has openings for Public Safety Service Operator (PSSO). The Tucson Fire Department and Tucson Police Department are combining efforts to hire needed emergency and non-emergency operators.

PSSOs will be trained to answer 911 calls and serve as the first line of communication between the Tucson community and our Police and Fire services. PSSOs will be responsible for receiving both emergency and non-emergency requests for assistance from the public, passing critical information to our Police and Fire dispatchers. Dispatchers then ensure appropriate response from our public safety professionals across the City. This entry-level position promises opportunities for advancement within our future Police and Fire consolidated City Communications Department.

Applications must be received by Oct. 4.

PAINT PIMA PURPLE

October will mark the 30th Domestic Violence Awareness Month, so once again, Emerge! Center Against Domestic Abuse is asking...

Will you help us Paint Pima Purple?

On October 19, put on your favorite purple outfit, take a pic & send it to communications@emergecenter.org or upload it to social media and tag us, #DVAM2017, #PaintPimaPurple, #EndDVTogether.

You can also book an appointment to get a purple hair extension for \$10 at Salon Nouveau (323-0770) and all proceeds will come to Emerge!

There will also be two opportunities to "Stuff the Truck." With help from Two Men and a Truck, supplies will be collected for domestic abuse survivors. You can bring supplies such as gift cards, new bath and hygiene items and undergarments to:

Oct. 13, 7 am to 1 pm: CDO Baptist Church, 9200 N Oracle Rd.

Oct. 27, 7 am to 6 pm: Rincon Congregational UCC, 122 N Craycroft

The Ward 2 office will also be collecting supplies on Oct. 27.

CAROL WEST SENIOR CENTER

The Carol West Senior Addition at Udall features multipurpose rooms, lounge area with TV, computer adult learning center and pool tables. It is open 6 am—8 pm Monday thru Friday and Saturday 8 am—4 pm. For more information, call 791—4121

PARKS PROGRAMS

Holiday Arts & Craft Fair Registration: Vendor registration is open for the Holiday Arts and Crafts Fair in Reid Park. The fair is scheduled for Thanksgiving weekend- Saturday and Sunday, November 25-26, 2017 from 9 am to 4 pm. For more information, visit tucsonaz.gov/parks or contact Susan Orrico, Event Coordinator, 791-4877. Attached is an event flier.

Swim Fall Schedule: The swim fall schedule began on August 3rd. For additional information: <https://www.tucsonaz.gov/parks/pools-and-splash-pads>

Fall Leisure Classes: The first session of Fall Leisure Classes runs through October 14. Session two of classes will run October 29 through December 16. Visit EZEereg.com for details. Call 791-4877 for more information or questions.

**PAUL CUNNINGHAM,
CITY COUNCIL, WARD 2**

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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, October 10**. 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>

