



PAUL CUNNINGHAM

WARD 2

November 3, 2017

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PAUL'S NOTE

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Two weeks ago, my colleagues and I received a memo from Police Chief Chris Magnus about police staffing. I want to share with you some of the data from that memo.

There are some disagreements about numbers and what they mean. We hit our peak number of officers in 2008 when we were at 1112 (up from 1032 the previous year). At that time, the City received a one-time grant from the federal government that enabled us to authorize that many positions for officers. That peak was achieved for a very short time (one assistant chief told my staff that we may have only been at that number for a

day). Shortly afterward, the grant ran out and the economic downturn hit and those positions initially paid for by the grant could not be maintained.

During my time on the council, we have not laid off any police or fire personnel despite our overall city workforce being roughly 2/3 the size it was a decade ago. Still, budget issues, like our obligated pension payments that I wrote about last week, have made it difficult to hire new officers (and other city staff as well) to replace the ones that have been leaving due to retirements, other positions in law enforcement or other careers entirely.

At the time of Magnus's memo, there

were 805 officers. 17 more will soon be deployable with 26 more next year. This only keeps up with attrition rates. It takes 17 weeks to get an officer through the academy plus eight weeks of post academy training. That's six months to train a new set of officers.

We hear a lot of talk about officers leaving for better pay at other area departments. Of the 41 officers that have resigned over the last year, only 8 reported that they were going to other agencies.

The reasons officers leave are varied. Chief Magnus has been doing a good job dealing with staffing issues, including a restructuring earlier this year that put

PAUL'S NOTE, CONTINUED

more officers that were in administrative jobs back into patrol cars. He's been a good partner to the council and a great leader for Tucson. I know that he and the manager are going to be coming up with a solution, one that I hope will include hiring new officers.

Parks and Recreation

Earlier this week, my staff along with other city staff attended a forum to meet the three finalists to be our new Parks and Recreation Director.

All three bring impressive resumes with experience that includes smaller communities like El Centro and Maricopa all the way up to one who runs parks for the City of Minneapolis. Most importantly, they all bring a creativity and vision that a position like this one needs.

The only downside to this whole process is that we are losing Joan Stauch, who has been in charge of the department since last year. Joan has been wonderful to work with and has gotten a lot of things done despite having to work with a smaller staff than her predecessors had. She got the pools reopened so many of our kids were able to swim this summer.

Most importantly, she has been critical to what my office is trying to do at Jesse Owens Park. I'd been frustrated for a long time about that park, but with her help, we were able to come up with a plan for the park that is doable with the resources available.

Her motto is "Let's see what we can do" and figuring out what can be done with what she's got. I'll miss her. Thank you, Joan!

CITIZEN SCIENTIST PROJECT

The University of Arizona's College of Agriculture & Life Sciences is looking for volunteers to join its Citizen Science Project (projectharvest.arizona.edu). Nearly 60 participants already have been trained to collect harvested water, soil, and vegetable samples for environmental analyses. Volunteers are given traditional lab supplies and do-it-yourself gear. Samples are analyzed by University of Arizona researchers and the volunteers. For more information or to sign up, e-mail Monica Ramirez at mdramire@email.arizona.edu or call (520) 621-0091.

ALL SOULS PROCESSION

The 28th annual All Souls Procession, one of Tucson's signature events will be held Sunday, Nov. 5. A gathering begins at the starting point at 4 p.m, while the procession begins at 6 p.m. The new route this year starts at West Speedway Boulevard and North Grande Avenue, proceeds south through Barrio Hollywood and the Menlo Park neighborhood, ending at Mercado San Agustin on West Congress. Tens of thousands of people are expected to be in costumes and skeleton face paint to honor the dead. This year, the musical finale will be performed by 50 Tucson Symphony Orchestra (TSO) musicians, led by José Luis Gomez, the music director of the TSO. Organized by Many Mouths One Stomach, a nonprofit arts collective, the free All Souls event draws participants from across the country and the world. Visit allsoulsprocession.org for more information about the event and a list of travel restrictions and parking availability.

FESTIVAL IN THE PARK

Cigna and Tucson Parks and Recreation present the Family Festival in the Park - Saturday, Nov. 18

Cigna and Tucson Parks and Recreation are proud to present the 12th annual Family Festival in the Park. There will be games, prizes, face painting, crafts, inflatables, tennis, disc golf, and class demonstrations. Reid Park Zoo will have free admission and the Edith Ball Adaptive Recreation Center will host free swimming with an inflatable obstacle course. Volunteers from Friends of the Reid Park Rose Garden will be giving tours of the garden during the event. Entertainment will be presented throughout the day, and a variety of foods will be available for purchase through local vendors.

Please bring donations of canned goods to the festival to benefit the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona.

A special thanks to our event sponsors: Cigna, Pyramid Federal Credit Union, Bear Essential News, Tucson Water, Barbizon Southwest Model and Talent Agency, CareMore Health Plan, KVOI and K-LOVE, East Tucson Macaroni Kid, and Whataburger.

Who: Everyone

Cost: FREE, but please bring non-perishable food donations to support the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona

When: Saturday, Nov. 18, 10 a.m-2 p.m.

Where: Reid Park, 22nd and Country Club (west of the Zoo)

Contact: Sierra Boyer, Community Promotions and Marketing Manager
Sierra.Boyer@tucsonaz.gov 837-8032 for more information

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: Session two of classes will run October 29 through December 16. Visit EZEereg.com for details.

Call 791-4877 for more information or questions.

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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, November 21**. 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>

