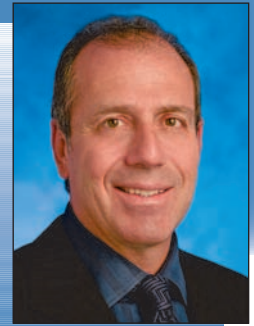


District 6 News



June 2009

A NEWSLETTER FROM PHOENIX CITY COUNCILMAN SAL DICICCIO, DISTRICT 6

Welcome to your District 6 E-newsletter. When I was first elected to the City Council more than a decade ago, I thought of Phoenix as the “little city that could” because so many ideas and projects were in the planning or development stages. To say times have changed is an understatement. I am proud of the fact that, more than 10 years later, we now have the light rail transporting people from central Phoenix past Sky Harbor International Airport, through Tempe and into Mesa. We now have a Convention Center that is triple the size of the old one, a new Sheraton Phoenix Downtown that is the largest hotel in the state, an expanded art museum, a burgeoning arts and theatre district that helps put on the great First Friday Art Walks, a children’s museum, an expanding public farmers market, and two sports arenas that also function as large concert venues.

In addition, Arizona State University has expanded its presence in downtown Phoenix bringing new life and investment to our city’s core. Because of these and many more pending projects, we are witnessing the revitalization of our neighborhoods. We are seeing new local restaurants open owned by award-winning chefs. Many boutiques are springing up that offer one-of-a-kind clothing and jewelry designed and produced by local artists. These small businesses contribute to the local economy and are vital to keeping our city on a path to prosperity.

You also can see this renaissance emerging in north Central Phoenix, Arcadia or the Ahwatukee Foothills of District 6. All of these

projects equate to more jobs, better educational opportunities and an enhancement in everyone’s overall quality of life. And, while these are challenging economic times for our city and state, it is an honor to have been appointed to represent District 6 and use my past experience and leadership skills to help Phoenix move forward to becoming a world-class city!

As I continue to spend time getting to know the residents of District 6, I invite you to join me and my family and take some time to “get to know” YOUR city again by traveling on the light rail or re-discovering cultural treasures like the Desert Botanical Garden, the Phoenix Zoo, Tovrea Castle and Carraro Cactus Garden, all of which are located in District 6. I urge you to support our local business owners by “going local.”

Choose to eat and shop at locally-owned restaurants and shops. Your choice to support local businesses keeps vital dollars in our communities where they are used for important services like police, fire, libraries, senior centers and parks, all of which contribute to our quality of life.

Since I left office in 2000, I got married and now have four-year-old twin daughters. I can wholeheartedly say that we not only look forward to meeting all of you, but to witnessing the rebirth of Phoenix as we rise from the ashes of a burned economy and into a new beginning of prosperity.





Solicitation Ordinance

You just finished your morning cup of coffee or you and your family has just sat down to dinner and then... the doorbell rings. It's a solicitor. Are they disturbing you for a legitimate reason or are they casing homes for potential burglaries? Yes, a Girl or Boy Scout might be a welcome visitor, but what about a stranger who engages you in conversation, tries to sell you a magazine subscription or other product, but has no identification, uniform or valid reason to be at your door? Currently, the city has no ordinance to prevent unscrupulous people from disturbing your peace.

Keeping our neighborhoods safe is one of my top priorities, and I believe it is time that the city takes action to protect you from unwanted solicitors. I am crafting an ordinance that would regulate door-to-door solicitation. Under it, many solicitors would be required to obtain a permit from the city that would be an easy way for residents to know if the solicitation is legitimate. The proposed ordinance also could possibly regulate the solicitor's hours of operation. The goal of this ordinance is to deter burglaries, home invasions and other property crimes.

This effort is in direct response to the many residents who have shared their concerns with me and requested that action be taken to curb the increase in unwanted solicitors knocking on their doors. Unfortunately, not all solicitors are legitimate and there are people out there posing

as solicitors to canvass neighborhoods and target homes to burglarize.

The proposed ordinance will not affect legitimate businesses that use solicitation for advertising purposes nor will it limit free speech. It will not impact non-profit groups or members of the faith-based community. I am reaching out to non-profits such as the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts as well as schools and churches to to hear what they have to say, and to explain my proposal in detail. I want to include all those who are interested in having their voices heard.

The next step will be to form a task force of stakeholders on the issue, including neighborhood leaders, non-profit groups, and members of the business and faith-based communities. They will be charged with studying solicitation ordinances from other cities and making recommendations to the City Council on what an ordinance in Phoenix would entail.

On April 28, the Public Safety and Veterans Subcommittee heard my request to form a solicitation task force to begin looking at the issue of door-to-door solicitation in Phoenix and to begin drafting an ordinance to regulate this activity. I am pleased to report that Subcommittee members approved my request showing their support for finding a solution to this growing citywide problem.

As always, I am YOUR Councilman and this is YOUR District. I want to hear from you, so please contact my office with your comments, suggestions or recommendations. I welcome your input. Also, please let me know if there is anything else that I can be of assistance with. Thank you.

Desert Foothills Park

The Desert Foothills Park on Chandler Boulevard and Desert Foothills Parkway is being improved to include several new amenities. The first public meeting was held on Nov. 14, 2007, where more than 100 Ahwatukee Foothills residents provided their input. In this meeting 46 percent of residents said they wanted a dog park added.

The public also expressed support for a lighted ball park, a community center and more amenities including upgraded parking, walkways, security lighting and more trees. This input allowed the Parks Department to assess the public's needs, and provide a master plan detailing the amenities that will be added.

The master plan was presented to the Parks Board on Feb. 26 and approved. Respecting the public's wishes the city will start the planning process to install this dog park on the southeast corner of Marketplace Way and Desert Foothills Parkway. For more information about the proposed changes to Desert Foothills Park, please contact my office at 602-262-7491.



South Mountain 620 Land

The city of Phoenix on April 2 purchased 247 acres of State Trust Land in the Ahwatukee Foothills between 19th and 27th avenues north of the alignment for Chandler Boulevard. The land commonly referred to as the South Mountain 620, will give South Mountain Park/Preserve crucial trailhead access, and provide space for a future community park, fire station and library. I am proud to have been involved with this land purchase dating back to my last term as councilman 12 years ago.

The South Mountain Park Preserve will get 165 acres; 70 acres will be set aside for a future park and parking areas; five acres will be used for a trail/preserve access point; and the remaining seven acres will be used for a fire station and branch library. Without question, these are all exciting and positive additions that we will work to materialize in the near future.

The \$18 million that was used to buy the 247 acres came from 2001 and 2006 voter approved bond initiatives. Funding for park and trailhead access has not yet been identified. The vision of this project stretches back 12 years ago, with many residents having worked tirelessly to accomplish this significant goal. Equally impressive is that more than 160 acres of this land will be added to the Phoenix Parks and Preserves system. This is pristine land that will be treasured and enjoyed for our children's children and generations to come.

This wondrous effort perhaps is summed up best by State Land Commissioner Mark Winkleman: "We have worked with the city for almost 20 years on this property and I am very pleased that we had a successful auction today. In these dire financial times, it is even more critical for the State Land Department to continue to generate revenues for Arizona's public schools and other beneficiaries."

Nicely put!



Camelback Opportunity Corridor

The District 6 Office has started to encourage redevelopment west between 20th and 16th streets along Camelback Road by naming this region as a Camelback Opportunity Corridor. This is to alleviate community tension that has stemmed from the desire to have development emanate east of 24th Street along Camelback Road.

I envision this region to be an ideal setting for development similar to the area of the Biltmore near 24th Street and Camelback Road. To incentivize economic development in the area and allow it to be recognized as a major employment corridor we are exploring the creation of a community development corporation or CDC. The goal of creating this primarily would be to look at ways to bring positive change to this area.

The community development corporation's underlying goal is to work with the local property owners to attract major companies that in return would create countless high-paying jobs. The CDC would be able to finance capital improvement projects along Camelback such as enhanced streetscape and pedestrian walkways. I will also be looking at ways to subsidize the fees that the city's Development Services Department assigns projects described as "shovel-ready." This would help minimize the time between when building permits are issued and when a project begins construction. If you have any questions about the Camelback Opportunity Corridor, please call the District 6 Office at 602-262-7491.



ALEX Re-routing Committee

Phoenix has had to make changes to public transportation to balance this year's budget. For District 6, this means modifications to the Ahwatukee Local Explorer (ALEX) Neighborhood Circulator.

The city's top priority in reducing its budget continues to be providing quality services for Phoenix residents while making as few changes as possible. To do this, City Councilmembers assembled a citizens planning committee consisting of District 6 residents to determine methods to reduce operating costs of the valued ALEX circulator, while still meeting the needs of the surrounding community. Additionally, three community hearings were held in April to get feedback from local residents about possible changes in circulator routes.

Based on this input, the committee proposed a plan that they believe will serve the community effectively. To start, the circulator frequency would be reduced, running every 40 minutes instead of 30 minutes. The new route would run along Chandler Boulevard between Desert Foothills Parkway and 24th Street, and between 32nd and 40th streets. The new route would end operation along 50th Street, Liberty Lane and Lakewood Parkway. The committee approved this proposed plan on April 30. Under the proposed changes, the ALEX circulator will continue to be free for all riders.

Proposed changes are scheduled to take effect Monday, July 27. For information about the proposed route changes, contact the District 6 Office at 602-262-7491 or council.district.6@phoenix.gov.

44th Street Asphalt Path

District 6 residents who live along 44th Street will be delighted to learn that the city will be installing an asphalt path on both sides of the street. Once completed, pedestrians out enjoying a leisurely stroll, jogging or walking their dogs will no longer be forced out dangerously out into the street. The path will create a safe, cohesive pedestrian walkway along 44th Street. On the east side of 44th Street, it will run from south of Vermont Street to South of Solano Drive. On the west side of 44th Street, it will start at the north corner of Stanford Drive and run to the south corner of St. Joseph Way. Construction is slated to begin in June. If you have any questions regarding this asphalt path, call the District 6 Office at 602-262-7491.

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