City Council is Back to Work!

We are officially back from council recess and moving full speed ahead supporting my vision for a vibrant downtown, strong economic development, correcting the RNAV noise disruptions and supporting police and fire. In our first Formal Council meeting of the new fiscal year, we have voted to move forward on several items I have been working on and of which support my priorities.

The resurgence of downtown continues to pick up steam with the expanding residential community and new restaurants and entertainment options coming to the area. One of the exciting residential projects, Illuminate Apartments located at 1015 N. 2nd St., will bring hundreds of new residents to the area, boosting our economy, supporting the nearby businesses and adding to the vibrancy and energy of the downtown core. In addition, the developer has agreed to create 80 free community parking spots for the duration of the construction located at 2nd St. and Roosevelt. These additional spaces will prove beneficial to the burgeoning Roosevelt Row corridor, especially during Hance Park events and First Friday’s.

Councilman Sal DiCiccio and I have been working for the last year on an ordinance to protect individuals’ privacy and security from unmanned aircraft. This is an urgent and emerging issue across the country, as drones become more popular for their convenience and relatively low cost. We took a big step toward a Phoenix response when the city council approved additional staff research to examine this subject. This will allow the research necessary to develop an ordinance that protects our residents, but allows drones to be used both for recreational and industry purposes. It is important for me to protect individuals’ privacy and to make sure drones are being used safely and responsibly within our communities.

On Roosevelt Row, the City Council approved an exemption to the 300-foot distance restriction for a liquor license for The Nash, a local non-profit Jazz music venue and education center. This would not have been possible without the successful development of the Entertainment District approved by City Council on June 17, 2015. The Entertainment District allows City Council to approve exemptions from the 300-foot distance restriction applicable to churches and schools. With Downtown’s emergence as an entertainment and dining mecca, this special district designation allows us to continue to build momentum, attract new businesses, generate jobs and create a vibrant atmosphere in Downtown Phoenix. The Nash has been part of the Roosevelt Row Arts District since 2012 and is an important piece to the fabric of the entire downtown. I am very pleased our efforts in creating this special district is having such an immediate benefit to a valued business in the area.

With the council year underway, I am committed to continuing my efforts in making Downtown prosperous, pushing economic development in all areas of my district from Estrella and Laveen to South Phoenix and Maryvale. I’ll continue to fight to correct the noise pollution caused by the RNAV flight path changes and for more funding to hire additional police officers and firefighters. Lastly, I will continue to champion construction of the vitally important Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway, which will generate major economic investment in the Laveen and Estrella area.
PASSAGE OF PROPOSITION 104

The passage of Proposition 104 is a victory for Phoenix and, specifically, the residents of District 7. Nearly 55 percent of voters supported the long-range transportation plan laid out in Proposition 104. Prop. 104 also will usher in the next major expansion of our Light Rail system, including the South Central and I-10 West extensions.

Proposition 104 will help to transform the transportation landscape throughout District 7 and support our city’s growth moving forward.

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CELEBRATE PHOENIX ARTS & CULTURE

Celebrate Phoenix Arts and Culture @ 30, a one day festival of arts and culture activities on Saturday, October 3, 2015, to mark the 30th anniversary of the City of Phoenix Arts and Culture Commission.

Festivities take place from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Phoenix Convention Center and Herberger Theatre on Monroe Street between Second and Third Streets in downtown Phoenix. Nearly 100 Phoenix arts and culture organizations will participate through music, dance and theatre performances, art making demonstrations and information booths.

SEEKING PROPOSALS FOR ART EXHIBITION

Burton Barr Central Library is seeking proposals for exhibition in its’ @Central Gallery in 2016. @Central Gallery, located on the first floor at 1221 N. Central Ave., presents fine art exhibitions featuring the work of Arizona artists. @Central Gallery is open to the public during normal library hours and on First Friday.

Don’t miss out on this exceptional opportunity for exposure to a diverse audience! Submissions will be accepted from artists residing in Arizona, 18 years or older and not currently represented by a gallery. Artists must submit 10 images following the prospectus instructions. Works previously exhibited in @Central Gallery and artists who have had a solo exhibition at the Library in the past two years are not eligible for consideration.

The submission fee is $15. Submissions must be completed online, postmarked or hand-delivered by Friday, Sept. 25, 2015. For a prospectus and application instructions, visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org or send an e-mail to centralgallery.lib@phoenix.gov.
SOUTH MOUNTAIN 202 UPDATE

An Arizona federal judge on Tuesday denied a preliminary injunction bid that would have delayed the construction of the $2 Billion freeway project, known as the Loop 202 South Mountain Freeway.

I am pleased with this action and want to express my enthusiasm once again for this important transportation corridor. The positive economic impact this freeway will bring to the region will be transformative.

The communities of Laveen, South Mountain and Estrella stand to benefit immensely, as this project will attract new businesses, development and create jobs. Furthermore, this area has been underserved for decades with inadequate transportation corridors and this freeway will provide much needed relief for congestion on sections of Interstate 10 and area surface streets.

This decision will allow the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to continue work currently underway, purchasing homes in the right of way, testing the soil along the route and in negotiating and entering into contracts with designers and contractors. These activities are a critical piece in the overall timeline of the project and I am relieved to learn that the freeway is moving forward as planned.

NEW AIR SERVICE TO MEXICO

The city of Phoenix has received great news about our efforts to strengthen our economic and social connections to Mexico -- Arizona’s largest trading partner. Starting in November, Mexico’s second biggest airline, Volaris will add twice weekly direct flights from Sky Harbor Airport to Hermosillo.

I have traveled to Hermosillo frequently over the past several years through my work with the Phoenix Sister Cities Hermosillo Committee to build and expand economic, cultural and social ties between our two states and cities. These visits help bring our two regions together to find economic similarities and promote cultural exchanges and understanding. Now with twice weekly flights to Hermosillo, we can more easily expand our efforts and produce even greater results for people on both sides of the border.

SUPPORT OUR VETERANS

As Chairman of Public Safety & Veterans Subcommittee, I am committed in supporting our veterans. They sacrifice their family, friends and community to defend our country and protect our freedoms. Every day our men and women risk their lives for us and so many have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Their heroism sometimes can go unnoticed, but you can help in more than one way.

I encourage you to take part of Operation Freedom Bird and support their efforts in helping our veterans participate in a program to help them through the healing process from symptoms of PTSD, grief and loss. Read more about the program and ways to help by visiting their site operationfreedombird.org and click on “Provider Information” or you may also contribute funds through the “Donation Link.”

Let’s show our support and gratitude to those who have made sacrifices for our freedom.
G.A.I.N. is Arizona’s answer to National Night Out (NNO) which is held in August but due to the high temperatures communities chose to observe NNO in October and call it G.A.I.N. October is also Crime Prevention month. G.A.I.N. events are put together by block watch groups. They have cookouts, block parties and invite their local police officers and city officials to help strengthen neighborhood spirit and encourage police and fire partnerships.

Marine Week is a celebration of Community, Country and Corps – providing the American public the unique experience to directly connect with hundreds of Marines. The public has the opportunity to climb aboard state-of-the-art aircraft and ground equipment, check out the latest military technology and combat weaponry, witness hand-to-hand martial arts demonstrations sounds of the Silent Drill Platoon and Marine Corps Band.

For more information on locations and a complete list of activities please visit: marines.mil/communityrelations/communityevents/marineweek2015.aspx.

The City of Phoenix along with Metro Center Mall has created a special event to offer neighborhood groups, block watches, and members of the public opportunities to learn about programs and resources available to them.

- City of Phoenix Officials
- Community Action Officers
- Shred-a-thon
- Phx PD Special Assignment Unit
- Phx Fire Department
- Street Transportation Department
- Neighborhood Services
- Parks & Recreation

G.A.I.N 2015 KICK OFF

The United States Marine Corps looks forward to celebrating community, country and engage in clinics with Marine Corps sports teams, all while taking in the sights and Corps with the greater Phoenix area as more than 600 Marines flood the "Valley of the Sun" September 10-13, 2015.

Most of the activities will be held at Civic Space Park, 424 N. Central Avenue. Exhibits of equipment and aircraft, such as the MV-22 Osprey and AH-1Z Super Cobra, Exhibits will be held at 1st Street & Jefferson.

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HELP KEEP PRESSURE ON FAA

The City of Phoenix and the Aviation Department have been doing an outstanding job reaching out to residents across Phoenix affected by the RNAV flight path changes. As part of an ongoing community engagement process, they have been hosting numerous coffee chats and community meetings. The City of Phoenix has also filed a complaint against the FAA, and we remain committed to ensuring the City and its residents are represented to the fullest extent of the law. In addition, the Phoenix Historic Neighborhoods have also filed a separate complaint against the FAA, further emphasizing our claims of noise disruption caused by the RNAV Flight path procedures. Lastly, myself and the city of Phoenix team continue outreach to airlines, other cities and industry, communications with our federal delegation, and closely monitoring the Metroplex response.

“We need to come together as “Team Phoenix” and fight to protect and preserve our neighborhood from noise blight. “

I cannot stress the importance of the noise complaints as they further our argument and best illustrate the distress we as a community are experiencing. I encourage you to remain vigilant and committed. We need to come together as “Team Phoenix” and fight to protect and preserve our neighborhood from noise blight. You can make a difference and that can be as simple as filing a complaint after a long day of listening to the airplanes above your home.

You can file your noise complaint at 602-683-2669 or toll-free 844-244-7430 or online at skyharbor.com/flightpaths/flighttracking.

In July, Assistant Aviation Director Deborah Ostreicher met with neighbors affected by the flight path changes in local coffee shops to hear their story and learn how the noise blight have impacted their everyday life. In mid-August, staff from the Aviation Department began hosting “Flight Path Workshops” this again, was another opportunity for residents affected by the flight path changes to ask questions regarding the FAA’s flight paths, as well as giving them hands on access to technical airspace data and information on the findings from the noise monitors. In addition, residents had a chance to speak to airspace planning experts, our government relations team and to file noise complaints during the workshop.

If you have not had an opportunity to attend and are interested, please mark your calendar for the next workshops scheduled for:

September 9
Valley Garden Center
1809 N. 15th Ave.
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Your feedback and involvement is crucial to the mission of restoring the peace in our skies.

For updates and latest news on the flight path changes and lawsuit, please visit: skyharbor.com.
Living Spaces is located in the Estrella Village in District 7. They have a large inventory of furniture and home accessories for every room in your house.

Visit their website at livingspaces.com to check out their catalog and don’t forget to check out their Inspiration page to find ideas to decorate your home!

The City of Phoenix Domestic Violence Campaign is holding an art contest for teens ages 14 to 18 to create original art work designed to raise awareness about domestic violence and increase teen’s knowledge about healthy teen relationships.

Visit paintphoenixpurple.org for information on the guidelines for the art contest. Deadline for artwork and completed registration form must be submitted by Sept. 21, 2015 at 4p.m.

Phoenix Mountain Preserve and Adaptive Management Plan
Public Open House
October 1, 2015
6pm – 8pm
Devonshire Community Center
2802 E. Devonshire Ave.

The second in a series of three public open house meetings will present site analysis for each trailhead area, and initial recommendations by the project team based on stakeholder input and study parameters. Stakeholders also may provide feedback by taking the online survey at phoenixmountainspreserve.com.

The final meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2015, at the same time and location.