Dear Friends and Residents,

This week, I would like to focus on the issue of School Zone Safety. As, many of you know, in January of this year there was a tragic pedestrian accident in which a 9 year old little girl was struck and killed by a hit and run driver along Braesview in District 9. The driver of the car was eventually apprehended and is currently awaiting trial. As a result of the accident, I met with neighborhood leaders, City Street Engineers, SAPD Chief McManus, and NEISD Superintendent Gottardy to come up with safety improvements. In March, the City began safety upgrades to the Larkspur Elementary School Zone along the route of the accident.

However, I do not want to stop the momentum of our efforts to improve District 9 School Zone Safety. As this school year ends, I want to hear from our District 9 parents and residents about any issues or concerns that you have in your school zone so that we may act in time for the next school year. Let's get ahead of the issues before another senseless tragedy occurs. On Monday, May 5th, I held a public meeting on the subject of school safety, details are below. If you were unable to
attend the meeting but would like to provide suggestions on how to make a District 9 School Zone more safe, please click HERE.

Lastly, I want to thank Rabbi Chaim Block for delivering an uplifting and inspiring invocation at City Council this week. Rabbi Block is not only my friend and my neighbor, but he is also a very respected Rabbi in our community and the Executive Director of the Chabad Center for Jewish Life and Learning. The City Council is also in session next week, click HERE for the latest agenda. As always, if there are topics you would like to see in my future newsletters, please let me know via email at district9@sanantonio.gov. Working together, we can make District 9 and our City a better place for everyone. Thanks again for the privilege of representing you.

Sincerely,

Joseph R Krier
Councilman, District 9

P. S. Remember to mark your calendar for the Special Election for District 9 on May 10, 2014.

Pictured: Rabbi Chaim Block as he delivers this week’s Invocation during City Council. Click HERE to see Rabbi Block’s biography.
I want to thank my panel of experts (Chief William McManus, SAPD, Dr Brian Gottardy, NEISD Superintendent and Mike Frisbie, TCI Director) for joining me at our District 9 School Zone Safety Meeting (Click HERE for the TCI Presentation). In light of the upgrades we were able to jointly accomplish in the Larkspur School Zone after the tragic death of Tatyana Babineaux, who was killed by a hit and run driver on her way to school in January, I wanted to hold this meeting as the Council begins our annual budget process to see if there are other safety concerns in other school zones in our District. Even though we can't make every school zone perfectly safe, I want to identify any issues to make them safer and possibly prevent another tragedy where a child is injured walking to or from school occurs. I would like to especially thank Ms Gina Babineaux, Tatyana's mother, for continuing to stand with us in support of this very important issue in the wake of her tremendous loss. If there is one message I hope that everyone took away from our meeting, it is that we need to continue to have the discussion of school zone safety BEFORE another tragedy occurs. The discussion needs to be with law makers, law enforcers and, yes, our children. Talk to them about pedestrian safety just as you would of the dangers of talking to strangers or using drugs and alcohol! Talk to your kids and check out #WalkSafeSanAntonio. If you have a School Zone Safety comment or suggestion, please contact us at district9@sanantonio.gov ATTENTION: SCHOOL SAFETY. I will keep you informed of the progress we make in this area.

NO CELL PHONE USE IN OUR SCHOOL ZONES

"No Cell Phone Use in my School Zone, Thank You & Gracias!"

Meet Mrs. Jill Rudik, mother of 3 Coker Elementary Students who has taken steps to highlight the no cell phone use in school zones law to drivers in the Coker Elementary School Zone. Jill told us that last year, while waiting at the crosswalk to pick up her children after school, she watched the traffic go by and noticed a high number of drivers talking on their cell phones, right through the crosswalk. She didn't understand why... didn't they know the law? She noticed that Coker Elementary had signage for the "No Cell Phone Use" law in several areas but drivers were not adhering to the signs. Jill decided to do something about it! She said "I went home and looked through my recycle bin and art supplies. I found a clip art picture on the internet and just enlarged it to what made sense. With some coloring from my kids, recycled cardboard, stencils, and some old paint stirrers from The Home Depot, I created two signs (The
English version is pictured above). One for each crossing guard area surrounding our school". She said that the wonderful teachers and volunteers at Coker Elementary were happy to join her in holding up the signs and actually took over the duty from her right away. They held up the signs for weeks and saw that it appeared to reduce the number of drivers on the cell phone in their areas. Jill says, "I don't know if it was the visual representation of the law or the we see you breaking the law technique that was responsible for the decline". In either case, the pictures of the cell phones with the big red line in it displayed by Jill and other concerned parents and teachers seemed to make an impact on the cell phone violators. Jill has other great ideas that parents and teachers can implement now while the City considers this idea of a visual display of "No Cell Phone Use" in our school zones. Jill would like to see a "Safety Week" in our schools as we roll into the next school year where the children can make their own signs. This will help grow a generation of people who know it is wrong to drive distracted, especially in school zones, and the students will take these signs home to their parents, grandparents and older brothers and sisters who may be violating the No Cell Phone Use law and therefore disregarding child pedestrian safety. Bravo Jill! I applaud your tenacity and your initiatives. I have shared your suggestions both with the Transportation & Capital Improvements Division and with NEISD. Working together we WILL make school zones safer!

WALMART NAMES STORE MANAGER: Retail veteran Scott Redman to lead store at Blanco/Wurzbach

Meet Scott Redman, the newly named store manager for the new Blanco/Wurzbach Supercenter, which is scheduled to open the morning of Wednesday, August 13, 2014. Scott has more than 20 years experience in retail, and has served as the store manager at the nearby Walmart store at Loop 410 and Jones Maltsberger for more than four years. His prior Walmart experience includes opening the first Supercenter in Phoenix, as well as managing stores in Virginia, Oklahoma and Delaware. Scott grew up in a Walmart family, and lived in Bentonville, Arkansas until his father retired from the company in the 1990s. Scott has also served as Regional Director and as a Vice President for another national retailer. "I am excited about being a part of the District 9 community and working with the district's non-profits," said Redman. "Walmart has a long standing tradition of being an integral part of the communities we are a part of and I look forward to continuing that tradition at our new Blanco and Wurzbach store." As the manager of the Jones Maltsberger store, Scott is proud of his involvement in the community. During his time leading the store, Walmart donated more than $150,000 to the San Antonio Food Bank, as well as funded other charities such as Family Services, SAMMinistries, and The Salvation Army, just to name a few. As Walmart gets closer to their grand opening celebration, we will continue to update you on the store's construction and personnel milestones to include details on the hiring center when it opens. If you have questions or comments about this topic, please feel free to contact us at district9@sanantonio.gov or 207-7325. Welcome to the neighborhood Scott!
Public Input for the 2015 Budget

I have already received several great suggestions on what you feel the city should and should not spend the 2015 Budget on...keep it coming. You can still take my budget survey, just click HERE. So, far 358 of you have taken the survey and identified your top budget priorities as #1) Fire/Police/EMS, #2) Street Improvements/Maintenance, #3) Schools, #4) Traffic Circulation. Please continue to provide us feedback, I will keep this survey open to the public through the end of May. Or you may submit suggestions to the City directly: #1) Click HERE to Submit a Suggestion via the City's Website or #2) Click HERE for Locations of Budget Input Boxes across the city. You can also attend one of several scheduled Community Budget Work Sessions on one of the 4 days between May 19 to May 22 beginning each night at 6:30pm. Click HERE to find a Work Session location that is closest to you.

Join me for a Public Meeting for the Gold Canyon Park!

May 15th, 6:30pm at Redland Oaks Elementary School.

Click HERE for the flyer.

Also, San Antonio Parks & Recreation is looking for Trail Watch Volunteers!

Click HERE for the Trail Watch Flyer or

Click HERE for more Parks and Rec Volunteer Opportunities.
Useful Applications and Resources at your Fingertips (Click the icon below)

Click HERE for Archived News

/CouncilmanJoeKrierDistrict9 /JoeKrierD9