



JOE KRIER

City Councilman

District 9

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[Email](#)

Working Together for District 9

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Dear Friends and Residents:

Thank you for your help this year in making District 9 and San Antonio a better place to live and work. I'd like to highlight several items, where working together we made a difference for San Antonio.

As a businessman, I am always looking for ways to encourage more good jobs, support local businesses and improve the housing market. As you know, my first priority when I was chosen for City Council was to give our citizens a vote before we committed more than \$400 million in your tax dollars to a poorly conceived downtown "streetcar" project. I'm proud I was the first City or County official to call for an election. I'm even more proud that we will all get to vote on a Charter amendment next May that will require a citywide vote for any future rail project.

I am a firm believer that the City should properly fund streets and drainage. Police

and fire, libraries and parks are our most important priorities. On September 18, 2014, when City Council approved a basic services balanced 2015 Budget, it included no increase to the City's property tax rate for the 22nd year in a row. After much hard work, we agreed to maintain police and fire budgets at 66% of the General Fund. Uniform health care benefits were budgeted at \$10,000/uniformed employee, while civilian City employees were budgeted at \$7,800/civilian employee. Pay and benefits for uniformed workers remain among the highest of Texas' large cities.

However, on November 18, 2014, City Council amended the FY 2015 budget by cutting \$14.2 million to fund increased costs for police and fire healthcare benefits starting January 1, 2015. The adjustments were necessary to maintain a balanced budget, which is required by law. I continue to urge union leaders for our police and fire departments to return to the negotiating table to achieve a contract that will help us secure the best public safety personnel we can afford, while ensuring sustainable City finances in the years ahead. I'm proud to say San Antonio has some of the finest police and fire personnel in the U.S. I know the City will continue recruiting and retaining the best for the SAFD and the SAPD.

Following the tragic death of young Tatyana Babineaux, my office contributed \$22,500 to improve school zones near Braesview/Larkspur Elementary. The entire project was close to \$100,000 and was completed before the school year began. I look forward to a report I requested from the Transportation & Capital Improvements Department that reviews school zone safety throughout the City.

One of my proudest moments this year was in late October when I stood outside City Hall with former Chamber Chairmen and Mayor Ivy Taylor. Together we announced our support for the Vista Ridge water project. Later that week on October 30, 2014, Council approved the proposal. As a result, we will have a dependable and affordable supply of pure water for current residents and businesses, as well as those we know will come here for at least the next 30 years.

On November 6, 2014, Council approved naming a trail at Panther Springs Park after Wyatt McDaniel. Wyatt passed away in an outdoor accident in January 2013. We plan to have a naming ceremony along with the Panther Springs Ribbon Cutting in February. I've enjoyed getting to know the McDaniel family. They have turned this tragedy into a blessing for so many with two non-profit efforts in Wyatt's name. This monument will honor the memory of Wyatt McDaniel for years to come and the trail appropriately connects the Parman Library with Wilderness Oak Elementary where Wyatt was an honor student with perfect attendance. The entire park is a 289 acre tract outside Loop 1604. It will be developed in a natural setting with trailheads, about 2.75 miles of 8 foot wide concrete trails, a 43 space parking lot, a dog park, pavilion, restrooms and rest areas along the trail system.

On October 16, 2014, Council authorized \$10 million to help purchase 1,521 acres in the Texas Hill Country to keep the area free from development. The land is near Bat Conservation International's Bracken Cave Preserve, the largest colony of Mexican free-tailed bats in the world. I personally visited Bracken Cave and we owe it to the protection of the Edwards Aquifer and to the environment to protect this property.

On Thanksgiving Day we watched together as the Churchill Charger Band made history by participating in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. Congratulations to this fine group of students.

This month, I made clear I look forward to welcoming Uber and Lyft to our community. I want to do that under a system that makes sure we have safe drivers, safe vehicles and insurance that covers everyone in the event of a crash. I am confident that in the six months that we have until we review it again we will be able to make additional changes that will encourage these transportation network providers to come to our

community to do well and provide an additional option for people who live here. Click [here](#) for a recent news article on this topic.

In closing, we continue to serve District 9 neighborhoods with strong constituent responsiveness and zoning consistency by making sure your voices are heard when it comes to development in your neighborhood.

I look forward to serving you in 2015. Working together, we can make District 9 and San Antonio a better place for everyone. Thank you for the privilege of representing you.

As always, if there are items you would like to see in 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.

Sincerely,



Joe Krier
City Councilman, District 9

Meet District 9 residents who serve our Boards and Commissions

Dr. Susan Blackwood serves on the Mayors Commission on the status of Women. She obtained an Educational Doctorate from the University of Nebraska. Dr. Blackwood is Executive Director at TEAMSA Endowment and is an Adjunct Professor at Incarnate Word University and the University of Texas at Austin.

"It is a privilege to serve with Councilman Joe Krier to make our district a superior place to live as our constituents are better represented," said Blackwood. "I will aggressively work with him and his office to insure women's issues are addressed and the women in our district that are making a difference are recognized and encouraged to do more."

Dr. Blackwood was inducted into the San Antonio Women's Hall of Fame and named Century's Best San Antonio's Sport Figures by the Express-News. Thank you Dr. Blackwood for your service to our community.

San Antonio International Airport lands high ratings

For the second time, the San Antonio International Airport (SAT) received its highest rating in an airport survey that measures customer satisfaction. Passengers are surveyed for their views on 36 key service indicators.

The San Antonio International Airport ranked seventh highest of the benchmark set and rated among the "Top 5" in 19 of the 36 categories.

The San Antonio International Airport recently completed a \$35-million project to improve the airport's Terminal A. More than 8 million passengers pass through SAT every year. Thank you SAT for a fine job.

The Shroud Exhibit in SA

The Shroud Exhibit is at 416 Dolorosa Street through January 25, 2015. I plan to make my way to the exhibit before it leaves town. For more information go to

www.shroudexpo.com

For a recent article on this topic click [here](#).

Holiday Collection Schedule

During the week of Christmas, residents who receive a Thursday collection for recycling, organics recycling or garbage will instead receive service on Friday, Dec. 26th. Residents who normally receive collection on a Friday will receive collection on Saturday Dec. 27th. Residents with a Saturday collection will not be affected by the Holiday schedule.

Expect the same situation a week later due to the New Year's Day holiday.

Remember to have your cans out by 7 a.m. For more information go to Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SASOLIDWASTE> or click [here](#).

No Graffiti SA

The Development Services Department is offering Graffiti Volunteer Training Workshops to wipe out the problem of graffiti.

The classes will be offered twice a month starting in January. To sign up call (210) 207-5430 or go to www.sanantonio.gov/dsd Thank you for keeping San Antonio beautiful.

SA Volunteers

Want to make a difference in your community in 2015? Volunteer! The City of San Antonio offers meaningful and fulfilling volunteer opportunities to use your skills and talents in order to benefit our community.

The City's Volunteer Program is committed to encouraging community participation and the comprehensive coordination of volunteers to enhance city services.

Throughout the City, volunteers assist with animal care, gardening, library services and much more.

For more information on the City of San Antonio's Volunteer Program, and how you can get involved, please visit our website at <http://www.sanantonio.gov/volunteer> and help us make a difference in San Antonio.

Adopt-a-Pet

Meet Portia! You won't meet a happier gal. Portia is a two-year-old female Chihuahua mix brimming with love, loyalty and friendliness. She'll keep you company whether it's on a long walk or cuddling on the couch. Portia is fully grown at 13 pounds and would make the perfect family companion. She is spayed, micro-chipped and current on vaccinations. You can meet Portia at the Animal Defense League located at 11300 Nacogdoches Road, San Antonio, Texas 78217. View her profile on ADL's website at www.adltexas.org.



Meet Portia

Animals at ACS

Animal Care Services has a 4-month-old spayed flat coat retriever named Annie. She is a sweet puppy who arrived at ACS with a terrible case of sarcoptic mange. Annie has recovered nicely and her hair has grown back. She is crate trained, but not yet housebroken. Annie walks well with a leash and plays well with other dogs. She's expected to be about 50-60 lbs. when full grown. Click [here](#) to contact ACS.



Meet Annie

Recycle Your Christmas Tree

I know you're still enjoying your Christmas Tree, but starting January 10, 2015 you can turn your tree into nutrient-rich mulch for FREE! The City of San Antonio will have 17 drop-off locations throughout the city. Bitters & Nelson Brush Recycling Centers

will accept Christmas Trees throughout the month of January. For more information go to www.sanantonio.gov/swmd or call 311.

Spread the Message

It's easy for your friends to join our email list! Just have them text JOEKRIER to 22828 to get started. Click [here](#) to print a flyer to post at your office or neighborhood bulletin. Thank you!



NOTE: "Java with JOE" sessions will resume January 7, 2015. Thank you! Happy Holidays!



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