

District 9 Biweekly




Councilman Joe Krier

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Dear Friends and Residents,

This week's newsletter is dedicated to the unanimously adopted FY 2015 Budget. Following Public Budget Hearings, we received great resident input from throughout District 9. On Thursday, September 18th, City Council approved the 2015 Budget. The budget is balanced and includes no increase to the City's property tax rate for the 22nd year in a row.

Police and Fire budgets are maintained at 66% of the General Fund by setting the expense allocated for uniform health care benefits at \$10,000/officer. This is roughly midway between the current cost of \$13,700/officer and the civilian cost at \$7,000/city employee. Even at \$10,000/uniformed employee, San Antonio's pay and benefits will still be among the highest of Texas' largest cities.

The budget adds more than \$22 million in new dollars for street maintenance and drainage improvements. The

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budget provides operating funds and staff for the new Council District 9 Library on Evans Road and provides \$500,000 in funding to address technology needs at other City Branch libraries.

Please see below for the budget highlights. The bottom line is we adopted what I argued for both on council and as a candidate: a basic services no tax increase budget.

I'd like to invite you to the Public Meeting on a trail naming in Panther Springs Park on September 23rd at 6pm at the Parman Branch Library. Residents have proposed naming the trail "Wyatt's Way" after Wyatt McDaniel who lost his life in 2013 after a tragic outdoor accident. Wyatt was a student at Wilderness Oak Elementary School and the trail will go from that school through the park and end at the Parman Library. It is a great effort by the Wilderness Oak Alliance and a great honor for the McDaniel family. We want to get citizen input as we move forward with this project and I encourage park neighbors to attend the Public Meeting. Click [HERE](#) for the public meeting notice and more information.

City Council is not in session next week. We will resume on October 2nd. As always, if there are topics you would like to see in future newsletters, please let me know via email at district9@sanantonio.gov. You can also follow us on Twitter: [@joekrierD9](#) or like us on the District 9 public page: [Facebook Page](#). Working together, we can make District 9 and our City a better place for everyone. Thanks again for the privilege of representing you.

"JOE ON THE ISSUES"

Please Click [HERE](#) :

- [116% SAWS Impact Fee Increase](#)
- [City Council Living Wage](#)
- [CPS and SAWS Pay](#)
- [Police and Fire Benefits](#)
- [The San Antonio Streetcar Project](#)
- [Teen Pregnancy Prevention](#)
- [Toll Roads](#)

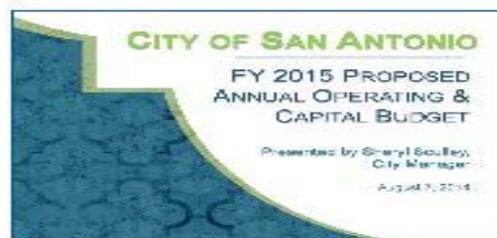
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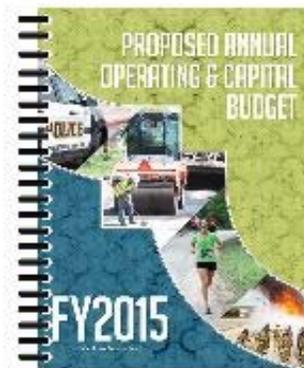
Joseph R. Krier
Councilman, District 9



Click Flyer Above for Current Dates



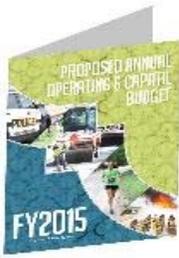
View the [FY 2015 Proposed Budget Presentation](#)



Read the [FY 2015 Proposed Budget](#)

The 2015 Budget

A lot of great work and resident input went into the development of the 2015 Budget that was adopted by the City Council on September 18th. The last of the public input hearings were completed last week and I believe the vast majority of San Antonians are pleased with the 2015 budget. There will not be a tax increase in this budget as I and



several of my colleagues were adamant from the start of this process that we would not support a proposed tax increase and the City Manager, to her credit, adhered to that major input. Frankly, the City has benefited from rising property values as well as increased tax revenues and CPS pass through funds. As a result, this budget is focused on getting back to basics, which I have been advocating for since I came to City Hall last year. The overwhelming majority of City spending is focused on basic city services, streets and drainage, police and fire, parks and libraries as it should be. Listed are some of the highlights of the things that we are gaining with the 2015 budget. Please click [HERE](#) for full budget highlights/summary produced by the City's Budget Department or any of the budget links above. As always please feel free to contact me at district9@sanantonio.gov

Read the [FY 2015 Proposed Budget Highlights](#)



The Budget adds \$15 million for more street maintenance and close to \$7 million in drainage improvements for a total of \$22 million. This is in addition to the \$52 million Infrastructure Management Program (IMP).



The Budget adds operating funds and staff for the new 120 acres and 13 miles of trails in 2015. Also provides funding for HemisFair Park's Play Escape, also known as Yanaguana Garden.



The Budget adds operating funds and staff for the new Council District 9 Library. Also provides \$500,000 in funding to address technology needs at City Branch libraries.



The Budget includes \$1.75 million for City-wide economic incentives, and \$2 million for inner city development incentives. Also includes \$1.5 million for Inner City Reinvestment Infill Policy (ICRIP).



The Budget adds resources to maintain the City's 80% live release rate for animal care services. \$3 million is added to update the Code Enforcement case management system. This update will provide more transparency, and increase officer efficiency and availability.



The Budget adds operating funds for two new senior centers in Council District 5 and Council District 10. These resources will also provide for meals, transportation and activities at the two new centers.



The Budget adds funding to implement the recently approved Vacant Building Ordinance. This ordinance is intended to make unoccupied buildings safer and more attractive for redevelopment.



The Budget adds staff to support programming and activities at the Mission Drive-In including movie presentations, live performances, and community celebrations.



This year's budget continues the City's progress towards attaining the residential 60% recycling rate goal by FY2025. A Solid Waste Fee increase of \$1.00 for garbage collection is proposed to offset the drop in recycling commodity revenue and increased costs of maintaining the solid waste fleet. The total monthly rate is proposed to increase to \$20.93.

Police and Fire

The most controversial decrease in the 2015 budget is to bring the Uniform Healthcare costs closer to an amount that will not bankrupt the City in the future. I support the City Manager's plan to cap our police and fire expense: 66% of the total budget. Currently, taxpayers pay for over 90% of Police and Fire Healthcare and Benefits, with uniformed employees paying less than 10%. The national average for out of pocket expense for healthcare is 43%. The big deciding factor for me was based on the blue ribbon 13 member independent Legacy Costs report that San Antonio taxpayers pay nearly twice as much for healthcare for uniformed employees than for civilian employees; and our city's uniform healthcare costs are greater than in any other major Texas city.

The High Cost of Healthcare for San Antonio Police and Firefighters

Prepared by Office of Management & Budget
August 13, 2014

Decreasing the amount paid per employee from the current \$12,758 per year to \$10,000 per year will mean that we still spend more than most City's in Texas on uniformed healthcare; second only to Austin. I understand that uniformed employees and their families do not feel that any decrease is acceptable, however, I can assure you that we considered every possible alternative and this is a compromise worth negotiating over. Please click [HERE](#) for the presentation on the subject. [Please click here](#) for a recent published article by City Manager Sheryl Sculley. If you have any questions or issues, feel free to contact me at district9@sanantonio.gov

FY 2015 Proposed Budget Uniform Healthcare Proposal



Newest District 9 Library: Encino Branch Library Transformation Launch



I am proud to announce that we began construction on the newest District 9 Library, the Encino Branch Library at 2515 E. Evans Road. Great job by the San Antonio Public Library and the Transportation and Capital Improvements Division who brought to life the vision of the residents who gave us design input. This will truly be a neighborhood library and I am looking forward to its completion in late 2015.



The Parks and Recreation Department

Invites YOU to Share the Trails at Phil Hardberger Park
10:00 TO 11:30 a.m. Saturday, September 20, 2014
Click [HERE](#) for the Flyer and more details.



Java with Joe

Resident Appointment Hours
 10:00am-11:00am, Every Wed!
 Please contact us for a block of time

District 9 Field Office: 16500 San Pedro Ave
Suite #290 (Hwy 281 and Thousand Oaks)
Walk-in's are welcome from 9:30am to 10:00am
207-0955 or district9@sanantonio.gov

We have resumed our weekly "Java with Joe". Please contact us at 207-0955 or click [HERE](#) to request appointment from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Someone from our office will call/email you to confirm your visit. **Due to the annual Texas Municipal League meetings, Councilman Krier will not have officier hou on Wednesday, October 1st.**

Useful Applications and Resources at your Fingertips (Click the icon below)



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