



District 3 MISSION

SUMMER/FALL 2009

Featuring Councilwoman Jennifer V. Ramos

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO



Jennifer V. Ramos
City Council District 3

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

First let me start by saying, I hope everyone is enjoying the tail end of another hot summer in San Antonio. I would like to take a moment to thank you for browsing through this issue of the District 3 Mission.

To say it has been a busy summer for our office is an understatement. Despite the fact that Council did not meet for the entire month of July, my staff and I have been working diligently on two new major District 3 initiatives including an unprecedented Illegal Dumping Enforcement program and a children's health and wellness initiative. Not to mention preparing for our annual back to school event, the "District 3 Back in Class Bash" as well as preparing for a very difficult budget process.

I am proud to boast that I have been very proactive in the promotion and improving of the quality of life for all residents of this very proud community. Through the Southside Illegal Dumping Enforcement (SIDE) program and our San Antonio Kids Get Fit initiative, I feel we are accomplishing that goal for a very diverse constituency.

It is imperative that we do what we can to promote a healthy lifestyle for our children. San Antonio Kids Get Fit will play a major role in providing that very necessary need. This health and wellness initiative is a pilot program targeted at two elementary schools in the Harlandale School District. The program will encourage children to walk, stay active, and learn more about health and nutrition.

We have created a website dedicated in promotion of this initiative, www.SAKidsGetFit.org, and I encourage you to read more about this exciting program aimed at attacking childhood obesity and the more serious problem of childhood diabetes.

This edition of the District 3 Mission has plenty of useful information including a feature on the Department of Community Initiatives and its Director Dennis Campa. In addition we have included questions and answers dealing directly with the Department.

You will also find a feature on the Southside Illegal Dumping Enforcement program that I feel will make a direct impact on deterring those wishing to dump illegally in our community.

Lastly, I would like to encourage you to attend two upcoming meetings on major issues facing the council. The first will address our 2010 - 2011 budget year and any deficits we might face. This meeting will be held August 18th at Connell Middle School at 6:30pm. The second meeting will focus on CPS Energy's proposal on our energy need. The meeting takes place on Wednesday September 2nd at 6:00pm at the Holy Name Catholic Church Community Center located at 3814 Nash Blvd.

I again thank you for taking the time to read this edition of the District 3 Mission newsletter. If you would like more information on City Services or if you need assistance from our office, please feel free to visit the website dedicated to our constituents, www.JennRamos.com or call our field office at (210) 534-1300.

Yours in Public Service,

Jennifer V. Ramos
Councilwoman, District 3

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2009 District 3 Back in Class Bash

Join Councilwoman Ramos as she helps District 3 youth prepare for school

Around City Hall:

Department of Community Initiatives

Each edition, the District 3 Mission features a City Department. This edition will feature the Department of Community Initiatives and Director Dennis Campa.

Dennis J. Campa was appointed Director of the Department of Community Initiatives (DCI) in May 1998. He has more than 35 years of experience in human development services, including work at the city, county and state levels.



Dennis Campa
Director DCI

Community Initiatives promotes human development opportunities for San Antonio and the region. Through a comprehensive network of private and public sector partnerships, the department uses its investments and strategies to address the complex and changing issues confronting families, elderly and the workforce of a major urban community. Mr. Campa leads projects that include subsidized child care; Head Start; family resource and learning centers; senior nutrition, transportation services for the elderly and disabled; workforce development, youth development and intervention programs; basic needs services; and homeless assistance programs. DCI directly and through its funded partner delegate agencies serves more than 226,000 residents per year. It employs 500 City employees and has an annual budget of \$141 million.

Over the past several years, Mr. Campa led the City's Family Economic Success initiative. This effort promotes financial literacy, asset building, and savings as principal strategies to strengthen families. In 2006, through this major policy venture, DCI assisted more than 30,000 income tax filers in receiving more than \$45 million in tax returns and saving more than \$13 million in tax preparation and refund anticipation loan fees.

Department of Community Initiatives

The mission of DCI is to serve as a catalyst for coordinating resources and partnerships that promote economic self-sufficiency, family strengthening, and enhance the quality of life for children, families and seniors and ensure greater public accountability for the investment of resources.

The Department commits to provide leadership, develop collaborative strategies, maximize resources, and improve the quality of life within our community. The goal is to coordinate and foster strategic partnerships with governmental and community-based agencies to leverage resources essential to strengthening families, developing human capital and sustaining a community safety net.

DCI Service Listing

CHILD CARE

CHILD CARE SERVICES
HOMELESS & EMERGENCY CHILD CARE
EARLY ON SCHOOL READINESS
PROVIDER SERVICES
HEADSTART

YOUTH PROGRAMS

JUVENILE RESTITUTION PROGRAM
NEIGHBORHOOD CONFERENCE COMMITTEES
Striving Together to Achieve Rewarding Tomorrows (START)
HYPERLINK "HTTP://COMMUNIT/YOUTHSRV/PREVENTION.ASP"
PROJECT WORTH - HYPERLINK "http://communit/youthsrv/prevention.asp"
Working on Real Teen Health
AFTER SCHOOL CHALLENGE

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

CENTER FOR WORKING FAMILIES / UTILITY ASSISTANCE
HOMELESS SERVICES
FAIR HOUSING PROGRAM
SAWS AFFORDABILITY DISCOUNT PROGRAM APPLICATION

SENIOR PROGRAMS

SENIOR SERVICES
PROJECT COOL
COMPREHENSIVE NUTRITION PROJECT
RESOURCE REFERRAL
SUPPORT SERVICES
SENIOR MEALS
OFFICE OF ELDERLY AFFAIRS

SCHOOLS - JOB TRAINING - EDUCATION

GED - COMPUTER CLASSES
ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE
BASIC EDUCATION - CIVICS
BETTER CAREERS TRAINING
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT
INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE (VITA)
FAMILY ECONOMIC SUCCESS OVERVIEW
INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT (IDA)
WORKING FAMILY VEHICLE PURCHASE PROGRAM

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

DELEGATE AGENCY FORMS
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
FAMILY STRENGTHENING

For more information on the Department of Community Initiatives please visit www.sanantonio.gov/commint or you can call (210) 207-8198.



Q&A's Department of Community Initiatives

Q - Who Qualifies for the VITA Program?

A - Families earning less than \$45,000 a year are eligible for the VITA Program's free income tax return preparation service. If you would like more information on this program, please contact 211.

Q - Can DCI Help with First Time Home Buyers?

A - Yes, the Homeownership Incentive Program assists first-time homebuyers looking to reside within San Antonio city limits. For more information and to ensure your eligibility, contact Esther Hernandez at (210) 207-5421.

Q - What is Project Cool and who does it apply to?

A - Project Cool is a program designed to ease the risk of health complications to seniors by providing them with a free box fan. Project Cool applies to any citizen over the age of 60. To find a distribution center in your area, please call 211.

Q - Does the Head Start Program still exist?

A - Yes, beginning August 24th, Edgewood ISD, San Antonio ISD, AVANCE and Region 20 Education Service Center will provide newer and higher-quality Head Start Programs. Children enrolled last year will automatically be eligible for this year's program. For more information, call (210) 207-7851.

Q - Who qualifies for the After School Challenge program and how much does it cost?

A - Any student enrolled in one of the participating 133 elementary and middle schools is eligible to apply for the After School Challenge Program. The cost of the program is based on family income, family size and the number of children enrolled in the program. For more information or to register for this program, please contact your child's school site.

Focus on: Southside Illegal Dumping Enforcement

District 3 program aimed at catching and prosecuting of illegal dumpers in District 3

The message is simple and it is very clear—if you dump trash, tires, building material or any other unsightly garbage in our community, you will be caught and you will be prosecuted.

The proceeding threat was made more viable following the launch of Councilwoman Jennifer V. Ramos' Southside Illegal Dumping Enforcement (SIDE) program.



This comprehensive illegal dumping initiative, the first of its kind in the greater San Antonio area, combines a sophisticated mobile camera program, a District 3 Illegal Dumping Task Force and a proposed change to the city code that makes evidence more usable when prosecuting those committing the illegal dumping offense.

"We are very excited to see a program that will make a difference in keeping our neighborhoods beautiful and trash free," stated Councilwoman Ramos. "Although this is going to take a complete effort from the community, Code Compliance and our office, I am confident this program will work."

Currently the District 3 office has identified over 10 hotspots where illegal dumping activity currently takes place. The plan is to place a motion sensor camera in each of the hot spots with the hope of gaining high resolution photographs of those committing the offense.

The City's Code Compliance Abatement Unit will have the ability to drive near the camera and upload the photos of those committing the offense through a high speed router mobile connection.

Previously, a positive identification of the individual who committed the offense was the only evidence allowed in the prosecution of these types of crimes.

Through a proposed change to the City's Code authored by Councilwoman

Ramos, the City will hopefully be able to hold the actual vehicle owner accountable for the committed offense through rebuttable presumption. Simply put, the owner of the vehicle will be presumed to be the one who committed the offense thus making the photos taken using the new cameras more usable as evidence in court.

The rebuttable presumption code change will allow any identifiable marking on a vehicle, including company branding and a license plate to be used as evidence. Once a positive identification is made, the offender will then be sent a citation through the mail.

Another proposed change to the City's Code includes the restructuring of the fines assessed for illegal dumping offenses with the intent on creating a potential fund to continue this program, perhaps taking the initiative city-wide.

"I want for this program to make everyone aware that we are watching you, we will catch you and you will be held accountable for committing this crime in our neighborhood," added Ramos.

All of the aforementioned facets to this program have the Councilwoman excited about the potential of this initiative in accomplishing what she calls her one true goal, "I want for illegal dumping to stop in District 3."

For more information on SIDE please visit www.JennRamos.com or you can call (210) 207-7066.

Summer Picnic/Harlandale Park Neighborhood Association

There are some great things taking place in the Harlandale Park area.

It started with a crowd of 1,500 residents attending the District 3 Community Fair and Summer Picnic on Saturday June 20 at Harlandale Park and it continued with the establishment of the Harlandale Park Neighborhood Association.

The first of a kind Community Fair and Summer Picnic was hosted by District 3 Councilwoman Jennifer V. Ramos. The community fair featured 35 San Antonio departments and private sector service providers. During the event, 300 trees, 350 energy saving light bulbs and 100 box fans were distributed along with 1,000 picnic lunches.



The event highlighted major Harlandale Park improvements that were a result of the 2007 Bond program. The improvement consisted of two new park pavilions, a monument memorial plaque honoring the Jeannie'z Kidz organization, new walkways throughout the park, a new surface for the outdoor basketball facility and facility maintenance to the community center.

"We are very pleased with the turnout for this wonderful event," Ramos said. "It also excites me to know that this event was the start of revitalization in this community including the establishment of the Harlandale Park Neighborhood Association."



On Wednesday August 5 the Harlandale Park community successfully established its status as the newest Neighborhood Association in District 3 with the voting of its initial officers and of the association by-laws.

The boundaries of the association include any home or business south of Military Drive and north of Ware Blvd. The east boundary is Mission Road and the west boundary is Pleasanton Rd.

The officers include Lillian Zapata-President, Walter Gruber-Vice President, Angie Farias-Secretary and Velma Ybarra-Treasurer.

The Harlandale Park Neighborhood Association will be meeting the first Wednesday of every month at the Harlandale Park Community Center at 6:30 pm. **For more information on the association please call (210) 207-7066.**

Upcoming District 3 Events

District 3

Community Budget Meeting

Councilwoman Jennifer V. Ramos will be hosting a District 3 Community Budget Meeting to discuss different facets and to take suggestions on the upcoming City of San Antonio Fiscal Year 2010 Budget. City Manager Sheryl Scully along with members of the City's Budget Department will be on hand for the meeting.

What: District 3 Community Budget Meeting

Where: Connell Middle School Auditorium (400 Hot Wells)

When: Tuesday August 18, 2009

Time: 6:30pm – 8:30pm

District 3

CPS Energy Community Meeting

CPS Energy will be presenting their recommendations to expand the South Texas Project nuclear plant near Bay City. They will review how CPS Energy plans to meet your community's energy demands in the coming decades and explain how these projects are expected to impact customer bills.

What: District 3 CPS Energy Community meeting

Where: Holy Name Activity Center (6618 Fair Lawn)

When: Wednesday, September 2

Time: 6-8pm

For more information on any of these meetings please visit www.JennRamos.com or call the District 3 Field Office at (210) 534-1300



Jennifer V. Ramos
City Councilwoman
District 3
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Calendar of Events: August – November 2009

Aug. 17th Los Vecinos de la Misiones Mtg., Mission Espada, 6:30 p.m.
Aug. 18th District 3 Budget Meeting, Connell Middle School, 6:30pm – 8pm
Aug. 19th 2nd Annual District 3 Back in Class Bash, VFW Post 9186, 650 VFW Blvd., 6pm – 8pm
Aug. 20th Mission San Jose Neighborhood Mtg., San Jose Mini Center, 6:30pm-7:30pm
Aug. 27th Southeast Good Neighbor Crime Watch Meeting, Snoga's Cafeteria, 7pm-8pm
Sept. 2nd Harlandale Park Neighborhood Association Mtg., Harlandale Park Community Center, 6pm-8pm
Sept. 2nd CPS Energy Community Mtg., Holy Name Community Center, 6pm-8pm
Sept. 7th **Labor Day ★ ★ ★ City Holiday ★ ★ ★**
Sept. 8th Hot Wells Neighborhood Mtg., Primrose Apartments, 6639 S New Braunfels Ave, 6:30pm-8pm
Sept. 9th Southside Lions Park Mtg., Southside Lions Comm. Ctr., 6pm-7pm
Sept. 10th Pecan Valley Neighborhood Association Mtg., Pecan Valley Elem., 7pm-8pm
Sept. 12th Highland Park Neighborhood Mtg., James Bode Community Center from 10am-11am
Sept. 14th Highland Hills Neighborhood Association Mtg., Highland Hills Elem., 7pm-8:30pm
Sept. 15th Sunny Slope Neighborhood Association Mtg., Southside Lions Community Center at 7pm
Sept. 16th Riverside South Neighborhood Association Mtg., Presa Community Center at 6 p.m.
Sept. 17th Mission San Jose Neighborhood Association Mtg., San Jose Mini Center, 6:30pm
Sept. 19th Highlands Alliance Mtg., Highlands Hills Apts., 9:30am-11am
Sept 21st Los Vecinos de la Misiones, Mission Espada, 6pm-7pm
Sept. 24th Southeast Good Neighbor Crime Watch, Snoga's Cafeteria, 7pm-8pm
Oct. 5th Highlands Hills Neighborhood Association Mtg., Highland Hills Elem., 7pm-8pm
Oct. 6th **National Night Out**
Oct. 7th Harlandale Park Neighborhood Association Mtg., Harlandale Park Community Center, 6:30pm-8pm

Oct. 8th Pecan Valley Neighborhood Association Mtg., Pecan Valley Elem., 7pm-8pm
Oct. 10th Highlands Park Neighborhood Association Mtg., James Bode Community Center, 10am-11am
Oct. 13th Hot Wells Neighborhood Association Mtg., Primrose Apartments, 6639 S New Braunfels Ave. 6:30pm-8pm
Oct. 15th San Jose Neighborhood Association Mtg., San Jose Mini Center, 6:30pm-8pm
Oct. 17th Highland Alliance, Highland Hills Apts., 9:30am-11am
Oct. 19th Los Vecinos de la Misiones, Mission Espada, 6:30pm-7:30pm
Oct. 20th Sunny Slope Neighborhood Association Mtg., Southside Lions, 7pm-8pm
Oct. 29th Southeast Good Neighbor Crime Watch, Snogas Cafeteria, 7pm-8pm
Oct. 31st **Happy Halloween**
Nov. 2nd Highland Hills Neighborhood Association Mtg., Highland Hills Elem., 7pm-8:30pm
Nov. 4th Harlandale Park Neighborhood Association Mtg., Harlandale Park Community Center, 6:30pm-8pm
Nov. 10th Hot Wells Neighborhood Association Mtg., Primrose Apartments, 6639 S New Braunfels Ave, 6:30pm-8pm
Nov. 11th **Veterans Day**
Nov. 12th Pecan Valley Neighborhood Association Mtg., Pecan Valley Elem., 7pm-8pm
Nov. 14th Highland Park Neighborhood Association Mtg., James Bode Community Center, 10am-11am
Nov. 16th Los Vecinos de la Misiones, Mission Espada, 6:30pm-7:30pm
Nov. 17th Sunny Slope Neighborhood Association Mtg., Southside Lions, 7pm-8pm
Nov. 18th Riverside South Neighborhood Association Mtg., 3407 S Presa, 6pm-7pm
Nov. 19th Mission San Jose Neighborhood Association Mtg., San Jose Mini Center, 6:30pm-7:30pm
Nov. 21st Highlands Alliance Mtg., Highland Hills Apts., 9:30am-11am
Nov. 26th **Thanksgiving Day ★ ★ ★ City Holiday ★ ★ ★**

District 3 City Council Newsletter

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**Field Office
 Hours of Operation**
 Monday – Thursday
 8:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
 Friday
 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 Walk-In appointments
 welcomed
 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

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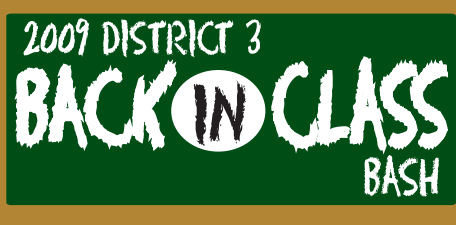
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District 3 Councilwoman
Jennifer V. Ramos
invites you to the





Join Councilwoman Ramos for

- * free school supplies
- * free haircuts
- * hot dog dinner
- * music (all while supplies last)

In preparation for the start of the
2009 school year

WHEN: WEDNESDAY AUGUST 19
WHERE: VFW POST 9186
(650 VFW BLVD.)
TIME: 6 P.M. - 8 P.M.



For more information, please call (210) 534-1300 or visit JennRamos.com