

From: Joe Krier <district9@sanantonio.gov>

Subject: New Distracted Driving Ordinance

Reply: district9@sanantonio.gov



JOE KRIER

City Councilman

District 9

[Email](#)

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Dear Friends and Residents:

At last week's Council Meeting (Nov. 6) I persuaded my colleagues to unanimously vote to turn down a zoning change on Dreamland Drive that was approved by the neighbors in that area. More about the issue follows.

City Council also approved a Distracted Driving Ordinance. The new law prohibits the use of a hand-held mobile device while operating a motor vehicle on any City street. Violating the ordinance could result in a fine of up to \$200. The City of San Antonio passed similar ordinances in 2008 and 2010. The first ordinance prohibited texting while driving and the second prohibited all cell phone use while driving in a school zone. The San Antonio Police Department has issued more than 7,000 citations since these ordinances took effect.

According to the Texas Department of Transportation, since 2012, San Antonio has recorded more than 250 vehicle crashes annually due to cell phone use. Since September there have been 187 more.

Our community realizes this is an issue that results in distracted driving. However, I've requested a report a year from now to assess the effectiveness of the law and its effect on the number of accidents in our City.

The new law does not apply to a person who is:

- On private property or legally parked.
- Using a hands-free device
- Using a GPS device affixed to the vehicle
- Operating an emergency vehicle
- Reporting illegal activity
- Communicating with emergency response personnel
- Preventing injury to a person or property

The new law takes effect January 1, 2015. The offense is not considered a moving violation and therefore will not become part of your driving record. The San Antonio Police Department will conduct an awareness campaign and there's a 30-day grace period as we adjust to the new law.

Airport noise continues to be an issue for some of our District 9 neighbors. In an effort to respond, Council approved contributing \$500,000.00 to hire Foster CM Group, Inc. beginning January 1, 2015, to inspect the Residential Acoustical Treatment Program for the San Antonio International Airport. The Federal Aviation Administration is funding 80% of the contract or \$2,000,000.00. Since 2005, this program has treated about 1,300 homes and more than 200 apartments.

I've asked our federal lobbying team to consider encouraging the FAA to keep the current noise contour boundaries instead of adopting smaller boundaries. The San Antonio Airport System recently held two open houses to present the proposed revisions. To read more about this issue click [here](#).

Also this week, on my motion Council authorized funding agreements with the Texas Department of Transportation to improve street lighting on State rights-of-way. My office is aware of lighting needs near Deerfield off Blanco Road between Bitters Road and Loop 1604. We're working with CPS Energy and TxDOT to try to resolve this problem. To learn more about this topic click [here](#).

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. Thank you again for the privilege of representing you.

Sincerely,



Joe Krier
City Councilman, District 9

Dreamland Zoning Case

On November 6, 2014, on my motion, City Council voted unanimously against

amending the Zoning District Boundary from "R-20" Residential Single-Family District to "NP-10" Neighborhood Preservation District on Lots 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, Block 1, NCB 11670 located at 11303 and 11327 Dreamland Drive.

I reviewed both sides beginning almost a year ago when I visited with some of the Dreamland residents at the site. They made clear to me that the neighborhood opposed the requested change. I am grateful for your involvement and your feedback. Thank you as well to the Whispering Oaks Homeowners Association and everyone else who worked on this.



Rape Crisis Center

The Rape Crisis Center is having an event next month to gain support for its mission. The Rape Crisis Center was founded in 1975 to provide support to sexual assault victims and their families. The Rape Crisis Center leads education programs throughout Bexar County. If you'd like to learn more about the Rape Crisis Center go to www.rapecrisis.com or call (210) 208-5729. You can also email cpower@rapecrisis.com.

Congratulations Churchill High Band

The Winston Churchill High School Marching Band is headed to New York City for the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. More than 3.5 million viewers tune in to watch the holiday parade. Only the nation's top marching bands are invited! Great work Charger Band! For more information click [here](#).



Hardy Oak Boulevard

On Monday, November 17, 2014 Transportation & Capital Improvements will host a Public Meeting to present proposed improvements to the Hardy Oak Boulevard (Stone Oak Parkway to Knights Cross Drive) Project.

Plans are to construct a new four-lane divided roadway from Stone Oak to Knights Cross with bicycle lanes, curbs, sidewalks, driveway approaches, traffic-signal and drainage improvements as needed.

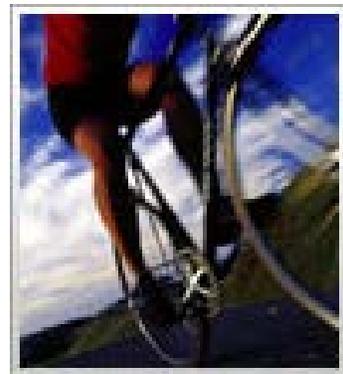
Design plans and exhibits will be available and



City Staff will be there to answer any questions regarding the proposed improvements. The meeting will take place from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Coronado At Stone Oak, 19638 Stone Oak Parkway. To view a map associated with this project click [here](#).

Bike & Walk

The Alamo Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is funding a Bicycle and Pedestrian Study in our area. The department needs your feedback. They want to know where you would like to bike and walk and what barriers you experience in trying to do so. Please consider taking this 5 to 10 minute survey so your voice is heard. Click [here](#).



Bulverde Substation Project

CPS Energy is planning to construct a new electric substation in north Bexar County. This substation will provide more electric capacity needed in this fast-growing area near US 281 and FM 1863. I moved to authorize CPS Energy to secure about 5 acres for the substation, with construction set to begin in mid-2016. For more information on the project go to www.cpsenergy.com.

Heavy Equipment Job Fair

The City of San Antonio is hosting a Heavy Equipment Job Fair, Saturday, November 15, 2014 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. It will take place at Callaghan Service Center, 110 S. Callaghan Road. You'll learn about CDL Driving and Diesel Mechanic positions with the City. For more information call (210) 207-8705. You can apply for a position online by clicking [here](#).

Downtown Parking Easier & Faster

The City's Center City Development and Operations Department has launched a new downtown parking locatr app. The app helps visitors find a parking space using their Smartphone's location. It shows garage, parking lot and meter parking options. For more go to www.mypango.com or

www.sanantonio.gov/ccdo.

Raul Jimenez Thanksgiving Dinner

Make plans to help the Raul Jimenez Thanksgiving Dinner. I knew Raul [Jimenez](#) and he had a big heart. Thirty-five years later, his idea of helping those most in need at Thanksgiving is still growing. For more information click [here](#). I'd like to wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving. A loving God has blessed our nation, our state and our City. We have much to be thankful for.

Adopt-a-Pet

Cookie is this compact fellow's name and if you like to go out for a pleasant daily stroll then Cookie is the companion for you. He is friendly, playful and ready for a warm-hearted family to spend his life with. Cookie does well with other dogs and would love to join your pack. He is a ten-month-old male Schnauzer and Terrier mix who weighs 23 pounds.

Cookie is neutered, micro-chipped and current on his vaccinations. For further information on Cookie or the many pets in need of homes at ADL, you can view Cookie's pet profile on ADL's website at www.adltexas.org or you can visit with him at the Animal Defense League located at 11300 Nacogdoches Road, San Antonio, Texas 78217 and discover what your life is missing without Cookie in it. The shelter is open 7 days a week, from 10:30am-6:30pm.



Meet Cookie

Animals at ACS

Willard is a 2-year-old neutered male Wolf Hound/Dalmatian blend. He is 75lbs. He is good with dogs and slow moving cats. Willard is housebroken, not destructive inside a home and walks well on a leash. He can easily walk 3 miles a day and could go farther. He likes to be indoors with his family and hangs out quietly. Click [here](#) to learn more.



Meet Willard

Java
with



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**

Please contact us at 207-0955 or click [HERE](#) to request an appointment from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Someone from our office will call/email you to confirm your visit.

**NOTE: The final "Java with Joe" this year is: November 19, 2014.
The sessions will resume January 7, 2015. Thank you!**



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From: Joe Krier <district9@sanantonio.gov>

Subject: Churchill Charger Band in Macy's Parade & Annexation

Reply: district9@sanantonio.gov



JOE KRIER

City Councilman

District 9

November 26, 2014

Vol. 1, Issue 31

[Email](#)

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Dear Friends and Residents,

By next December the City of San Antonio could approve the largest annexation in almost 20 years. Our Planning and Community Development Department has identified areas where the City may choose to begin annexation proceedings. Staff is looking at five priority areas including I-10 West, 281 North, I-10 East,

Highway 151 and Highway 90/1604. The five areas amount to 66 square miles. This would be a Limited Purpose Annexation meaning the City would not collect property or sales taxes during the first three years. Residents could vote in Mayor, Council and recall elections, but would not be eligible for candidacy for a municipal office. Residents would not be able to vote in bond elections.

The City will hold Public Hearings in September and October of 2015. This annexation program would add 200,000 residents to our population by the year 2020, making San Antonio the 5th largest City in the nation above Phoenix and Philadelphia.

Frankly, I have many questions to be answered before making a decision on this.

For example:

1. Can we provide adequate police and fire protection, streets and drainage improvements, libraries and parks to our existing residents?
2. How do we know we can provide those services to newly annexed areas and their residents?
3. What happens if we do not annex these areas at this time?

Council will review this annexation program next month.

Three major rating agencies have re-affirmed the City of San Antonio's 'AAA' general obligation bond rating for the sixth time since 2010. The 'AAA' bond rating is the highest credit rating an organization can receive. It allows the City to pay the lowest possible interest rates in the market. We are the only major city with a population of one million to have a 'AAA' bond rating from Standard & Poor's, Fitch, and Moody's. To read more about this news click [here](#).

This month I attended a number of Town Hall Meetings and residents are overwhelmingly concerned about crime in their neighborhoods. They are also willing to take action to improve their quality of life. Several Homeowners Associations have participated in the SAPD's Cellular On Patrol program and set up Neighborhood Watch Programs. To learn more click [here](#).

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 in order to maintain a balanced budget, which is required by law. Council approved delaying about \$9 million in street projects. The SAPD will maintain a total of 75 vacant positions and the SAFD will delay hiring paramedics in 2015. I continue urging police and fire union leaders to return to the negotiating table to achieve a contract that will help us secure the best police and fire personnel we can afford, while ensuring sustainable City finances in the years ahead.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. We have many good things to be thankful for. For the Thanksgiving Holiday schedule of City services click [here](#).

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. Thank you for the privilege of representing you.

Sincerely,



Joe Krier
City Councilman, District 9

Churchill Charger Band in Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

I am so proud of the Winston Churchill High School Marching Band. They are in New York City this week to participate in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.



Congratulations Churchill High Charger Band

San Antonio Food Bank 5K

The San Antonio Food Bank is having its annual Great Turkey Challenge Thanksgiving Day. Every \$15 raised by the race provides a meal to a family in need this holiday season. If you would like to participate click [here](#).



Pollo Tropical at 838 Bitters Road

Welcome Pollo Tropical

I'd like to welcome Pollo Tropical to San Antonio. The fast-food restaurant is located at 281 & Bitters Road.

Four Pollo Tropical fast-food restaurants have opened in Texas since September 8, 2014. I'm pleased Pollo Tropical chose San Antonio to build its latest restaurant. Pollo Tropical held its grand opening in District 9 on November 7, 2014. Welcome to the neighborhood.

To review the menu go to <http://pollotropical.com/menus/>.

Meet District 9 residents who serve our Boards and Commissions

Art Downey serves on the Citizen Bond Oversight Committee. It was established by City Council in 2003 to increase communication and accountability.

Art retired from the U.S. Army and returned to San Antonio where he has consistently

sought ways to serve the public. He's proudly lived in District 9 and called San Antonio home for more than 50 years. Thank you Art for serving our community. Click here for the complete [Arthur Downey biography](#).

Joint City/County Citizens Bond Oversight Commission

The Joint City/County Citizens Bond Oversight Commission is seeking applicants and the deadline has been extended. The Commission is made up of 20 members, with 10 members appointed by the City Council and 10 by the Bexar County Commissioners Court.

The Commission advises City and County elected officials on capital improvements projects, including review of scope, cost estimate, budget, schedule, public input, alternative delivery systems, program management and other capital improvement processes. If you are interested please click [here](#).

Adopt-a-Pet

Scotty is a light-hearted three-year-old male Australian Cattle Dog mix. Scotty is friendly and playful. He never says no to a walk around the neighborhood. He does well with other dogs. Scotty weighs 25 pounds and he is neutered, micro-chipped and current on vaccinations. Stop by the Animal Defense League at 11300 Nacogdoches Road, San Antonio, San Antonio, 78217 or go to their website at www.adl.texas.org. The shelter is open 7 days a week, from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.. You can also call the ADL at (210) 655-1481.



Meet Scotty



Meet Ford

Animals at ACS

Animal Care Services has two dogs in foster care and it would be nice if they found a home together.

Ford is a 2-year-old Black Mouth Cur blend. His doggie friend is named Mercury. Mercury is also 2. He's a hound blend that's good with people and older children. Click [here](#) to contact ACS.



Meet Mercury

Good News

This month Samaritan's Purse International Relief has been busy with Operation Christmas Child. The non-profit partners with churches worldwide to



deliver gifts in shoeboxes. For more information call 1-800-353-5949 or go to www.samaritanspurse.org. I know you'll be busy this season helping someone else in need. Thank you!

Downtown Holiday Historic Churches Tour

Next month on Tuesday, December 9, 2014, the Office of Historic Preservation will host guided running and walking tours to showcase San Antonio's downtown historic churches. The two hour tour includes a stroll down the lighted Riverwalk. To sign up click [here](#).

Alamo Plaza Update

The effort to update the 1994 Alamo Plaza Study Committee Report continues. The goal is to create a vision and guiding principles to redevelop Alamo Plaza and the surrounding area. In the end, the goal is to engage tourists and locals leaving them personally connected to the Alamo. The Alamo is a state and national treasure. We owe it to future generations to preserve, protect and enhance this monument to bravery and freedom. We want to tell the in-depth story of the Alamo and pay tribute to all who lived, fought and died there. Council will review a final master plan in June of 2016.



Road Closure

CPS Energy plans to relocate four transmission towers starting December 1, 2014. This will require a road closure from West Avenue from Nakoma to north of E. North Loop Road. This road will be closed from December 1, 2014 to December 19, 2014.

SAWS Billing Schedule Changing in 2015

Billing cycles for some residential and commercial SAWS customers will change beginning January 2015. Affected customers will receive a letter in December explaining how this will impact when their meter is read and their billing due date. The change will help SAWS become more efficient and further integrate former BexarMet service areas into a unified meter reading schedule. Again, only some customers will be affected by this change.

If you received a letter from SAWS explaining this change but need more information, visit: saws.org/billing.

Spread the Message

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



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