

**CITY OF
SAN ANTONIO**
THE DISTRICT 5
HEARTBEAT
COUNCILWOMAN
SHIRLEY GONZALES

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Shirley Gonzales
Councilwoman
210-207-7043

Choco Meza
Chief of Staff
210-273-8783

Norma Gonzales
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210-207-7043

Nogalitos Field Office:
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Jacqueline Lucio
Communications
Director

Dora Galvan
Nogalitos Field
Office Director

Elizabeth Parra-Cox
Social Media & Constituent
Services Coordinator

Derek Salinas
Intern

Las Palmas Field Office:
210-207-0990

Paul Herrera
Policy and Zoning Director

Maria Lopez
Senior and
Constituent Services
Coordinator

Ryan McHutchion
Policy and Constituent
Services Coordinator

Daniel Meza
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*ALL INTERNS ARE UNPAID

The DISTRICT 5 Heartbeat Your Community News

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER, ISSUE 1 OCT/NOV 2013

My first 100 days in office

Dear District 5 neighbor,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your representative on the San Antonio City Council. District 5 is the heartbeat of our city. It is home to proud, hard working citizens who produced some of the greatest leaders and professionals in the fields of health, education, art, and some of the oldest and most successful businesses in San Antonio.



The beauty of District 5 is rooted with some of the more historical benchmarks in our city. It is an honor to wake up daily to work on your behalf to improve the quality of life in District 5.

This newsletter highlights some of my accomplishments in the first 100 days on City Council. I am especially proud of assembling a top notch team to work with me at City Hall, and in the Nogalitos and Las Palmas Field Offices. I have included staff bios in this newsletter which underscore my team members' skill sets and dedication to carrying out my agenda to ensure that your calls and requests are responded to daily.

This newsletter features some of my progress and accomplishments surrounding street lights, traffic calming efforts, housing construction issues, proposed improvements and design of the Normoyle Senior Center, stray dog challenges, quiet zone applications, streets and sidewalk repairs, and efforts to improve our services to the homeless and the surrounding community.

My constituent-focused approach is to listen to and resolve problems, while creating a win-win for constituents and our city. I want to stay engaged with you and hope you know you can always call, because you are my first priority.



Constituent Services Are My Top Priority

Personal meetings with constituents are a top priority for me. My staff is focused on addressing the needs of the constituency, and has excellent working relationships with our Code Enforcement and Safe Officers. My goal is to coordinate the efforts of District 5 and city staff so that we can be more responsive and effective in creating solutions for individuals, families, businesses and neighborhoods throughout District 5.



Meetings Attended & Cases Resolved

I attended every A & B session City Council meeting until my husband Kevin and I were blessed with our son Ian on Thursday, October 17, 2013. **Since my swearing in ceremony, I have held 54 meetings with city staff, 149 constituent meetings and responded to over 100 letters. My staff has assisted me in attending 16 Neighborhood Association meetings and I have enjoyed visiting almost all the Senior Centers in District 5.** My staff is meticulously tracking our constituent calls and our goal is to not miss any. Calls are received in high volumes—please accept my personal apology if we have missed yours. Listed below is a representation of calls received at the Nogalitos Office. I anticipate the same or more will be received in the Las Palmas Field Office. Data is as of September 30, 2013.

Received Calls	Walk-in Visits	Cases Worked since June 20 th	Favorably Resolved Cases since June 20 th
2,030	625	1,050	420

Our calls include a wide range of issues and we tackle each one at a time. Thank you for making us aware of your concerns and for giving me and my staff the opportunity to offer solutions.

Field Offices To Serve You



I meet with constituents Mondays at the Nogalitos Field Office and Fridays at the Las Palmas Office. I am also available at other times by appointment, except on Wednesdays and Thursdays when I attend City Council meetings.

Both field offices are open daily from 8:30 am–5:30 pm, and from 9:00 am—12 noon on the first and second Saturday of each month.

I want to make sure my staff and I are accessible to you to meet your needs.

Public Safety

I have met with City of San Antonio and City Public Service staff to ensure that the wattage for city lights is increased; especially around parks, schools, and churches.

I have requested traffic studies in areas with high incidences of accidents and fatalities so that streets have adequate traffic lights, flashers, speed limits, and speed bumps.

I am working closely with the S Zarcamora Produce Terminal to ensure that adequate traffic routes are established while the deteriorating S Laredo bridge is replaced and designed to handle 18 wheeler trucks. Measures will be taken to ensure the safety of children walking through this area.



Animal Care Services



Stray and loose animals are a serious problem. During the past budget discussions, I worked to ensure an additional \$100,000 be given to ACS to conduct a pilot program to manage the stray animal population and to explore expanding services to address this problem. My hope is that ALL pet owners will act responsibly, follow the law, and help reduce breeding and unnecessary dog bites. **Last year over 30,000 roaming dogs were killed and 18,000 were impounded; ACS euthanized approximately 6,000 pets.** Pets are family members which must be treated with respect. Pets love us unconditionally, and as pet owners we have the responsibility to love them in return. **Pet owners have to be part of the solution and not part of the problem.**

Union Pacific Trains and Quiet Zones

The great news is that commerce has increased dramatically due to the expansion of the San Antonio Port Authority and the continued development of the Eagle Ford Shale. This type of success necessitates increased railway shipments which may require additional train cars and more frequent trips. **I am proud to announce that with the leadership of Congressman Joaquín Castro our Quiet Zone application for Zarzamora and Frio City Road has been approved!** I am equally pleased to announce that Congressman Lloyd Doggett will join Congressman Castro as a member of our “District 5 Freight Advisory Board”. Other members include, Texas House of Representatives Trey Martinez Fisher, Mike Villarreal, Philip Cortez, and Jose Menendez, representatives from Union Pacific and the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), as well as community residents. The working advisory board is charged with developing a larger alternative transportation plan with a solution to the railroad crossing at Zarzamora and Frio City Road. I am grateful to Mayor Julian Castro for recognizing the need for a plan and for appointing me to the MPO, where all transportation plans and decisions are executed.



The Homeless in District 5



Haven for Hope continues to play an essential role in providing housing, mental health and other service needs to our homeless community. My goal is to build on their success by organizing a leadership group to meet on a regular basis to address and enhance immediate and long term issues. Members of the SA Police Department and Haven for Hope, city staff, and leaders from the surrounding neighborhoods will have the opportunity to offer strategies for the homeless. Together, we will explore program enhancements including the use of green belt space, LED lighting to improve neighborhood esthetics, and potential evening outreach efforts.

Seniors

The Normoyle Center, a neighborhood recreational facility, will soon be converted it into a multi-generational Senior Center. With **\$1,750,000** of 2012 bond funds, we will renovate the facility with a fresh, new concept adding more square footage for senior citizens, without compromising or losing the recreational facilities for children, youth, and families. Funding will include interior and exterior facility renovations. An additional **\$500,000** will be used to upgrade the park to include walking trails. The renovations, programming and amenities will encourage fun and healthy life styles through exercise, nutrition, and health screenings.



Parks and Recreation



District 5 has more parks than any other council district. Unfortunately, parks have not been maintained or equipped as needed. Parks are an integral part of a healthy lifestyle for families with children of all ages— they offer a place to safely gather and enjoy playgrounds, sport fields, and relax at swimming pools. During the budget approval process, I voted to ensure that students continue to enjoy swimming pools at no cost to their families. **Benavides Park was awarded \$100,000 for improvements; USAA added \$70,000, and I contributed an additional \$70,000.** I will continue looking for funds to improve other District 5 parks. I am also working closely with St. James, Palm Heights, and other neighborhoods near Normoyle Park to design a plan for the \$500,000 bond allocation.

Education

During budget hearings, I voted to ensure that our libraries maintain current hours of operation, facing a possible reduction of hours and services. Education remains high on my list of priorities. Parents need to be fully informed of House Bill 5 (HB 5) and how it affects their children’s academic career. This bill relates to the educational track our children will be following, on a path to high school graduation. I look forward to working with students, parents, teachers, and school board leaders as I organize town hall briefings to describe how HB5 will affect students.



On August 10, 2013, my staff and I distributed over 450 backpacks to students at Roosevelt Park, provided 300 backpacks for St. Timothy’s Church, 50 backpacks for Corazon, a program for special needs students, and supported the backpack distribution efforts of Agora Ministries.

Additionally, I am grateful to the law students and lawyer volunteers who worked to prepare Kennedy High School Law Explorer students for their mock trial competition in the Texas Capitol.

I plan to raise scholarship funds for all four High Schools: Burbank, Kennedy, Memorial, and Lanier. Join me in supporting the educational success of all our students.

Working Hard for You!

I have assembled a strong staff of passionate and energetic people committed to enhancing the quality of life for district 5 residents. I proudly introduce my staff. Each person brings a unique set of skills and strong desire to serve our community! They are here to help you.



Choco Meza, Chief of Staff: A graduate of St. Mary's University with 37 years of management experience at the national, state, and local level. Choco served as Deputy Assistant Secretary at HUD and the liaison to the Intergovernmental Office at the White House. She has staffed four state legislators, served as Executive Director of Partnership for Hope, a Rockefeller Foundation project, the YWCA, American Sunrise, and began her professional career as Research Director for SW Voter Registration Education Project.



Paul Herrera, Policy and Zoning Director: A graduate of St. Mary's University with a BA and an MPA. Paul has 10 years experience working with the City of San Antonio's Department of Human Services. He most recently worked at the University of Texas at San Antonio as Certification Specialist with the Institute for Economic Development. Paul also served as the Director of Service Learning at St. Mary's University.



Jacqueline Lucio, Communications Director: Attended the University of Texas at San Antonio, and has almost 10 years experience working in media. Jacque held multiple positions at San Antonio Express-News before serving as Public Affairs and Political Coordinator for Clear Channel Outdoor San Antonio. Jacque worked as an Account Executive for San Antonio based advertising firm, Interlex Communications, and most recently as a Public Relations consultant for the ad firm.



Dora Galvan, Nogalitos Field Director: Attended San Antonio and Palo Alto Colleges and has 15 years of Congressional work at the local, state, and national level. Dora served as a Constituent Services Representative, Military Academy Liaison and Project Coordinator, to U.S. Congressman Ciro Rodriguez. Recently, she served as Special Projects Director to City Councilwoman Leticia Ozuna.



Maria Lopez, Senior & Constituent Services Coordinator: Maria has spent most of her adult life working with senior citizens as an advocate and public servant of constituents who are most in need. She recently worked for City Councilwoman Lourdes Galvan.



Ryan McHutchion, Public Engagement & Constituent Services Coordinator: Ryan is a third year political science student at St. Mary's University and has worked with State Representative Philip Cortez as a legislative aid, also with State Representative Naomi Gonzalez as a Legislative Director.



Elizabeth Parra Cox, Communications & Constituent Coordinator: Elizabeth has a BA in English and is currently an MPA student at St. Mary's University. She most recently worked for State Representative Joe Farias.



Daniel S. Meza, Intern: Daniel has a BA from the University of Texas in Austin and a Master's in Social Work from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He has 17 years of experience in grant writing, 15 years as a college counselor and worked and lived in Washington, D.C. as Director of Policy & Fund Development for the National Association of Educational Opportunities, and lobbied for Trio programs.



Derek Salinas, Intern: Derek is a veteran, who was deployed to Iraq. He is currently a student at the University of the Incarnate Word, with a double major in American Government and Sociology and is currently serving in the National Guard.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Carlos Contreras
Brooks Development
Authority

Ina Minjarez
Mayor's Commission on the
Status of Women

Analisa Gonzales
Parks and Recreation

Ricardo Briones
Zoning Commission

Juan Solis
San Antonio Port Authority

Roberto Gonzales
Transportation Advisory
Board

Valeria Hernandez
Arts & Cultural Affairs

Karen Speer
Animal Care Services

Elizabeth Riojas*
Citizens Environmental
Advisory Committee

Gloria Zamora*
City/County Joint Commission
on Elderly Affairs

Maria Rosario Cruz*
Zoning Board of Adjustment

Lupe Ochoa*
SA Library Board

Adriel Alvarez*
SA Youth Commission

Mark Potter*
Building Standards Board

Hilario Garcia
SAWS Rates Advisory
Committee

Diane Lang
SAWS Conservation
Committee

*nominated for committee

**City of San Antonio
Council District 5**



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Councilwoman Shirley Gonzales

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3226 Nogalitos, Suite 102
San Antonio, Texas 78225
Phone: 210-207-0960

Las Palmas Field Office
803 Castroville, Suite 218
San Antonio, Texas 78237
Phone: 210-207- 0990

Office hours: 8:30am—5:30pm

Important Resources and Contacts

- 24 hr. City Hotline.....311 or 207-6000
- Utility/Rental Assistance.....207-7830
- Housing Rehabilitation.....207-0147
- Fair Housing.....207-5910
- Senior Services.....207-7172
- Childcare Services.....207-5200
- Youth Services.....207-8198
- Health Department.....207-8780
- SAPD (West Substation)207-7420
- SAPD (South Substation.....207-8191
- SAFFE Office (West).....207-0810
- SAFFE Office (South)207-8964
- SAPD Non-emergency.....207-7273
- Homeless Services.....207-7823
- Animal Care Services.....207-4738
- Graffiti.....207-6460
- CPS Energy.....353-2222
- SAWS.....704-7297
- VIA Metro Transit.....362-2020
- Literacy GED/ESL Classes.....207-7227

District 5 Upcoming Events

- November 23, 2013**
Ecumenical Service, Breakfast
& Turkey Giveaway
- December 1, 2013**
"Lighting of the D5 Holiday Trees"
- January 6, 2014**
Dia de los Reyes Magos Celebracion

**SHARING
WITH SHIRLEY**



By appointment, Mon & Fri, 10am-2pm

Special Thanks

**Mi Tierra Mexican Restaurant
Monterrey Iron Metal
Saws
CPS
Mr. & Mrs. Reyes
Good Samaritan SRS.
Code Compliance
Home Depot
Lowes
& BIG THANKS
to the many volunteers!**

Get Involved

- Seeking Interns:
- *Bilingual, preferred
- *College students and recent grads welcome
- *20 hours+
- Seeking Volunteers:
- *Must enjoy working with people from all walks of life.
- *Must be patient and caring
- *Hours/days vary