

"I Luv District 8"



AN UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMAN MICHAEL JOHNSON

SPRING 2007

MOVING FORWARD

Spring is the most beautiful and hopeful time of year. Anything seems possible, from the dreams of pennant for your favorite Cactus League team now in town, to the hope that your frozen plants will make a valiant comeback.

Many of the hopes and dreams we've had in District 8 for a long time are now coming to fruition. It's a very exciting time.

We already have thousands of students at our downtown ASU campus. Student housing will soon be available and plans were just announced to bring ASU's Walter Cronkite School of Journalism to the downtown campus. That means more job opportunities and educational opportunities for Phoenix.

NAU is also opening a campus in south Phoenix, expanding our resident's opportunities for advanced education even more.

With ASU, NAU and our own community colleges, District 8 is rapidly becoming the educational hub of the city.

CityScape, the largest private sector development plan for downtown Phoenix in history is in the planning stages. There are still many questions to be answered and a lot of work to be done but it's a great sign for us that the private sector is willing to invest in Phoenix in a big way.

The Convention Center has completed Phase I of its massive overhaul, the new hotel is under way, light rail is now just a year away and people are finally realizing what most of us have known for a long time - District 8 is the place where opportunity blossoms.

Of course, we're continuing to work to strengthen our

neighborhoods; identifying and attacking blighted properties, getting better at neighborhood policing, improving the parks and roads and trying to make the entire district the kind of place we're all proud to call home.

On a more personal note, I wanted to share with you a couple of recent opportunities I've been given.



I was recently awarded a seat on the Board of Directors for the Phoenix Symphony. The Symphony not only provides an extremely important cultural touchstone for the community, their outreach program to local schools has been invaluable for our children. I'm looking forward to being a part of this outstanding organization.

I was also recently elected to the Board of Directors for the National League of Cities (NLC). The NLC is the country's oldest and largest organization representing municipal governments. I'll be working with 19 other new Board members, and

20 returning Board members in helping direct the advocacy, research and membership activities of the NLC in the coming year. I'll be able to learn what other communities are doing to meet their challenges and perhaps pass along some of what we've been able to accomplish right here in District 8.

District 8 continues moving forward. And because of good citizens just like you, we'll keep moving forward. No, we haven't solved all of our problems or met all of our challenges. But we're working hard and working together and I believe that's an unbeatable combination.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael E. Johnson".

Councilman Michael Johnson
District 8

"I LUV DISTRICT 8" AWARDS

Once a year Councilman Johnson, along with the District 8 staff, recognizes those persons who have been extraordinarily helpful and resourceful in making sure that our constituents are best served throughout the year. This year's recipients of the "I Luv District 8" Award are:

Anthony Humphrey

Street Transportation Department
City of Phoenix

Amelia Hughes

Neighborhood Services Department
City of Phoenix

Annie Alvarado

Neighborhood Services Department
City of Phoenix

Verna Elmer

Neighborhood Services Department
City of Phoenix

Denee McKinley

Development Services Department
City of Phoenix

Terrie Wimberly

City Manager's Office
City of Phoenix

Jon Brodsky

Public Information Office
City of Phoenix

Trish Puryear

Water Services Department
City of Phoenix

Maria Hyatt

Special Projects Administrator-Light Rail
City Manager's Office

Officer Eric Amato

Police Department
City of Phoenix

Steve Lucas

Public Works Department
City of Phoenix

Dale Larsen

Assistant Director
Parks and Recreation Department

Congratulations to all of the award winners and thank you again for all of your hard work and support.

Upcoming 4th Annual Block Watch Summit

The City of Phoenix's 4th Annual Block Watch Summit is just around the corner. This year's summit will be held on April 21st, 2007 from 7:30 am to 1:30 pm at the Phoenix Police Academy, located at 10001 South 15th Avenue. The event is provided by the City of Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon, City Council, Phoenix Police Department, and the Block Watch Advisory Board. To RSVP contact (602)534-9148 or email bwsummit@phoenix.gov or you can simply go online and register at <http://phoenix.gov/email/appsummit.html>, City TTY Relay at (602) 534-5000.

Come join the City of Phoenix in a day of training sessions, including a resource fair full of educational materials to better your community. Attendees are given an opportunity to develop and learn new skills necessary in benching crime. Crime prevention workshops help you help your community with effective block watching tools. Make your reservations prior to the April 21st event date to guarantee a seat at this year's event. Complimentary continental breakfast and a volunteer appreciation luncheon will be available to those who attend. Join your neighbors in crime prevention and help make Phoenix a safer place to be this year at the 4th Annual Phoenix Block Watch Summit.



Constituent Concern Calls

Here's an outline to follow when you experience a problem or have a concern in your neighborhood:

- ◆ Call your complaint/concern in to Neighborhood Services at 602-262-7844.
- ◆ When you call in, be sure to have the address where the violation(s) has taken place and describe the violation(s) as best you can.
- ◆ A case number will be assigned once the information is received. Record the case number and ask for the name and telephone number of your assigned Area Inspector. Please allow two weeks for an inspector to respond to your complaint. If there is no action or response to your complaint/concern, call the area inspector with the case number to inquire about the status.

Remember, to keep updated on what is going on in your community, and to meet your Community Action Officer and Area Inspector, we encourage you to participate in your neighborhood meetings such as Block Watch, Fight Back and Neighborhood Association meetings. To find out the time and place of these meetings, you may contact the City Council, District 8 offices at 602-262-7493.

Phoenix Residents Participate in the First-Ever "Taking it to the Streets" Fair

Gloomy skies and chilly weather weren't enough to deter the several hundred residents and families who participated in the neighborhood activities, food, fun and music at the first-ever "Taking it to the Streets" fair held on Jan. 13 in downtown Phoenix.

The event, sponsored by Fry's Food and Drug Stores and the Neighborhood Services Department, recognized the efforts and accomplishments of neighborhood associations and Fight Back groups throughout the city.

The fair provided an opportunity for residents to network with neighborhood groups and city contacts. Approximately 20 neighborhood associations and Fight Back groups had booths highlighting their accomplishments, and representatives from more than 20 city departments discussed services available to neighborhood groups.



Fair workshops included women's safety, tips on how to make your neighborhood association more effective and a special panel explored the lives of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks.



The event also included an appearance by motivational speaker Bill Strickland, nationally recognized for reshaping the

business of social change and community development and for the visionary and leadership themes he promotes in his speeches.

Entertainment at the fair was provided by Obadiah Parker, a local rock band that incorporates elements of funk, rhythm and blues, gospel, blues and folk; Sundance Wranglers, a senior country-western-style dance demonstration troupe; Arizona Rhythm Connection, an energizing, interactive African drumming circle; Gary Smith, a western acoustic guitarist; and Ballet Folklorico, a colorful Mexican dance troupe.

The event concluded with the presentation of the "Making Phoenix a Better Place to Live" awards honoring innovative initiatives by neighborhood groups. Mayor Phil Gordon, Councilwoman Peggy Neely, Councilman Claude Mattox and Councilman Michael Johnson were on hand to present the awards, the winners of which were selected on the basis of their accomplishments in 2005-2006.

At least one neighborhood group from each city council district was selected to receive a plaque and a \$300 cash award, and these winners had an opportunity to compete for the overall Mayor's and Fry's "Making Phoenix a Better Place to Live" award for a cash award of \$750.

Congratulations to the District 8 award winners: Unity Neighborhood Fight Back and Marcos De Niza Neighborhood Association. The following also were recognized with an Honorable Mention award: Greater Green Gables Neighborhood Association, South Country Block Watch and Association and Van Buren Civic Association Crime Prevention and Reduction Committee.



"I Luv District 8"

Councilman Michael Johnson
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Important City of Phoenix Numbers

Councilman Michael Johnson

City Council - District 8
602.262.7493

Bus Service
602.253.5000

Garbage Collection
602.262.7251

Parks & Recreation
602.262.6861

City Council
602.262.7029

Graffiti Busters
602.495.7014

Senior Services
602.262.7379

Crime Stop (Police)
602.262.6151

Mayor's Office
602.262.1111

Water Services
602.262.6251

Neighborhood Services
602.262.7344

For alternate format/reasonable accommodations call 602.262.7176 or TTY 602.534.5500.