

"I Luv District 8"

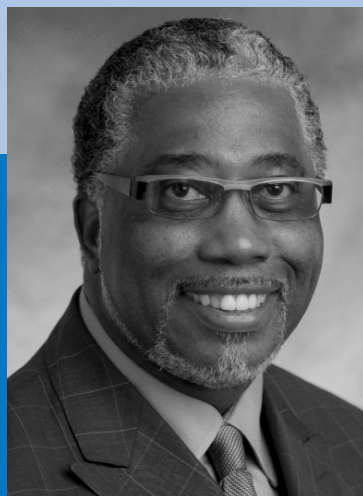
Councilman Michael Johnson
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Foreclosures: phoenix.gov is a new resource

The city of Phoenix is working actively to address the challenges posed by the foreclosure crisis. We've developed a Web page on phoenix.gov that features an array of resources to help you deal with a foreclosure situation whether you are a homeowner, a concerned resident or a prospective homebuyer.

The Web page includes information on how to contact a lender and what information to provide when making that contact, as well as a list of counseling agencies in Phoenix that can help you through a foreclosure case. Information also is available to help neighborhoods deal with the blighting impacts of foreclosed properties, including the free tool-lending program, landlord/tenant counseling and where to report blight. In addition, programs are available for residents needing rental housing assistance and guidance to homeownership opportunities. Visit phoenix.gov to learn about the resources available to you and your neighborhood.



Important City Phone Numbers

District 8 Office – 602-262-7493

City Information Desk
602-262-6011

Graffiti Busters
602-495-7014

Garbage Collection
602-262-7251

Crime Stop Hotline
602-262-6151

Speeding
602-534-SPEED

Animal Control
602-506-PETS

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

"I Luv District 8"



AN UPDATE FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCILMAN MICHAEL JOHNSON

SUMMER 2008

TAKE BACK OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Dear residents: I hope you are enjoying your summer, staying out of the heat and watching our children around water.

Our South Phoenix community recently demonstrated its commitment to public safety and taking back its neighborhood. For the past two years, Arizonans for Gun Safety (AzGS), a nonprofit, community-based organization dedicated to reducing gun deaths and injuries, has been awarded a Project Safe Neighborhood grant designed for community outreach. AzGS worked with our city's Neighborhood Services Department on a gun safety campaign themed "Take Back Your Neighborhood."

As a result of the campaign, Phoenix police took more than 100 guns off the streets of south Phoenix with their anonymous, no-questions-asked gun buy-back event in four neighborhoods. Individuals who participated in the gun buy-back received a \$100 gift card for use in Bashas' and Food City grocery stores.

The gun buy-back program was part of the month-long Take Back Your Neighborhood campaign, which aims to eliminate gun violence in four south Phoenix neighborhoods. The buy-back was followed by a campaign community celebration at the South Mountain Community Center, where hundreds of south Phoenix residents gathered to enjoy music, refreshments and live broadcasts from two radio stations.

The campaign's four neighborhoods and their boundaries are:

- 7/11 Fight Back (7th to 15th avenues and Buckeye Road to I-17)
- Lindo Park (19th to 23rd avenues and Roeser Road to Southern Avenue)
- South Vista (12th to 16th streets and Roeser Road to Southern Avenue)
- Hermoso Park (16th to 24th streets and Vineyard to Broadway roads)

Gun buy-back stations were set up in churches located in each of the neighborhoods, as well as a fifth station at the Phoenix Police Department South Mountain Precinct. The community celebration closed out the Take Back Your Neighborhood campaign. Residents were able to swim for free in the community pool, eat free food and listen to live music.

The campaign took place throughout June, with various community activities in addition to the gun buy-back program, such as a community awareness walk, job fairs and a neighborhood clean up. For more information about the program, visit takebackyourneighborhood.com or call 602-222-5400. Thank you to everyone who participated!

Councilman Michael Johnson
District 8

"I LUV DISTRICT 8" AWARDS

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

- Jason Fernandez**, *Street Transportation Department*
- Officer Julie Smith**, *Phoenix Police Department*
- Manuel Valenzuela**, *Phoenix Police Department*
- Martin Nordby**, *Development Services Department*
- Jami Buttermore**, *Public Works Department*
- Steven Turner**, *Parks & Recreation Department*
- Edward "EJ" Hyncik**, *Public Transit Department*
- Sally Valenzuela**, *Finance Department*
- Stephanie Ribodal**, *Public Information Office*
- Rita Ruelas**, *Neighborhood Services Department*
- Robert Wheaton**, *Neighborhood Services Department*
- Rene Valente**, *Neighborhood Services Department*
- Carla Hickson**, *Neighborhood Services Department*
- Eddie Zazueta**, *Neighborhood Services Department*
- Greg Strong**, *Neighborhood Services Department*
- William Hogans**, *Neighborhood Services Department*
- Regginald High**, *Neighborhood Services Department*
- David Lambright**, *Neighborhood Services Department*
- Ashantis Payne**, *Neighborhood Services Department*
- Frank Sanders**, *Neighborhood Services Department*
- Lydia Odom**, *Neighborhood Services Department*
- Sevag Hayan**, *Neighborhood Services Department*
- Hoy Anderson Jr.**, *Neighborhood Services Department*
- Adela Torres**, *Neighborhood Services Department*
- Miguel Rodriguez**, *Neighborhood Services Department*
- George Cota**, *Neighborhood Services Department*
- Tina Johnson**, *Neighborhood Services Department*
- Roy Plunk**, *Neighborhood Services Department*
- Lawrence Williams**, *Neighborhood Services Department*
- Anthony "Tony" Rice**, *Neighborhood Services Department*
- Gary Brown**, *Neighborhood Services Department*
- Richard Andresen**, *Neighborhood Services Department*
- Bruce Nelson**, *Neighborhood Services Department*

Congratulations to all of the award winners and join me in thanking them for their hard work and support.

Chengdu, China: Phoenix's Sister City

This May, a massive earthquake hit our Sister City of Chengdu, China, and killed almost 70,000 people, left five million people homeless and 18,000 missing. The Phoenix community came together and was able to donate \$123,000 to the Chengdu Earthquake Relief Fund. Special thanks to the employees of Konica Minolta Business Solutions USA, Inc. Collectively, they were able to raise \$40,000 and decided to donate it to our relief fund. In addition, Intel has contributed \$6 million to support and rebuild damaged schools and help children in the Sichuan Province and the nearby areas. Intel has a facility in Chengdu with more than 1,500 employees; the company also gave Phoenix Sister Cities \$5,000 to help cover costs to hold a benefit at the Orpheum Theatre. For everyone who donated to this worthy cause, we thank you.

District 8's New Chief of Staff

Join me in welcoming Adora Lewis as my new chief of staff. Adora is a native Phoenician. She received her masters degree in Public Administration and a bachelor of science degree in Political Science from Arizona State University. Adora began her career with the city as the council assistant in the District 8 Council Office. She participated in the city of Phoenix Management Intern Program, worked as a management assistant II in the Personnel Department and most recently, she was a part of the City Manager's Office, where she worked with several members of the management executive team. As the new council assistant and chief of staff, Adora is pleased to return to the position in the District 8 Council Office. In this role, she'll resume the responsibility for managing the day-to-day operations and for addressing an array of issues and concerns from constituents, businesses and community organizations alike.



Saguaro Library

Earlier this summer, residents attended the grand re-opening celebration for the newly remodeled Saguaro Library, located at 2808 N. 46th St. Originally built in 1964, Saguaro Library has recently been remodeled to better meet the current needs of the community. Designed by durkin + durkin architects, the project included relocating the entrance to 46th Street, creating patio spaces and making better use of the library's existing 10,500 square feet. The project was funded by the 2006 Citizens Bond Program. Be sure to stop by and visit our Saguaro Library!



Light rail trains coming to Downtown Phoenix

As you drive, bike or walk in downtown Phoenix, please be aware that METRO light rail has begun vehicle testing in this area. Trains are currently operating in a test zone from 26th and Washington streets to just east of Mill Avenue. Last month, the test zone expanded east to Mesa and west into downtown Phoenix. You may have seen a train or two out on these stretches beforehand conducting preliminary tests that will set the stage for safe vehicle testing in this new test zone.



We will continue to expand vehicle testing to the rest of the 20-mile alignment during the summer and fall months. Testing will run right up until our grand opening weekend of Dec. 27 - 28; official revenue service begins Dec. 29.

Please follow these safety tips to remain safe around light rail:

- Light rail is quiet; always listen for bells and look for flashing train headlights.
- Pedestrians, use the crosswalk and obey all signals.
- Never drive, bike, walk or skateboard in the track way.
- Obey the traffic signals; turn only with a green arrow.
- Stay clear of the overhead wires; they are energized.

For more information on light rail safety, visit metrolightrail.org/safety. Also plan to join us for the festivities and free rides during our grand opening celebration!



AIDS Walk 2008

The city of Phoenix, Mayor Phil Gordon and Councilman Michael Johnson are proud sponsors of AIDS Walk 2008. The purpose of AIDS Walk 2008 is to raise funds to be distributed to more than 20 local HIV/AIDS service agencies in the metro Phoenix area.

These agencies have agreed to support the efforts of AIDS Walk 2008 and will receive an equal share of the funds raised from AIDS Walk 2008 and Aunt Rita's Foundation. All participants must register with a minimum donation of \$25. This registration fee will entitle you to an official AIDS Walk 2008 t-shirt and a "one-of-a-kind" participant number. Most importantly, your paid registration serves as your first personal contribution toward the exciting success of AIDS Walk 2008! Visit aidswalk2008.org to register today!

