

# City Manager's Report

October 5, 2021

Council and Colleagues, greetings. These reports will be included in the City Council packet for regularly scheduled Council meetings, excluding Work Session meetings. The reports are intended to be informational, covering miscellaneous events and topics involving the City organization. This report was not prepared with sufficient timing to be included in your packet, and I apologize for the late submittal. We are calling out one item for discussion, which is the re-districting letter as discussed herein. In no specific order:

## Fire Department

The new Fire Academy begins on October 25<sup>th</sup> with twelve new Firefighters. The Fire Academy is where new fire fighters receive the necessary training to perform their job duties. It is approximately 12 weeks in duration.

## Police Department

- The Police Department currently has 13 Police Officer position vacancies and there are 11 employees currently at the Police Academy (similar program to the Fire Academy referenced above) or in Field Training. There are seven candidates who are currently going through background checks. Stay tuned.
- In our ongoing recruitment efforts, Officer Kevin Rueb performed an interview on KAFF Country Radio for recruitment.
- The Tyler Stewart Memorial Golf Tournament was held to fundraise for the charities that have been formed in his honor.
- Sgt. Turley and members of the recruitment team travelled to Phoenix to participate in a job fair.
- Sometimes you just want to scream. At least that was the case involving a motorhome parked in the Walmart parking lot, upon which an unknown man climbed on top and began screaming. The owners of the motorhome, when contacted, indicated that they did not know the screaming individual. The Flagstaff Fire Department, Guardian Medical Transport, and Terros responded, but were unable to garner the vocal gentleman's attention. Officer Rueb and Holberg took off their duty belt and were tethered to the Flagstaff Fire Department ladder truck bucket. They were able to secure the individual and lower him safely to the ground where he was transported to FMC for additional assistance. Great work Officer Rueb (pictured on left) and Officer Holberg (pictured on right)! Peace and quiet restored.



## PROSE

The following are updates from our recently formed Parks, Rec, Open Space, and Events Division:

- The Thorpe Annex public participation team had a kick-off meeting with Southwest Decision Resources to start identifying key stakeholders and review pre-assessment questions. Weekly meetings will continue with pre-assessment meetings likely to begin in October with stakeholders. Pre-assessment outcomes will help shape the community-wide public participation meetings.
- The contractor is wrapping up the final items on the Suns Rebound Project which remodeled two basketball courts and created two pickleball courts at Ponderosa Park in the Sunnyside neighborhood! Please look for notification of a soft opening soon and come on out to shoot some hoops! Stay tuned.
- And this just in: staff and our partners in Animal Control have witnessed a dramatic uptick in usage of the City's athletic fields by ... pets. Yes, pets. And they are not obeying the regulations currently in place.

A leashing campaign as well as new signage for the City's baseball and softball fields will be implemented while Animal Control begins enforcing the current City Code 8-11-001-0007: no pets off leash or permissible when signed in parks, i.e., playing fields.

Here is a preview of the new signage, depicting both dogs and cats, although we all know that cats are the real culprits here.



- In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, a Coordinator at Hal Jensen Community Center participated in the County's "My Life in Peru" Show and Tell webinar.
- NAU nursing students started their internship program at Joe C. Montoya Community and Senior Center which includes interacting with the patrons and assisting staff as needed.
- Construction and restoration work surrounding the APS Elden Substation, within the McMillan Mesa Natural Area, is scheduled to start on Monday, September 27. Construction work will consist of a curb cut on N. Gemini Road, moving a streetlight, and realigning the access road to the substation to allow large work trucks better access. APS is committed to working with Open Space to conduct additional restoration surrounding the substation. Restoration work will include removing gravel, tilling compacted soil, and reseeding with native grasses. Open Space has provided information via social media to help inform the community regarding the activities.

- PROSE contributed to the Festival of Science activities this year. Thanks to Sylvia Struss, Open Space VISTA, and partners, community activities at Buffalo Park and Science in the Park were very successful! Community art was displayed at the October 1 First Friday Art Walk at the Webb Law Group building (224 E. Birch Ave). (See pictures below)



### **Public Works**

- Streetlight maintenance is ongoing with a handful of areas being addressed by the City's Signal Technician. The repairs on Soliere and Sparrow have commenced. The Traffic Signal Technician has also been assisting with the voice activated PED crossing.
- The DOC crew is continuing work on alleyway maintenance this week; pavement preservation inspection work continued throughout September, and the Streets Signs and Markings crew has been out doing sign maintenance this week as well.
- Pulliam Airport's new Long-Term Parking Lot continues with new concrete curb installation with an anticipated completion of October 1st. The installation of the aggregate base course continues throughout the project area. The contractor is anticipated to pave the area on October 13th and 14th. We will plan a ribbon cutting prior to opening. There will be plenty of parking available for the attendees.
- Preparations continue at Fleet for winter. The photo to the right shows Juston Watson, sporting the welding torch, in the process of beefing up this plow frame for action.
- Fleet Services coordinated the City's crane and ariel bucket truck inventory's certification for safety and operational parameters this week. Thank you, Airport, Parks, Streets, Water Production, Wastewater and Lake Mary Water Treatment Plant for working with us to complete this annual task.



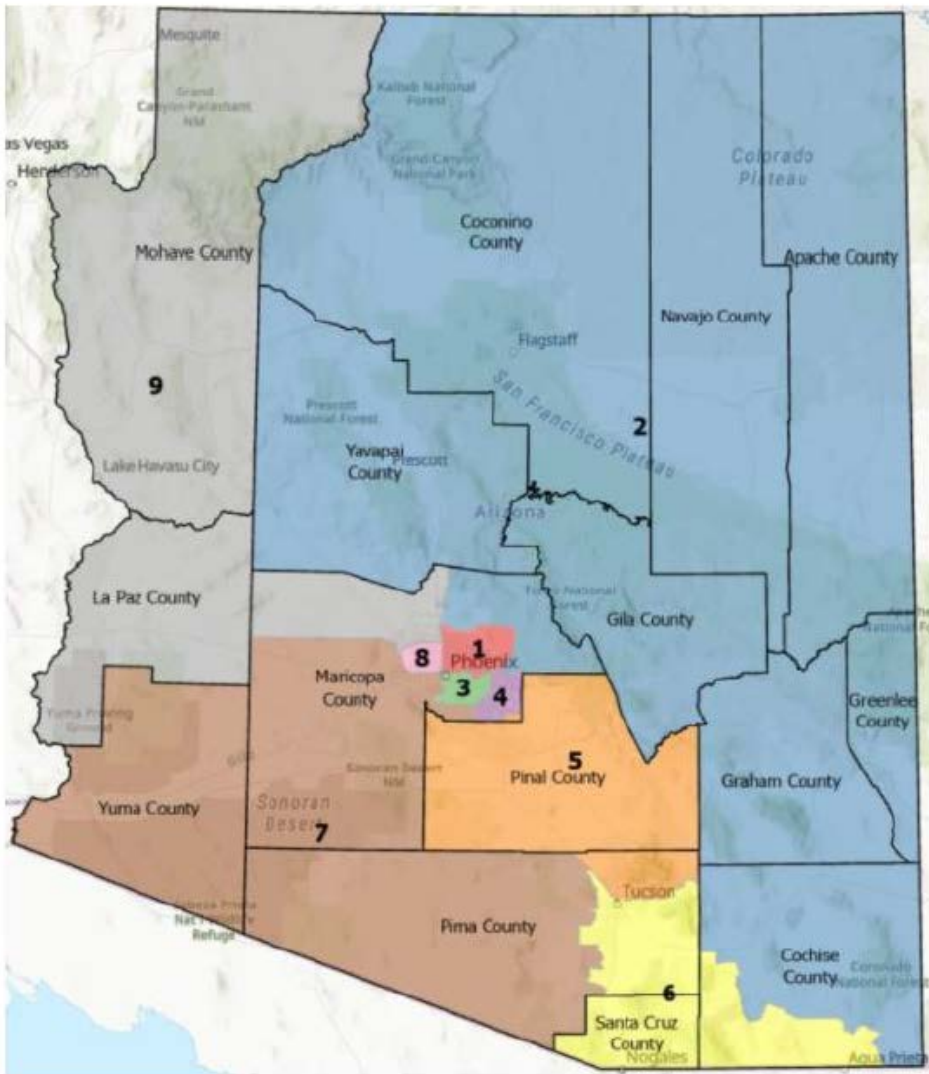
- Winterization of City Facilities has provided good results indicating all boiler systems are in good condition going into the winter months for hot water heating. Even the oldest systems are in good condition including the Library and City Hall. This is a good thing.
- Noteworthy: with the recent flooding events, the Landfill has received approximately 10,386 tons of debris to date. Bulky crews continue to collect debris from the previously flooded areas of the Sunnyside neighborhood by special request and Supervisor observation to clear debris from the flood path and damaged property.
- Also involving our Landfill, the final touches of the Cell D Excavation are being installed. The 300,000 gallon water tank is being filled with reclaimed water. Headwalls are being constructed at the drainage crossing.



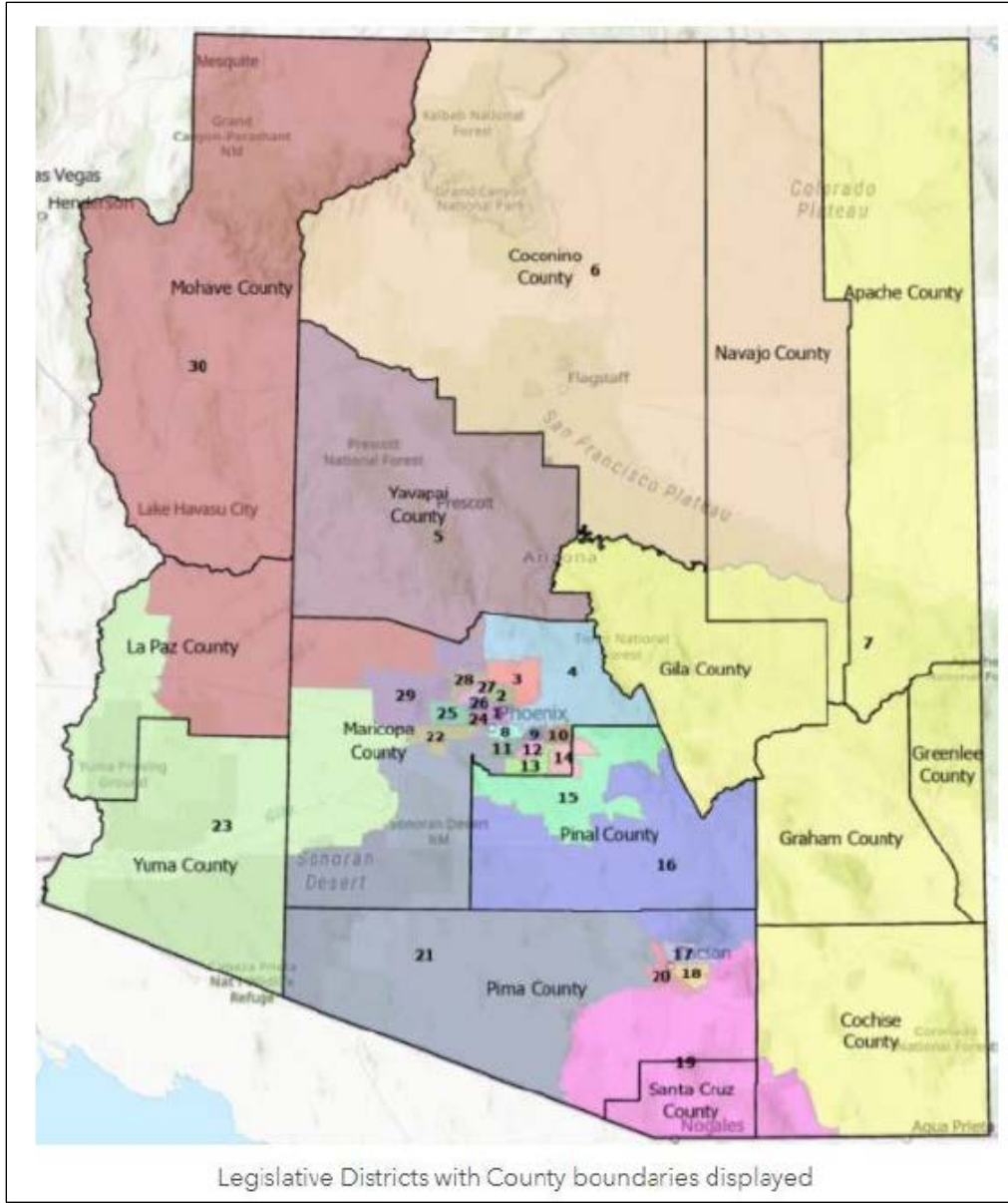
### **Redistricting**

This topic starts with our extended appreciation to Sarah Langley, Public Affairs Director, and Todd Madeksza, our State Lobbyist. The below maps are for reference during the topic, and both Sarah and Todd will be guiding the discussion.

The work of the Independent Redistricting Commission continues as the Commission recently adopted congressional and legislative grid maps on September 14<sup>th</sup>. The grid maps use the most recent Census data to create nine balanced Congressional Districts and thirty balanced Legislative Districts across the state within +/- 1 person down to the Census Block level. This grid is simply meant to serve as a starting point and the Commission is now taking public comment on the grid maps. A draft letter from the Flagstaff City Council, providing comment on the grid maps, has been attached to this City Manager's Report, in addition to images of the congressional and legislative grid maps shown below for the Council's reference. Once adopted, this letter will be sent to the Commission prior to the 2<sup>nd</sup> public hearing scheduled for October 7<sup>th</sup>. Staff will continue to monitor the Commission's progress and advise the Council of opportunities for public comment on future versions of the maps.



Congressional Districts with County boundaries displayed



That is all for now, Council. Thank you. Onward and upward ...