

District 3 Newsletter



December 2014

City Councilor Klarissa Peña

As your new Councilor for District 3, I want to extend my gratitude for your support. My overall priorities for the District are to:

- Work to ensure safe and healthy neighborhoods.
- Bring businesses and jobs to our area.
- Strengthen city and school partnerships for better schools and education.

Upon taking office on December 2, 2013, we have been busy meeting with neighborhood associations and community groups, responding to phone calls and email messages and gathering information on issues and concerns important to the District.



City of Albuquerque Budget FY 2015

I am happy to report that I was able to get the following items into the FY2015 Budget that was passed by the City Council in May and signed by the Mayor.

- Funding to keep the Alamosa and Westgate Libraries open.
- A 3% raise for all City employees.
- Reinstate the 2011 5% cut in social services along with another 2% increase.
- Funding for Economic Development study and analysis to help bring business and retail to West Central and the Southwest Mesa.

APD Crisis

The Justice Department reached an agreement with the City of Albuquerque to implement sweeping reforms on use of force by the Albuquerque Police Department. During this challenging time, as emotions run high, it is important that we come together as a community for solutions not only to restore the public's confidence in APD but also to resolve some of the underlying issues that plague our community which have led us to this point.

The City Council, as the policy making body of the City, will be an important part of how the agreement will be implemented in the years to come.

Essential Services Study

Last July, I sponsored a resolution that provided \$35,000 in funding for an Essential Services Study to assess the gaps in the City, County and State's provision of mental health services. While not part of its formal recommendations, the DOJ mentioned in its April report the need to address the mental health crisis in our City.

This is but one of many steps we must take to address the underlying issues that plague our community. Mental health and substance abuse issues cut across both ethnic and socio-economic lines. To learn more go to the District3 website.



Happy Holidays!

River of Lights
Nov. 29 through Jan. 3!

Luminaria Tour
Dec. 24, 2014

Twinkle Light Parade
December 6 - Nob Hill

Most city offices closed
Dec 25 and Jan 1

**Feliz Navidad y
Prospero Año!**

District 3 Projects

We have been working diligently with City Departments to address median landscaping, curbs and sidewalks, traffic problems, and clean-up of bikes, trails and intersections.

Here is an update on some district projects:

Work on **114th and De Vargas** was completed at this dangerous intersection. More concrete barriers placed to protect the homes at the intersection, new traffic speed signs were installed and other traffic calming measures put in place.

Collaborated with school, local and state officials to place needed infrastructure to create safer pedestrian and traffic measures at **Atrisco Heritage Academy**.

Representatives from APS, the City of Albuquerque, State Senator Padilla, APD and others agreed to work with each other to develop a plan for traffic safety

issues at **Amole Mesa & 98th Street**

The groundbreaking for **Sierra Sunset Park** at Messina and Amole Mesa was held on November 14th. The 6.8 acre state-of-the-art park located west of 98th St. and south of Gibson. The estimated completion date for park is June 25, 2015.

Sidewalks were constructed on Churchill Rd east of Old Coors and on Fredrick Lane east of Unser.

Westgate Little League Park on 86th and Sapphire was cleaned up and some repairs made to the dugouts to alleviate some of the maintenance issues.

New signs were constructed and placed in Valley Gardens and Alamosa neighborhoods.

The Tower medians are getting new landscaping installed with shrubbery, trees and flowers.

Upcoming Projects

Working with Parks and Recreation department on redesign of the **Alamosa Skate Park** when funding becomes available. It is in need of some refurbishing to make it a safer and fun place for the youth in our community.

The **Anderson Heights Park** on Cenote Rd is still in design phase. It has been discovered that some of the designated land sits on an archaeological site, so that has slowed up the process.

The design for traffic calming measures for the Merlida Alleyway near **Alamosa Elementary School** is complete and construction should start in the next few months.

Be on the lookout for infrastructure and other improvements on the Southwest Mesa and West Central in the next year.

Get Help for Common Issues

Call 311 to Report any of the following issues to the City of Albuquerque: Graffiti, Lost Animals, Large-item garbage pick-up, Missed trash pick-up, Weed complaints, Potholes, Abandoned vehicles, Residential trash container request, Traffic Signs, Traffic Pavement Markings. They can answer questions and respond to requests for service. You can call any day from 6am – 9pm. You can also go to the City Website to get more information for a particular issue or complaint.

Here are some direct numbers you can call

- Streets and Traffic issues: 505-768-3830
- Report illegal dumping by calling: 505-768-DUMP(3867)
- File a complaint with Code Enforcement: 505-924-3850
- Contact APD Southwest Area Command: 505-831-4705
- Dust complaint: 505-768-1972

Need more help? Didn't get a response? Contact us right away and we'll help.

ABCWUA

Councilor Peña serves as Chair of the Albuquerque Bernalillo County Water Utility Authority. You can call them at 842-WATR (9287) or 768-2800 for issues regarding:

- Cockroach Control
- Sewer Odor
- Water line breaks

Planning for the Future

Congratulations to the Southwest Alliance of Neighbors and their member neighborhood associations for helping to get the Coors Corridor Plan extended to include Coors south of Central to Bridge. It is this continued community involvement and support that will help us transform the South Valley and Southwest Mesa into a place where neighborhoods and businesses can thrive.

I will be working with my policy assistant to review the various sector plans that affect our area to identify resources to build out infrastructure, utilities and other needs to help bring business, retail and dining establishments to our side of town, in particular to Unser Crossing.

I will continue to update the community on projects and initiatives which are underway.

If you need to contact me, please email me at kpna@cabq.gov. If you need help or have an issue or concern, contact Nancy Montaño, 505-768-3127, nancymontano@cabq.gov.

Please visit us at <http://www.cabq.gov/council/councilors/district-3>