



Councilmember Marcus Bush

"Leading with Integrity, Serving with Heart"

Serving the City of National City



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Tijuana River: Is it an Emergency?

From Left to Right: Mayor Paloma Aguirre, Mayor Ron Morrison, Councilmember Marcus Bush

For decades as the population of Tijuana has expanded, public infrastructure has failed to keep up with growth. This growth has overwhelmed the sewage treatment system, leading to ever-increasing levels of raw sewage spilling into the Tijuana River which runs through south San Diego and Imperial Beach before the final discharge in the Pacific Ocean.

In the last 5 years, over 100 billion gallons of raw sewage, industrial waste and urban runoff has been contaminated water quality leading to County Health officials to close beaches in Imperial Beach for over 1,000 consecutive days. In addition to water quality closures, residents and workers in the area (including lifeguards, border patrol agents, and US Navy personnel) have increasingly suffered from air quality impacts leading to more reports of public health impacts.



New recent scientific studies and monitoring from researchers from University of California San Diego, San Diego State University, and the San Diego County Air Pollution Control District have shown the presence of hydrogen sulfide – the strong rotten egg odor that has been commonly reported. For several days during the late August and early September heat waves, air monitors have shown these chemicals at levels that exceed recommended health standards. According to the US Center for Disease Control, this chemical causes respiratory issues, shortness of breath, nausea, eye irritation, and headaches which have been frequently reported by residents.

Air Monitor

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community." - Cesar Chavez



This air pollution and long-term health impacts are still poorly understood and it's long past time for our state and federal government to officially declare this an emergency so that air filters can be distributed to residents, more air monitoring stations can be set up so that the public can be warned when the air pollution from the river is unsafe to the public, and construction on upgraded sewage plants and infrastructure on both sides of the border can be completed as soon as possible.



<https://www.kpbs.org/news/health/2024/09/12/congress-members-make-bipartisan-request-for-cross-border-sewage-fix>



It's important to remember that issues like pollution impact our region, including National City, as so many of us have family and friends in these impacted areas and often have to travel through them. In addition, I serve as the representative for our region on the San Diego Air Pollution Control District board of directors and have spent the last few weeks working with Mayor Paloma Aguirre of Imperial Beach, County Supervisor Nora Vargas, and other public agencies and community members to address the crisis. This included a trip with firefighters to understand the air monitors where I personally saw the handheld alarms go off for the presence of hydrogen sulfide near the river – and a trip last week with Mayor Aguirre and our Mayor Ron Morrison to check the status. I want to give a special shout-out to Mayor Aguirre, who has been leading the charge to bring awareness to this public health crisis and who has personally suffered from health issues such as migraines and chest pains that have resulted in recent hospitalization. This unacceptable and our federal government needs to do more to protect our community health!

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity for our community." - Cesar Chavez



From Left to right: Dr. Gil Ungab, Vice Mayor Yamane, Mayor Ron Morrison, Councilmember Marcus Bush, Councilmember Jose Rodriguez, and City Manager Ben Martinez

The Port of San Diego has just broken ground on some tremendous improvements coming to Pepper Park! These new enhancements will create a vibrant space for the community to enjoy, including:

- A brand-new Flex Plaza perfect for events and gatherings
- A waterside promenade where you can stroll with stunning coastal views
- Upgraded playgrounds for kids of all ages
- A fun and refreshing splashpad
- More picnic spots, green areas, and an amazing hillside play zone for endless family fun!
- Enhanced aquatic center lawn and a kiosk plaza bring you closer to the bay!

Pepper Park Groundbreaking Creating a vibrant place for the community



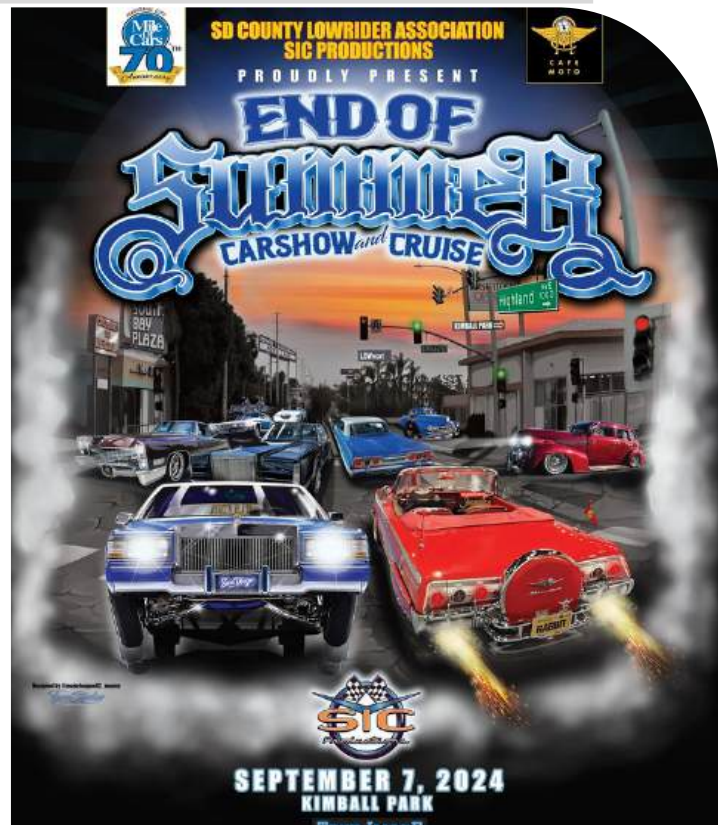
Fom Left to right: Councilmember Marcus Bush, former port commissioner Sandy Naranjo

Pepper Park is about to become one of the coolest waterfront spots in San Diego, connecting us all to nature and community activities. Stay tuned for updates as we bring this exciting project to life!



End of Summer Car show:

Ending summer on a high note with the hottest rides in town



The “End of Summer Car Show” in National City was a beautiful and successful community event hosted on Saturday September 7, by the SD County Lowrider Association and National City Mile of Cars! Despite the scorching heat of the day, car enthusiasts and local families flocked to the event to revel in the spectacular showcase of hundreds of lowriders.

From the gleaming, customized rides to the pulsating beats of the music, to great food, and merchandise from local artists, this event offered a complete package of entertainment and continues to be an event that showcases our city’s lowrider culture and identity.

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Standing with the Hilton Bayfront employees!

This past Labor Day over 700 hundred hotel workers at the Hilton Bayfront San Diego and members of UNITE HERE Local 30 went on strike to fight for higher wages and improved working conditions. With sharp increases in housing costs, food, and other living expenses, it's been more difficult for workers to survive and feed their families, which is why they are now demanding more than the company has offered them during negotiations.

Many of the Hilton Bayfront workers on strike are National City residents, and as a former **UNITE HERE** Local 30 union member myself, it's important to support all of our workers when they fight for the pay, benefits, and working conditions they deserve – especially at a time when companies are seeing record profits.

The Hilton Bayfront workers have been striking for nearly a month now, and myself along with Councilmember Jose Rodriguez and Councilmember Luz Molina have visited the workers and continue to support them.

You can help donate to support the workers and their families here:

https://givebutter.com/Local30strikefbclid=IwY2xjawFnLzRleHRuA2F1bQIXMAABHZ0N0u98cLiv_cBiRn8WKpmy3Ey4zgRxQia-ABlW_as_2YOTZ073K9DDyQ_aem_WevId2f6VlRny15p3Hr0Tw



From Left to right: Councilmember Bush, councilmember Molina



Councilmember Marcus Bush and Councilmember Molina standing in solidarity with the Bayfront employees

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Lowriders, History & Culture



In August, I was invited by Sweetwater Ethnic studies teacher Ms Kris Elam to speak to her classes of freshman, juniors and seniors to introduce myself, speak about my experience growing up in National City, and providing an overview of their local government. When I spoke to the class about my work with the lowrider community on repealing our City’s cruising ban, the students were fascinated and Ms. Elam asked if I could bring leaders in the lowrider community to speak to the class.

I reached out to our local nonprofit the United Lowrider Coalition (ULC) and four of their leaders came and brought their cars – including Jovita Juarez, Marisa Rosales, Deanna Garcia, and Marcos “Mr. Rabbit” Arrellano. Both students and teachers were excited to see the lowriders up close and get to talk one on one with each of the ULC leaders. But they also gave their full undivided attention to hear each of them tell their stories about their careers, growing up in National City, lowrider culture and the struggles with negative stereotypes about the culture, and even the science behind hydraulic systems that lift the vehicles.

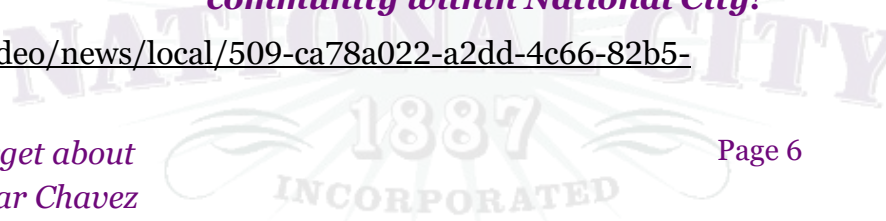
Next, the United Lowrider Coalition hopes to work with Sweetwater High School and the District on bringing their Leadership Youth Bike Club to the afterschool programs and begin a club for students. More on that as it develops and check out the news coverage of the event.

Link to CBS 8 news video: <https://www.cbs8.com/video/news/local/509-ca78a022-a2dd-4c66-82b5-e9daf1b70b81>



It's truly inspiring to see how traditions like lowriding continue to shape and unite today's youth, fostering a sense of pride and community within National City!

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104th Annual Sweetwater High School Homecoming Game



The 104th annual Sweetwater High School Homecoming game in National City was an incredible celebration of school spirit, athletic talent, and community pride. As a proud Red Devil (Class of 2006), I was excited to be back at Gail Devers Stadium with my family and even more excited to see the next generation of Red Devils in our family with my niece in her first year at SUHi and performing in the band. And next year my daughter will be a freshman.

The energy was electric; seeing alumni, youth, families and even former teachers all coming together brought so much joy. Congratulations to Homecoming King Francis Mangulabnan who was crowned in the daytime assembly and to Homecoming Queen Leilyn Goldberg who was crowned at the Halftime ceremony and firework show as tradition! And speaking of alumni, shout-out to Brandon Wright-Rowan who is not only an alumni (class of 2006), but also a City Employee and for years has had the honor serving as announcer on the games and events.



Homecoming King and Queen



Union Tower Groundbreaking

After years of planning and waiting, the first phase of brand new affordable apartments at the National City Park Apartments has started construction!

The San Diego County Building Trades Council has owned the 456-unit complex for over 50 years, and is well-known to National City locals as “The Blue Apartments” – for the many years it was all blue paint – and “the Sweetwater Dorms” – for the number of Sweetwater alumni and current students who live there. This is exciting to me personally as I used to live in the complex and much of my extended family still live there.

This new project has demolished 32 of the units and is replacing them with 94 new apartments. Construction is estimated to take two years and once complete there will be 24 three-bedroom apartments, two-bedroom apartments, 45 one-bedroom units, and 24 of those will be homes set aside for veterans currently experiencing homelessness.

The project was made possible through a collaboration between the County, National City, San Diego County’s Building Trades Unions, Wakeland Housing and Development and other public and private partners who provided the \$77 million in funding.

While more housing is needed to address our housing and homelessness crisis, this new development is a huge step forward!



Artist Rendering



From left to right: Councilmember Marcus Bush, Councilmember Matthew Gonzalez



Tune in to my podcast!

The Local Voice: Policy and Progress with Marcus Bush



Available on Spotify, Apple Podcast, and Youtube



CALIFORNIA
NATIONAL CITY
1887
INCORPORATED

VENDORS WANTED

Application Deadline: October 25, 2024
A Kimball Holiday
Saturday, December 14th from 2pm - 8pm



We are looking for:



Vendors



Food & Non-Food



Food Trucks



Requirements:



Vendor Application



NC Business License



Health Permit (Food)

Vendor Court
Sponsored by:



communityservices@nationalcityca.gov

Apply TODAY!

www.nationalcityca.gov/vendors