

"It is with great honor that I serve Council District 3 and the city of Phoenix. My intention is to ensure that the residents and businesses within the district receive the best from the city of Phoenix.

I have often referred to the district as the middle-aged part of the city. We are feeling the effects of an aging infrastructure: our roads are in need of repair, our drainage issues need some attention, and water leaks are occurring more often. I want to focus on our infrastructure needs. Without infrastructure, our quality of life is diluted and our economy cannot thrive.

Speaking of roads -- one of the main issues that residents contact me about is speeding. Although this might sound trivial - it is a big concern of so many of my constituents. Since my appointment, I have worked on several speed mitigation projects including: a study of traffic and speeding near Central Avenue and Dunlap Avenue that lead to lowering the speed limit on a portion of Central Avenue -- and proposed speed humps along Orchid Lane. This concern with speeding resonates throughout District 3, and I will work with the neighborhoods to ensure that all of their traffic safety concerns are heard.

Economic development is also vital to District 3. Any and all vacant properties and vacant retail spaces concern me:

- I will work closely with the developers of the Paradise Valley Mall to ensure its vitality. The mall is an important source of sales tax and is within the core of the Paradise Valley Planning Village.
- Along with this center, I also want to encourage more adaptive reuse of our underutilized shopping centers in the district. For example, the Fry's at 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Bell Road moved to a bigger location at 14<sup>th</sup> Street and Bell Road. While I am happy to see the new store, we must not forget the vacant one at 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Bell Road. I plan to work closely with our Community & Economic Development and Planning & Development Departments to ensure that we do it right.
- Another component to economic development is a focus on revitalization along key street corridors in District 3. I plan to continue the great work of former District 3 Councilman Gates along 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, and I hope to use a model like this along corridors like 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and Cave Creek Rd.

Some of the best parks and preserves are in District 3 - like Roadrunner Park and North Mountain. Our parks and preserves are such an important component to the quality of life that we enjoy. I am excited to see that the City Manager's Trial Budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 includes funding for additional park rangers who would help ensure residents clean and safe recreational spaces. I support this proposal and will work to ensure that it becomes a reality.

Public safety for all of our residents and business owners is one of the core responsibilities of the city of Phoenix.

- We are so lucky to have the most professional Police Department in the country.
- We must continue to hire more police officers and I will support a strong marketing campaign to ensure that we do so.
- My office encourages residents to contact the Police Department about any crime or suspicious activity that they witness.
- One of the best tools that a neighborhood can have to assist our Police Department

is an active, registered Block Watch. Unfortunately, our Police cannot be everywhere at all times - so residents and business owners can serve as extra eyes and ears in their immediate community. I will continue to encourage neighborhoods to start block watches to provide that extra connection to our Police Department and to their own neighbors.

- In addition to that I will continue to encourage all residents and business owners to take advantage of the Phoenix Police Department's great trainings and events like the Phoenix Neighborhood Patrol Program classes, and the monthly Precinct Coffee Chats.
- Homelessness has increased citywide within the past few years. I will continue to work with city staff on efforts to address this increase - and will support better partnerships within city departments, between the city and other local government entities, and between the city and local service organizations in this field.
- Our Fire Department is also exceptional. I am here to support this department as they carry out their mission. Since being appointed to the Council I have encouraged the city to purchase additional property at the northwest corner of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Glendale Avenue to modernize Fire Station #20. While we are still negotiating, I believe that we will be able to move forward on this critical issue. We need to continue to ensure that we have the excellent response time that we receive from our firefighters.

I want to continue to grow and expand the "Build our Future" program at the College Depot at the Burton Barr Central Library -- and hopefully open similar programs at libraries in District 3. We need to provide information and resources to students that show that there are other choices besides going to college. For example you can find a good career in many trades like the construction industry. All the trades are so important to the economic well-being of our city. As we redevelop and strengthen our infrastructure we need a strong local trades industry.

Most importantly, I want to be a City Council member that is approachable and responsive to all of our District 3 residents and business owners. I want everyone to feel that I am always accessible - and willing and eager to find solutions to help them. I know that I will not always be able to give them the answer that they want, but I always want them to know that I am available to them - and will get back to them. Local government affects the "everyday" and I want everyone to be able to say that they can call, email, tweet...however they would prefer to contact us, and that District 3, and the city of Phoenix is there to serve them.

Thank you all again for being here and I cannot wait to move forward to help our great District 3 residents and businesses."

--Councilwoman Debra Stark\*

\*Remarks made during her City of Phoenix Council District 3 swearing in ceremony on March 23, 2017