



CITY OF TUCSON

STEVE LEAL
Council Member, Ward V

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January 5, 2006

Linda Kaye Howell
President
Dietz
7340 E. 34th St.
Tucson AZ 85710

Dear Neighborhood Association Officer:

For the last 5 years, the City has censored neighborhood newsletters. I had protested this action and attempted to place it on the Mayor and Council Agenda to resolve it. I was prevented in doing so by the past majority of the mayor and councilmembers.

For instance, when the City wanted to promote and educate the community on the ½ cent sales tax, the city spent \$1.6 million doing so. However, when a neighborhood association wanted to have a forum with a pro- and con- discussion about the tax, the City said that political activity was prohibited. The neighborhood was not going to take a position; it just wanted an education forum! So the City felt that it was okay for it to do things it forbade its citizens from doing. I felt this was hypocritical.

On December 13, 2005 I was able to place it on the Mayor and Council Agenda and change the policy that was being used to control neighborhood communications. Now neighborhood associations can have forums on propositions, or candidate forums to educate the community.

I wanted all of you to know that this change has occurred. If you have space, please place this information in your newsletter.

Feel free to call my office if you have questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Steve Leal".

Steve Leal
Vice Mayor