

# District 1 Year in Review



## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

One year ago, I was given the honor to be officially sworn in to serve as District 1's Councilmember. I want to thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve our community. I appreciate the trust that voters place in me and support from numerous community stakeholders, including the business community.

2015 was a busy year and I would like to provide a recap and highlight a number of our accomplishments.

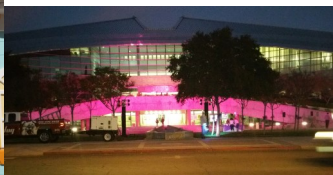
In addition to my regular council duties, I serve as the Chair of the Enterprise Capital Projects Oversight Board and member of the School Liaison Committee, Kings Basin Water Authority, and alternate to the Upper Kings Basin Integrated Regional Water Management JPA. I also serve on the Sub-Committee on Transportation and an Executive Board member of Fresno Community Development Financial Institution.

Over the last year, I have been actively involved with the League of California Cities' South San Joaquin Valley Division and Latino Caucus Executive Boards. Last month, I was appointed to serve on the Public Safety and Transportation, Communication & Public Works policy committees. The goal is to make sure the needs and perspective of the City of Fresno are represented in the state policy making process.

It has been a phenomenal year, but there is a lot of work to do. We must continue to build healthier and safer neighborhoods with additional green space and recreational activities and provide diverse transportation options. I also hope to help the City of Fresno become a leader in local clean energy policies.

Thank you for entrusting me with the role of representing you. I will continue to work hard on behalf of District 1 and the City of Fresno to make sure 2016 is even a better year.

**P.S.** Stay up to date by visiting our [District One Website](#). Please email us at [District1@fresno.gov](mailto:District1@fresno.gov) or call us at [559-621-7816](tel:559-621-7816) to be added to our mailing list.



# District 1's 2015 Highlights

## FY 2015-2016 Budget

During the budget hearing process, City Council was able to deliberate on where funds should be allocated in the 2015-2016 Budget Year. I was proud to bring forward for consideration or support the following critical financial commitments to our community.



**Fire Staffing Increase** - A Fire Company was added to Station 9 (Clinton and Vagedes), serving much of the Central Fresno Area. This provided an increase to our minimum daily firefighter staffing from 70 to 73.

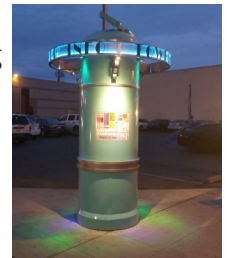
**Policing** - To continue restoring the police force to previous levels of staffing. The budget allocated funds to increase the number of officers from 717 to 760.

**Parks** - We approved a budget of \$450,000 for an update of our Parks Master Plan; this plan will ensure we are adequately planning for new parks, are competitive for state and federal grants and have the dollars necessary to operate and maintain new and existing parks.

\$15,000 was allocated to Quigley Park, providing much needed new fencing and backstops. \$100,000 was identified to cover maintenance and operation of the newly opened Inspirational Park in District 1 west of Freeway 99. Lions Park parking lot received needed repaving.

**Code Enforcement** - To combat blight and enforce the City Code, \$500,000 provided additional staffing. Code Enforcement actions will assist in stabilizing neighborhoods and property values.

**\$50,000 Investment to Tower District** - The Fresno Tower District is rich with Fresno History, Arts and Culture. The City of Fresno has been committed to supporting this aging historical area of the City. Funding has been provided for services to allow business owners the ability to explore the creation of a local Property Based Improvement District (PBID). PBID's are focused on bringing property owners together to implement a self-funded source of revenue to increase business activity in the district, improve the physical environment, provide safety services and recruit new business.



## Building Safer & Healthier Communities

**Grand Opening of Inspiration Park** – On November 14<sup>th</sup>, the first universally accessible park in the Central California region opened its doors to the public. The 8-acre state of the art facility provides much needed green space for residents west of Highway 99. This resource represents an opportunity for improved health, education and sports programming, and renewed vitality to an area of Fresno with very little green space. Resources for Independence Central Valley and the Boys and Girls Club will help manage the park and Donovan Maldonado Community Center.

**Community & Home Gardens** – In August, I introduced a city water conservation amendment to exempt from watering restrictions community and home gardens that grow fruits and vegetables on drip irrigation. By allowing residents to responsibly and efficiently grow food in their backyard we help to combat food insecurity and food deserts in our city.

**Code Enforcement Taskforce** – Supported the creation of a special taskforce that would focus on health and safety issues related to habitability. This will ensure that residents in our community are provided a healthy and safe living space.



**Crime Stoppers Reward Fun** – Helped raise over \$25,000 to increase rewards to solve three crimes.

**Street Light Repair** - The City of Fresno has a backlog of streetlight repairs throughout our neighborhoods. District 1 team personally went out with the help of Councilman Paul Caprioglio to fix several dozen street lights throughout District One.

## Infrastructure Improvements

**Street Paving**— 6.5 miles of streets in the District were repaved, an investment of \$610,000.

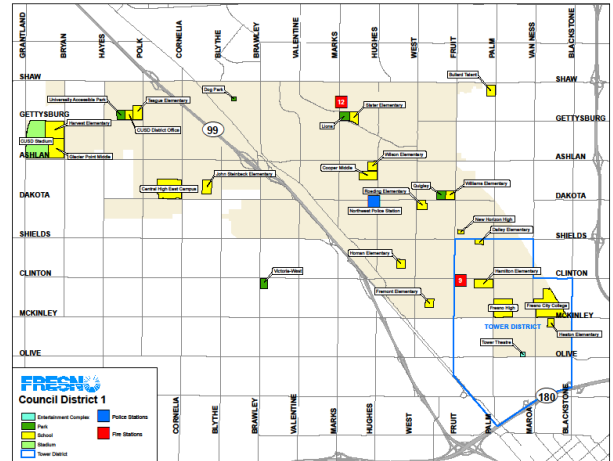
### Neighborhoods paved:

- Ashlan & West Neighborhood
- Ashlan & Woodson Neighborhood
- Van Ness Blvd – Weldon to Clinton
- Weldon – Van Ness to Palm

**Sidewalk & Gutter Projects** – Six neighborhoods in District 1 had sidewalks, ramps, curbs and gutters repaired, an investment of \$280,000.

### Projects:

- Marty south of Shaw
- 2105 N. Fergar & Yale/Weldon/Palm/Van Ness
- Dakota & Crystal
- Ashlan/Woodson/Pleasant Neighborhood
- 4297 W. Brown Neighborhood
- Fresno High Neighborhood



## Youth Engagement



**Fresno Youth Commission** — One June 5th, the City Council established and committed to two years of funding of the Fresno Youth Commission. The Commission will give a voice to young people throughout our city and involve them in local policymaking. They will have direct input on important issues, including: crime prevention, jobs for youth, health and wellness, accessible public transportation, recreational facilities and open space. **The City expects to launch the Youth Commission in Spring 2016, when each City Councilmember and the Mayor will appoint a commissioner from their community.**

**District 1 Internships** – Over the last year we have given college students the opportunity to learn about how local government works. Our interns came through the Fresno State Maddy Institute, PG&E’s sponsored Boys & Girls Club Summer Employment Program and on a volunteer basis. Thank you to all our interns for their invaluable help!

Claudia Salinas – Fresno State  
 Cynthia Escoto – Fresno State  
 Leslie Hille – Fresno State

Tyler Munoz—Fresno State  
 Ariel Preciado—UC Santa Cruz

## Economic Development

**Impact Fee Incentive Policies** – Introduced two ordinances that will encourage development of new business, services, and housing in economically disadvantaged areas of Fresno and encourage replacement of blighted and underutilized structures through impact fee incentives.

**Ground Breaking of Vallarta Supermarket** – District 1 broke ground to what will be a much needed grocery store on Clinton and Weber Ave. Store to open in Summer/Fall 2016.



**New Businesses in District 1** – There has been significant energy within our business community and want to highlight some of the new businesses that opened up in District 1:

Ampersand Ice Cream  
 Buffalo Wild Wings  
 Casa de Tamales  
 Dollar Tree

Expo Party Rentals  
 Goldstein’s  
 Paintbrush Assisted Living

## Constituent Services & Community Engagement

**Graffiti, Potholes, Illegal Dumping & Tree Trimming** – District 1 and City staff has responded and completed over **3,100** service requests in 2015.

**Community Meetings** – Over the last twelve months I hosted five community meetings and five morning coffee meetings throughout the district. Our commitment is to be accessible to District 1 constituents to better serve their needs. Our motto is, “If you can’t , come to City Hall, Councilmember Soria will make sure City Hall goes to District 1.”

**3rd Annual Holiday Toy Drive** – In partnership with Tower District businesses and other community partners, District 1 collected and delivered 740 toys to benefit all students at Heaton Elementary School.

**First 5 Breastfeeding Family Friendly Room at City Hall** – Secured \$12,000 grant from First 5 Fresno County to provide a breastfeeding family friendly space and install baby changing table to all our public restrooms. The goal is to make City Hall more family friendly and encourage the public and employees that are mothers to breastfeed their babies.



## Get Involved



There are several committees available to serve on which benefit District 1. The District 1 Implementation and Tower District Design Review Committees are advisory to the Planning Commission and City Council. The Youth Commission is a forum for our Youth to communicate and share their point of view regarding living in Fresno.

District 1 Implementation Committee  
Tower District Design Review Committee  
Youth Commission

Apply at: <http://www.fresno.gov/Government/CityClerk/BoardCommissionApp.htm>

District 1 Internships are opportunities to learn operation of a local legislative office and gain valuable professional skills.

District 1 Internships

Apply at: <http://www.fresno.gov/Government/CityCouncil/District1/interns.htm>

## 2016 Projects to Look For

Repaving of Van Ness (between Clinton and Shields Avenue)  
Painting of Light Posts in Tower District (north of Olive)  
Van Ness Blvd Median Drip Irrigation Upgrades  
Fresno High Trash Cans & Bike Racks  
Launch of the Fresno City Youth Commission  
New policies related to energy, small business, transportation options (including bike lanes) and parks  
CDBG funding to be distributed to local non-profits through competitive process

## The District 1 Team:

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