



LOCAL POSITION STATEMENTS

2009

Our mission is to build environment that enhances the economic vitality of our membership.

Every year the Tempe Chamber of Commerce looks back at what was accomplished and forward to what yet must be done for the good of its business community and its citizens.

While the coming year has many challenges facing Tempe and the region, there is much to be proud of:

- The Light Rail began operation in December, 2008, and has exceeded ridership.
- In addition to the Mill Avenue District for entertainment, dining and shopping, Tempe Marketplace offers additional opportunities to attract citizens and resident to shop in Tempe.
- Five Orbit neighborhood circulator routes are in operation, providing effective, enhanced transportation. The City's transportation department is conducting an ongoing review of its circulator routs, and modifying them, as necessary, to meet changing ridership demands.

Tempe is the ideal combination of a more developing urban environment and established suburban neighborhoods. Despite our challenges, Tempe remains the smart place to be! This document addresses issues that will help maintain the mark of excellence bestowed upon our great city.

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BUSINESS RELATIONS

City Government has a powerful impact on the businesses it regulates. Local government should be both effective and responsive, since it is closest to the governed. Through quality-of-life issues, it builds the community which both residents and business enjoy. Its policies and actions provide the basis for many business management decisions. The Tempe Chamber of Commerce urges local government to strive to streamline processes, implement policies that allow business to flourish and provide maximum service with minimal costs to the taxpayer.

Construction Mitigation

Construction projects have a significant impact on employee and patron access into and out of Tempe businesses. The Tempe Chamber of Commerce encourages the City of Tempe to continue its public outreach efforts cooperating with the state and regional entities, to ensure Tempe is uniquely positioned for alternative opportunities, while minimizing the most disruptive projects on businesses and their customers.

Sign Ordinance

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce applauds the Tempe City Council for its adoption of the Chamber's suggested sign ordinance reforms. As the reforms are implemented by City staff, the Tempe Chamber will continue to educate the business community as to what are acceptable and unacceptable signage practices. The Chamber will also continue to work with City staff to ensure that subjectivity is not injected into the sign package approval process as defined in the zoning and development code. The Chamber continues to support a sensible sign code for pedestrian-oriented districts.

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce joins the City council in its recent efforts to help keep Tempe businesses prosperous in an uncertain economy. A temporary relaxation in the City's sign code will provide businesses relief by allowing them to market themselves longer, more often, for less, making this a sound decision with significant

potential benefits. The Chamber believes that taking these steps will allow businesses an extra chance to increase sales and grow their profits. The Chamber is concerned with the welfare of its businesses' membership and recognizes with the City the challenges that businesses face.

Privatization of Services

The Chamber continues to support contracting appropriate public services to private industry in an effort to reduce expenditures and avoid unfair competition with the private sector.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The long-term viability of Tempe is dependent upon the success of new and existing business and industry.

The most beneficial and sustainable economic development results from a competitive business climate. Local government should do all it can to foster a climate of growth, development, and high wages.

The Private Property Rights Protection

The enactment of the Private Property Rights Protection Act has a chilling effect on the potential for growth, historic preservation and anything that involves zoning changes and its impact on the Tempe General Plan 2020. The Chamber believes that the tenets of this act are constitutionally challengeable. Therefore the Chamber recommends the city defend its ability to successfully maintain its policy of effective growth, land use and preservation.

Growth & Density

The Chamber supports a policy that promotes a dense urban core while maintaining the suburban and rural qualities elsewhere in the community. The Chamber believes the City's planning policies must be clearly and effectively communicated in a manner that encourages as much community input as possible, and continues to connect north and south Tempe.

Illegal Immigration

While illegal immigration certainly affects Tempe and business directly, the Chamber believes that the problem should be resolved at the federal level. The Chamber advocates a policy that protects the businesses that operate in an open, above-board manner. A federal resolution is still being sought for immigration challenges. The Chamber advocates that City resources not be expended to enforce what should be a federal matter.

Sky Harbor Airport

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce believes the 4-DME procedure, to which the City of Phoenix and the City of Tempe have agreed, should remain the standard for aircraft flight patterns to reduce aircraft noise. Phoenix and Tempe must continue open and honest dialogue on airport issues as both communities and the region benefit from Sky Harbor's location.

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce opposes legislation which would create additional state oversight of Sky Harbor International Airport. However, the Chamber supports continued development of commercial aviation regionally throughout the metro area to help meet our long-term aviation needs.

The Chamber believes that building heights should continue to be administratively reviewed by staff and addressed by the Tempe City council based on mapped-out height restrictions that could negatively impact Sky Harbor Airport and surrounding valley neighborhoods.

Tempe understands and respects FAA regulations. The Chamber understands that safety is important, and believes Tempe and Phoenix should work together to ensure airport safety.

Incentives

The Chamber believes incentives are fundamentally a local issue. Arizona must continue to compete nationwide for new and expanding businesses. The Chamber believes incentives, financial and otherwise, play a role in business retention, expansion and attraction. While Tempe has been judicious in its use of incentives, other cities have long overreached in their zeal to attract business and sales tax dollars to their communities. It is incumbent upon each community to use incentives in a judicious and responsible manner. The Chamber believes that in this period of Tempe's evolution the need for incentives has diminished, but believes targeted incentives can be useful and necessary tools for economic development. Tempe must compete with communities in the East Valley.

Business Retention

Tempe businesses have chosen to locate in our community for a variety of reasons. These businesses cover a broad range of the economic spectrum and have diverse needs. The Tempe Chamber of Commerce believes the City must continue to improve its provision of services so as to both remove impediments and retain valuable existing Tempe businesses, with a strong emphasis on those businesses impacted by municipal projects. This can be accomplished by the City of Tempe facilitating existing business needs within the various City departments while focusing on the goal of helping businesses become successful. Additionally, the City should continue to work, where appropriate, to retain businesses planning to close or move, especially during the current economic downturn.

Rehabilitation Code

The Chamber supports efforts by the City to continue enhancement of the rehabilitation code in order to preserve aging areas of the city.

Historic Preservation

Tempe has few historic resources remaining from its nearly 140 year history. A program that recognizes that historic places have an economic value beyond being a site for citizens to remember the past and that also makes a concerted effort to save, protect and adaptively reuse these valuable, unique community assets should be supported. As the leader in the Tempe business community, the Tempe Chamber of Commerce realizes and supports the substantial economic benefits of a strong municipal historic preservation policy. The Chamber urges the City to maintain its program to protect its precious historical resources and continue creating Historic Districts. Additionally the Chamber supports a grant program similar to Phoenix and other cities that encourage property owners to maintain, improve, rehabilitate and restore their historic assets.

Downtown Improvements

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce encourages the City to work on attracting a varied mix of businesses to downtown and increase retention efforts for existing businesses.

Tempe Conference Center

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce strongly supports the pursuit of the minimum of a mid-sized - 35,000 to 60,000 square feet on one level - conference/convention facility in Tempe. The Chamber believes that this is critical to the economic growth of the city and believes that the market will respond well to such a facility. The Chamber encourages the City to work with the private sector to identify partners and an appropriate location for such a facility.

Education

Although the Chamber recognizes that establishment of education policy is not the role of the City, the Tempe Chamber of Commerce believes strongly in the value of a quality education program that will generate an educated workforce trained for 21st century employment. The Chamber understands that the foundation of education begins in a child's earliest stages of development and continues through advanced degrees.

The Tempe Chamber supports ASU, Maricopa Community College District, and various public/private and charter schools, as well as the business community as critical partners in workforce development.

The Tempe Chamber has collaborated with the three district-Tempe Elementary School District, Kyrene School District, and Tempe Union High School District in the City to form the superintendents-business roundtable, in order to garner support and resources for Tempe schools.

The Chamber suggests that streamlined articulation is necessary from Pre-K through higher education.

The Chamber strongly supports ASU and encourages the Arizona Board of Regents and the Arizona legislature to carefully consider their decisions so as not to negatively impact ASU's Tempe Campus.

Transportation

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce has long been a leading regional advocate for multi-modal transportation. Efficient movement of goods and people is critical to growing our local economy. A modern transit system will enable Tempe businesses to effectively compete in a market with increasing demands for on-time delivery of goods and services. A balanced transportation system reduces pollution, relieves traffic congestion and increases the quality of life, availability and efficiency of the area workforce.

Mass Transit

The Tempe Chamber of Commerce has long been a supporter of a comprehensive multi-modal transportation system in Tempe and throughout the Valley. The Chamber encourages the extension of light rail along those lines already designated which will contribute significantly to the effectiveness of a balanced transportation system for Tempe and the region. The Chamber asks the City to monitor the impact of increased transit fees to determine if this increase has had a negative impact on ridership and revenue.

The Chamber also lauds the city for its Orbit transportation system throughout most neighborhoods. When fully completed, it will be a vital and integral part of the City's comprehensive transportation plan. The Tempe Chamber supports further routes being added to cover the presently unserved area of south Tempe. The Chamber encourages the City to consider bus rapid transit and the modern street car as an additional option for providing mass transit from north to south Tempe.

Transit-Tax

The Tempe Chamber continues to oppose the use of the transit sales tax revenues for non-transit related items.

Ongoing Freeway Construction

The Chamber will work with the Arizona Department of Transportation to ensure the continued construction of freeways 10 and 60 will not impede the flow of traffic internally in Tempe.

Tempe City Council

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P.O. Box 5002

Tempe, AZ 85280

Phone: (480) 350-8110 (All-Council Voice-Message Line)

Special Note: All e-mail communications with the Mayor and City Council have been requested by the media and are subject to disclosure.

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Chairs City Committee:

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY

QUALITY OF LIFE

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Local Government Contacts

Business Related City Departments

Tempe City Offices

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Phone: (480) 350-8001 (City Switchboard)

Web Address: www.tempe.gov

City Attorney – Andrew Ching

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City Clerk – Jan Hort

(480) 350-8007

City Manager - Charlie Meyer

(480) 350-8884

Community Development – Chris

Salomone

(480) 350-8812

Community Relations – Shelley Hearn

(480) 350-8906

Development Services – Chris Anaradian

(480) 858-2204

Financial Services – Jerry Hart

(480) 350-8505

Fire Department – Cliff Jones

(480) 858-7201

Police Department – Tom Ryff

(480) 350-8306

Public Works – Glenn Kephart

(480) 350-8205

Tax and License – Cecilia Robles

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Water Utilities – Don Hawkes

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Tempe Chamber Government Relations & Transportation Committee

Presented by the Tempe Chamber of Commerce
Government Relations & Transportation Committee

Monte Borgeson (Chairman) State Farm Insurance
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Steve Bauer Development Strategies, Inc.
Don Cassano, Cassano & Associates
Dawn Coomer, City of Tempe
Angela Creedon APS
Carlos DeLeon, City of Tempe
Eric Emmert Dorn Policy Group
Harvey Gibson Tempe Schools Credit Union
Darryl Jacobson-Barnes Association Advisory Group, LLC
Marilyn Joyce Met Life Home Loans
Vic Linoff Those Were The Days!
Kevin Olson, Steptoe & Johnson LLP
Deborah Ostreicher, City of Phoenix Aviation Department
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Jim Scussel, Four Peaks Brewing Co.
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Chamber Board of Directors

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