



Community spotlight

Nonprofit pushes for economic vitality in south Phoenix community Federal investment will help create jobs, revenue

A commercial center expected to bring economic activity and vitality to the south Phoenix community broke ground in February in Congressman Pastor's district with the help of federal funding.

The Buckeye Commerce Plaza, which is being developed by the non-profit Chicanos Por La Causa, Inc., (CPLC) will house a 40,000 square foot complex at the corner of East Buckeye Road and 10th Street in Phoenix. It will house businesses, therefore bringing jobs and revenue to the community, said Rep. Ed Pastor, who

helped secure federal funding for the project.

Pastor lauded CPLC for its plans to invest in the community during difficult economic times. CPLC is a statewide community development corporation committed to building stronger, healthier communities as a lead advocate, coalition builder and direct service provider. It promotes positive change and self-sufficiency to enhance the quality of life for the benefit of those the organization serves.

The project also has a unique historical component, as one of the oldest known documented houses in the city stands on the property where the center will be built.

CPLC plans to preserve the historic Wilson Walker and Alcaria Jones House, which was listed in the City of Phoenix Historic Property Register in 1994. This farm-style adobe house was built in 1913 in the then-rural area.

In addition to federal funding, CPLC received a State Farm community development loan and financing from the Raza Development Fund and Wells Fargo to develop the property.

**Congressman
Pastor's
District
Director
Elisa de la Vara
helped mark
the ground-
breaking of the
Buckeye Com-
merce Plaza
with Chicanos
Por La Causa's
outgoing Presi-
dent/CEO Pete
Garcia and
Phoenix
Councilman
Michael John-
son.**





Rep. Ed Pastor recently met with high school students in the leadership development program at Neighborhood Ministries Inc., a nonprofit organization in Phoenix. Pastor talked about his role in Congress and the power young people have to advocate on important issues and influence legislation.



District marks Black History Month

Congressman Pastor's office recently marked Black History Month with constituents at the South Mountain Community Center. In the photo above, Staff Assistant Jose Rivas presents a book about Black Americans in Congress to Wanda Woods, center, who is joined by her daughter Dee Dee Woods.

How to contact Congressman Ed Pastor

Congressman Ed Pastor's office is in your city to serve your needs. Please keep this information handy to contact his offices for assistance.

<http://www.pastor.house.gov>

Washington Office

2465 Rayburn House Office Building
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 Phone: (202) 225-4065

Phoenix District Office

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Please send postal delivery mail to Phoenix District Office only.
 Due to the threat of anthrax-contaminated mail delivered to the Capitol complex, all incoming letters to my Washington Office must be irradiated before delivery, resulting in a delay of at least three weeks. Feel free to send mail instead to my Phoenix District Office. Thanks.

✂ *Clip and save* ✂

Ed Pastor
 Congressman

WASHINGTON REPORT
 American Recovery
 June 2009

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CONGRESSMAN

Ed Pastor

WASHINGTON REPORT

American recovery

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Fourth Congressional District - Arizona

June 2009

Rebuilding our economy

Dear Fellow Arizonans,

As a country, we have begun to navigate the path to economic recovery. With passage of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, almost \$1 billion a day is being pumped into jump starting our economy and to create or save 3.5 million jobs.

However, I know many families and individuals continue facing much economic distress, and we have yet to see the end of the economic downturn. But even though we continue to face a daunting challenge, I believe we are on the road to recovery. I have made it a priority in Congress to help strengthen the foundation for long-term economic growth and stability, create jobs, improve education, make health care more affordable and help our country transition to a clean energy economy.

HELPING FAMILIES, NEIGHBORHOODS

The Recovery Act also aims to stabilize communities and families that have suffered the brunt of the economic crisis. Resources will be used to stabilize and

revive local neighborhoods and housing markets with heavy concentrations of foreclosed properties.

In addition, funds will be used for homelessness prevention.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

As we all know, the economy of Arizona is becoming more dependent on our immigration population. With President Obama's commitment to make it a priority, my colleagues and I are hopeful that we will pass immigration reform that keeps our country secure, helps stabilize our economy and keeps families together. Such legislation is long overdue and I believe this is the year we can see real change.

Once again, I hope you will take time to read the updates inside this newsletter and feel free to contact my offices with your questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Ed Pastor
Member of Congress



U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor, third from the right, and members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus met with President Obama in March to discuss federal immigration reform.

Immigration reform debated

Rep. Pastor cosponsors DREAM Act

One of the most divisive issues Congress has faced during this past decade may come before the House again this year, and Rep. Ed Pastor said he is hopeful that Americans will finally see progress on immigration reform.

With President Obama's leadership, Pastor said he and many of his colleagues are returning to the issue to craft a bill that would address the country's security concerns, help stabilize the economy and keep families together. Pastor also said he expects the reintroduced American DREAM Act, which he cosponsored, to be incorporated into the final immigration reform bill. DREAM Act provisions would give undocumented students the opportunity to attend college at lower in-state tuition rates, and would help put those students seeking higher education on a path to legalization.



Immigration debate

In March, members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), including Pastor, met with President Obama to discuss immigration reform. The President reassured CHC members that he understands the consequences of a broken immigration system and the difficulty immigrants face living in the shadows. The CHC was heartened to hear the President say he is committed to working with the Caucus to shape an agenda that will get through Congress, Pastor said.

To help bring different sides together, President Obama said he will convene working groups that include elected officials from



Congressman Pastor recently met with religious leaders in Phoenix who signed a letter to President Obama supporting federal immigration reform legislation.



The Rev. Eve Nuñez, Rep. Ed Pastor and Bishop Henry Barnwell recently met in Phoenix to discuss federal immigration reform.

“America is proud of being the land of opportunity and I firmly believe immigrants who are drawn here solely desire opportunities for themselves and their families.”

- U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor

both parties and various immigration groups.

Pastor and members of the CHC have also taken the debate off the Hill into their districts with a series of public meetings led by religious leaders who are urging humane immigration reform that keeps families together. A Phoenix meeting was held March 8.

“America is proud of being the land of opportunity and I firmly believe immigrants who are drawn here solely desire opportunities for themselves and their families,” Pastor said. “I hope we can have a rational, productive debate that moves beyond any divisiveness and leads to sensible immigration reform.”

Pastor also said he is hopeful the DREAM (Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors) Act provisions will be in the immigration reform legislation. This would allow undocumented students to pay in-state tuition as they pursue their higher education. It would also allow students brought to the United States as children a chance to earn conditional permanent residency. They must have a clean record and have been in the United States for at least five years.

“Hundreds of students in my district are anxiously awaiting passage of the DREAM Act, and I hope Congress will deliver this year,” Pastor said.

Rep. Pastor addresses the housing crisis, navigating your way towards solutions

Tough economic times coupled with a distressed housing market have translated into a lot of questions and casework at Congressman Pastor's Phoenix District Office. Since last year, the number of inquiries in this area have grown dramatically, primarily from constituents seeking relief from foreclosure or from individuals who know foreclosure is imminent if the terms and conditions of their loan cannot be renegotiated.

There are many reasons for mortgage delinquency. Loss of one's job, a reduction in work hours and major medical expenses are some examples of situations which may cause default on a mortgage loan. Regardless of the situation, as a mortgage holder, constituents need to be proactive on their accounts, Pastor said. They should advise their loan servicers and/or lenders immediately upon learning information or facing a situation that may affect their ability to pay the mortgage on time.

HELP FROM LOAN COUNSELORS

Real estate and loan terminology may sometimes be difficult to comprehend. If you need help understanding the loan terminology or getting through to your lender, contact one of the many Housing and Urban Development (HUD) certified agencies, Pastor suggested. Loan counselors from these agencies are trained professionals who will help individuals sort through and understand the particulars of their loans. Moreover, these professionals will discuss the options available and help guide individuals through the process of loss mitigation - whether through a loan modification, refinancing, forbearance or short sale of the house.

BEWARE OF SCAMS

Beware of scams. Regrettably, in difficult times such as these, scam artists come out of the woodwork to prey upon innocent and trusting victims. Rep. Pastor's office staff has heard many heartbreaking stories about solicitations and offers that ended up being scams. If you are solicited with offers that promise, "for a fee," that your credit will be fixed, your mortgage will be adjusted, or some other dream-come-true scenario, think twice before acting. Find out about the company

providing the service and DO NOT PAY FIRST to find out later that you will not see any action, remedy or reimbursement for the fees you have paid. Again, you may seek help from state regulatory agencies that govern lending and real estate transactions. Congressman Pastor's staff or a HUD-certified counseling agency may be able to refer you to the appropriate resource.

CONTACT REP. PASTOR'S OFFICE FOR LIST OF RESOURCES

Resolving a mortgage foreclosure situation can be complicated and unfortunately, there isn't a one-size-fits-all approach. While Rep. Pastor's Office wants to help resolve your mortgage dilemma, staff members are not trained mortgage and finance experts. However, Rep. Pastor's office can provide current and accurate information about resources available in the district. The Phoenix District Office also maintains a comprehensive

list of agencies that provide a variety of services related to housing. Feel free to contact Rep. Pastor's Office at 602-256-0551 for a list of these resources.

It's difficult to speak up about one's personal finances and to talk about the possibility of losing one's home and the ability to provide shelter for loved ones. When it comes to foreclosures, however, it's important to speak out early and sometimes speak out often. Lenders are continuously redefining and revamping loss mitigation programs. If you were not able to secure relief previously, things may have changed. Remain pro-

active in your case and know that you are not alone. Many agencies and individuals are ready to help you navigate through this process.

"If you were not able to secure relief previously, things may have changed. Remain proactive in your case and know that you are not alone."

- U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor



Apollo High School student wins Rep. Pastor's Art Contest for second time



Senior Justin Ayala, a student at Apollo High School and Glendale resident, won the Fourth Congressional District's Art Competition held annually by Congressman Ed Pastor. Justin, who also took first place in 2007, will be recognized at an event on Capitol Hill this summer. His winning piece will hang in a corridor leading to the U.S. Capitol for a year.

"Justin is a talented young artist and I'm glad his work will be showcased in the Capitol and will serve as an example of the talent exhibited by our youth in Arizona," Pastor said.

Rep. Ed Pastor, center, recognizes art winner Justin Ayala, third from left, along with local business, community and art school representatives and judges from the art contest. Ayala also placed first in the competition in 2007 and placed second last year.

First Place

"Nikki"

in charcoal by

Justin Ayala

Apollo High School

Teacher: Barbara

Dahlstedt



Second Place

"Belleza Natural"

in graphite by

Juan Fernando Mar-

zeleno

Trevor Browne High

School

Teacher: E. McBride



Third Place

"Angie"

in ink pen by

Michael Ward

Metro Tech High School

Teacher: Jennifer Bong

