From the City Manager's Desk

April 9, 2018

Resolution to Combat
Human Trafficking

The City of Topeka is partnering with Shawnee County, The District Attorney’s office, local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, state officials and Freedom Now USA to combat human trafficking in Topeka/Shawnee County. A joint press conference held on April 5th, announced the partnership of these agencies in the fight against human trafficking.

These agencies are partnering to eliminate human trafficking in Topeka and Shawnee County by identifying, addressing and eliminating situations that lead to or allow human trafficking to occur. To reach this goal these agencies will provide education to help identify victims and perpetrators of human trafficking, establish ways for victims to safely seek justice and be provided with access to
restorative and support services, and to prosecute those individuals, businesses and systems that conduct and benefit from human trafficking.

By working together, sharing resources and creating action plans, these agencies in Topeka and Shawnee County will work to stabilize this community and decrease the vulnerability of our citizens to human traffickers. This coalition will meet once a month to discuss actionable plans with Freedom Now staff. These plans will influence policy at the city and county level. The action plans will establish a framework that allows these agencies to collaborate and share vital resources, best practices and data to help eliminate human trafficking.

You can watch the entire press conference here: https://www.facebook.com/cityoftopeka/videos/1015612743891236/
Road Construction Kick-Off

The City of Topeka is kicking off road construction projects for the summer of 2018. These projects are essential to restore roads in Topeka and to maintain them in order to keep roads in good shape for as long as possible.

Several major projects are in the works including mill and overlay and replacements of streets and intersections.

Street crews will be working hard all summer to build the best roads for Topeka. Please keep these safe driving tips in mind during construction season:

- Be alert and watch for workers.
Be prepared to stop when necessary.

Follow all traffic control.

Don’t take shortcuts through private property.

Give yourself extra time to get to your destination.

Don’t tailgate.

Major road project details can be found on the front page of the City of Topeka’s website at www.topeka.org or at https://www.topeka.org/streetmain tenance/street-projects/. You can watch the kick off presentation here: https://www.facebook.com/cityoftopeka/videos/10156130005711236/
The City of Topeka won the American Public Works Association Kansas Chapter's Project of the Year Award in the Historic Preservation under $5 million category for the SW Clay Street 6th to 10th Street Project. Clay Street is located in an older part of town, adjacent to numerous historical districts including Topeka High School. The street was originally paved more than 100 years ago with two layers of brick and had long since been overlaid with asphalt.

The project replaced the deteriorating street, provided new curb and gutter, upgraded the water main in the project area, and repaired broken sidewalks and ramps to bring the area into compliance with ADA regulations.
This project was completed in October 2017 & cost $2.7 million. The project will go on to compete at the national level.

**Budget Priorities Survey**

The Budget office is requesting input on priorities for the 2019 Budget. Take the budget priorities survey at [https://www.topeka.org/finance/budget/](https://www.topeka.org/finance/budget/) to make your voice heard! The survey will be open for the next few months leading up to Council discussions on March 20th, April 3rd and 24th.

**Champion of Character Award**

Topeka Fire Department Apparatus Operator Jacob Torrez was selected by the Safe Streets Coalition to receive the Champion of Character Award.
While attending church service, Jacob as well as other off duty police and fire personnel intervened in a sudden cardiac arrest. With early CPR and defibrillation they saved a Topekan's life who is doing very well.

Recent Updates

- All water towers have been scheduled to be drained, inspected, cleaned, and disinfected by the end of April.

- Fire Department Training Division Staff continued hands on search and rescue course in conjunction with MTAA and 190th FD crews.

- A Neighborhood Relations Housing Services public meeting was held April 6th to get input on the Consolidated Action Plan. Over 30 people from around the region were invited to gain input and meet the requirements of HUD for collaboration.
Severe Weather Wednesday's Facebook Video Series

Every Wednesday in April the City of Topeka's Fire Department and Shawnee County Emergency Management will be going on Facebook live to bring you advice and tips on how to handle severe weather this spring. You can catch the first episode at the link below and tune in every Wednesday for a different severe weather topic.

https://www.facebook.com/cityoftopeka/videos/10156125523461236/

See Click Fix

Take a look at the SeeClickFix app numbers for March 2018.

Policy and Finance Committee Meeting

The Policy and Finance Committee will meet on April 19th from 9:30-11:00 a.m. to respond to the feedback on the proposed Tax Increment Finance (TIF) policy. View the policy and meeting details at https://www.topeka.org/citycouncil/policy-finance-committee/

Coming up

- A public open house for the SW 29th and Burlingame Project is scheduled from 4:30 to 6 p.m., Thursday, April 12, Countryside
United Methodist Church, 3221 SW Burlingame Road.

- The next Housing Services 2019 Consolidated Action Plan public input meetings will be coming up in April 16th at 5:30.

- A public open house for the Arvonia/Hunton/I-470 Project is scheduled from 4:30 to 6 p.m., Monday, April 23, Washburn Tech, 5724 SW Huntoon, Bldg. A

- The public is invited to comment on the 2019 Operating Budget Process on Tuesday, April 24th at 6:00 pm at the Law Enforcement Center (320 S Kansas Ave). City leaders will be present to listen to input on the budget before it is presented to the Governing Body and the public in early June. Residents can also share input on priorities for the 2019 budget by completing a brief three question survey at [https://www.topeka.org/finance/budget](https://www.topeka.org/finance/budget).

- Projected Construction Start Dates:
  
  - 21st and Kansas Intersection Improvements – April 23rd.
  
  - 29th and Burlingame Intersection Improvements – April 30th.
Brent Trout

This weekly report is presented to you from the office of City Manager Brent Trout.

For other weekly reports, visit the City's website.

This report was produced through our open data portal. We have several other open data portals to help connect you with the work we do, including portals that let you:

- Visualize Topeka's $270M budget
- See Topeka's expenses, one check at a time
- Navigate our major infrastructure projects
- Track departments' progress toward our goals