

## **West U Currents 2025 Fall Edition**

### **Answering the Call to Address Deficiencies In Our Facilities**

West U faces the ongoing balancing act of long-term strategic planning with immediate calls to action. We must continue to develop thoughtful, sustainable plans to guide infrastructure maintenance, facility improvements, and top-of-the-line City services – all while maintaining the ability to respond to our community's needs. I am proud to have supported these plans during my time as a councilmember and as mayor, and hope that future Councils will continue to invest in responsive fiscal management.

Based upon the results of the recent election on Prop D and not move to building a new community building, senior center and library, the call before us is to address space limitations and deficiencies in our existing public safety facilities for police and fire. The fire station was constructed in 1956 and over the years fire services have changed dramatically and have outgrown our existing station, which lacks proper storage for personal safety gear, storage space for equipment, tools, general and emergency operating supplies and adequate space in fire bay.

Time and time again I hear from neighbors about the need to prioritize investments in public safety. Whether it involves infrastructure enhancements (like Virtual Gate) or the desire to see more officers on patrol, investing in public safety is a top priority we all share. Much like the challenges with the existing Fire Department, the current build-out of the Police Station is not sufficient to accommodate the future direction of our police department staffing. Addressing the needs of our police and fire stations will also help recruit and retain top talent in the competitive public safety market – giving our men and women in uniform the state-of-the-art facilities they need to do their job in keeping West U safe.

Just as those who wear the West U Badge answer our calls to action without hesitation, Council and residents alike should be ready to answer the call to address gaps in our existing public safety facilities. While there has been robust discussion on the Facilities Master Plan, I believe the time is now to prioritize what we all have in common: keeping our city safe for today and into the future.