

The Stadium's Impact on Glendale

A few days before the San Diego Chargers - Arizona Cardinals game last month, requests for interviews started coming in. California radio and TV stations all wanted to know how did we get a new stadium; how did I feel about it then and now; and how has it impacted our city.

San Diego's interest is due to the Chargers needing/wanting a new stadium. Arguments for and against it abound. In May, I was a panelist at a San Diego forum. Three cities are possible sites for a new stadium but each has problems: too small; citizens vehemently opposed; road system is inadequate; no amenities in the area; etc. There is also the bigger debate about the appropriateness of government's role. The pro and con issues and the site selection problems mirror sentiments and situations that went on in Arizona.

Questions about what I feel the stadium has meant in and for Glendale have really made me stop and think about our city today and our city six years ago.

We were promised a true "multi-purpose stadium" --- not one used just for football games. This promise was delivered on without a doubt. In the first 11 months since the stadium opened 182 events using 231 event days were held there. Congratulations and thanks, Global Spectrum! Your professional management and operation of the stadium has put it in the top tier of sought-after venues; a fact definitely not lost on San Diego.

When asked if I was an early supporter of the stadium, I have to admit I was not. When asked if I have changed my mind, I readily say I have and explain why.

One radio interviewer didn't need me to talk about the explosion of commercial development, hotels, and restaurants that has transformed Glendale into an exciting destination. He visits our area annually to cover spring training baseball and was more than happy to praise Glendale on the air for all we have accomplished.

Enormous attention and scrutiny will be focused on our city during the time leading up to the Super Bowl. As millions learn more about "the road to Glendale", I will be writing about why we on the city council chose sports as our path to economic development and how our own residents benefit today from that decision.

Thank you for your continued support, pride, and enthusiasm!

