

October, 2023



## CATCHING UP WITH CARLOS

### **CALIFORNIA TAKES ACTION ON FENTANYL - VILLAPUDUA'S PROPOSAL SIGNED INTO LAW**

In February of 2023, Assemblymember Carlos Villapudua introduced a proposal, [AB 701](#), to significantly expand penalties for fentanyl traffickers. It was met with initial skepticism from many colleagues who had historically been uncomfortable with sentence enhancements for criminal activity.

Despite this, Villapudua urged them to take action and support the policy. It simply was not justifiable that current law was more strict on the trafficking of heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine when fentanyl is responsible for the high majority of overdoses and deaths across California and the nation.

AB 701 eventually earned unanimous, bipartisan support in the Legislature, and was signed into law by the Governor in October. Starting in 2024, traffickers of this poison will finally be held accountable with heavier prison sentences, and California can start taking more significant action to get this poison off our streets.



## **AD HOC WORK GROUP HOSTS FIRST PUBLIC MEETING; IMPROVEMENT PROJECT RECEIVES ADDITIONAL \$3.1 MILLION**



The Miracle Mile Improve Project's Ad Hoc Workgroup hosted their first public meeting to hear directly from members of the community. Many shared visions of a safer, revitalized downtown district that further enriches the culture and energy of Stockton.

In addition to the \$20 million that was awarded for the Improvement Project last year, Villapudua was also able to secure an extra \$3.1 million in this year's State Budget - bringing the running total to \$23.1 million.

The Ad Hoc Workgroup has begun meeting with experts in various industries, including active transportation and pedestrian safety, to help plan appropriate expenditures for the Improvement Project.

A finalized plan is scheduled to be proposed by spring of 2024. The City of Stockton will have until 2028 to expend all of the funds that have been allocated to this project.

# SIDEWALK TALKS



These events have provided a forum to discuss issues related to homeless services, healthcare, public safety, park resources, public transportation funding, and more.



Assemblymember Villapudua has hosted a series of [Sidewalk Talk events](#) this fall that provide opportunities to connect one-on-one with residents and have candid conversations about priorities for San Joaquin County.



If you've missed these past events, don't worry! An upcoming Sidewalk Talk is scheduled for Wednesday, November 15 at Oasis City Center in Stockton.

You can learn more and RSVP [here](#).

# RECENT EVENTS

## **JOINT HEARING EXPLORES TRANSPORTATION AND AGRICULTURE INNOVATIONS**

Assemblymember Villapudua, Chair of the Committee on Jobs, Economic Development, and the Economy, partnered with Assemblymember Ting, Chair of the Assembly Budget Committee, to discuss how climate change is driving technological innovation in clean transportation and agriculture.



Since being elected to office, Villapudua has continuously focused on the future of California's workforce, with specific regard to our agriculture and logistics economy.

## **VILLAPUDUA TOURS TEMPLE IN SUPPORT OF JEWISH COMMUNITY**



In light of the escalating war between Israel and Hamas, Villapudua visited Temple Israel and met with local leaders to support the Jewish community and learn more about what they may need.

Rabbi Jason M. Gwasdoff shared how security at the synagogue has increased in

response to the rise in anti-Semitism over recent years, and expressed the continued need to shout down acts of hatred and violence towards specific groups of people in our communities.

# RECENT EVENTS

(CONTINUED)

## MOUNTAIN HOUSE DIWALI FESTIVAL



Staff had the opportunity to celebrate Diwali, the beautiful Hindu festival of lights, in Mountain House on October 28. The festival celebrates light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance.

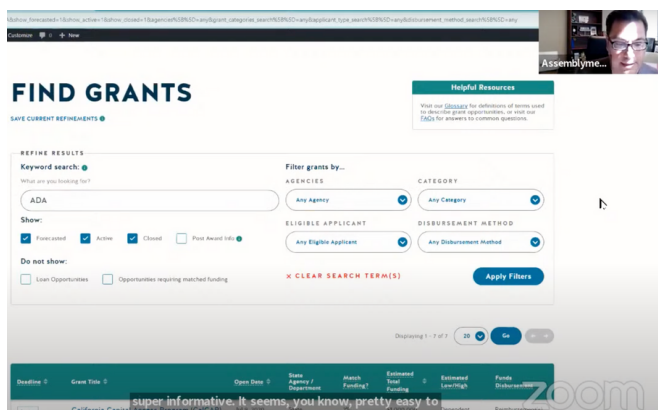
## TRUNK OR TREAT WITH YMCA

Happy Halloween! The costumes were out in full fashion at the YMCA of San Joaquin's Trunk or Treat Event!

Assemblymember Villapudua and his staff had a great time meeting with families and passing out candy to the festive trick-or-treaters.



## STATE GRANTS WEBINAR



Villapudua hosted a State Grants Webinar with the Cal State Library to train attendees on using the Grants Portal and finding financial resources they may be eligible for.

# CARLOS' CONCLUDING COMMENTS

I'm grateful for all of the effort that was put in this Legislative Session to craft policy that will improve the lives of Californians and residents in San Joaquin County. The hard work of my staff and key stakeholders have all contributed to this year being the success it has been.

Don't miss my office's upcoming events, including another [Sidewalk Talk](#), a [Tax Credits Workshop](#), and my annual [Holiday Open House and Toy Drive](#). These will all serve as valuable opportunities for us to connect and discuss different issues to focus on for San Joaquin County in 2024.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions about resources that may be available to you. My door is open, and my staff are available to assist you. You can contact me through my website or by calling one of my offices.



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