

Minneapolis City Council - Ward 6 Council Member Robert Lilligren

Phillips West · Stevens Square/Loring Heights
Ventura Village · Whittier



May 25, 2012

Stadium

Today the City Council voted to approve special legislation to use city generated sales tax that currently support the operations at the [Minneapolis Convention Center](#) to contribute \$150 million in capital costs and \$7.5 million in annual operating costs to construct and operate a new Vikings stadium. Over time the City's contribution will total over \$675 million. I voted against this action.

I have detailed the key reasons for my vote in [an earlier newsletter](#). I would like to address a few popular misconceptions about the stadium "deal." One is that the Target Center, long dependent on Minneapolis property tax payers' subsidy, will no longer rely on property taxes. This law makes eligible some Minneapolis sales tax to be used for limited uses; development and neighborhood improvement. It will be this city council's and councils in the future responsibility to decide how these funds are used – they are not dedicated at this time.

It is hard for me understand an explanation which supposes that a collection of taxes that are insufficient today to support one public facility (the Convention Center operates at an annual deficit now) are somehow going to be able to support three: the Convention Center, the Target Center and the new Vikings stadium.

Another concern I have relates to a provision within the "deal" that requires the public sector to maintain the new stadium in a "first class" condition. This is very similar to the City's arrangement on the Target Center. The risk is that the tenants (the teams) get to determine what "first class" condition means. Styles of sports facilities change and it will be the public sector that pays for these upgrades. That is what is happening today with the Target Center. The

Mondays with Robert

Council Member Lilligren has always believed that it's important for people like you and me to have access to government. Robert remains committed to that value today. For that reason, Council Member Lilligren makes himself available to community member visits on a walk-in and appointment basis.

You can meet with Robert on the first four Mondays of the month at each of the neighborhoods he represents. Call or email Alondra at 673-2206 or alondra.cano@minneapolismn.gov to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome, however - you will be asked to wait if there is a scheduled appointment.

NOTE: No office hours on Monday May 28th due to the Memorial Day holiday.

First Monday of the Month
Whittier Alliance, 10 E. 25th Street
9:30am - 11:30am

Second Monday of the Month
Phillips West, 2400 Park Ave.
Center for Changing Lives
9:30am - 11:30am

Third Monday of the Month
Stevens Square, 1925 Nicollet Ave.
9:30am - 11:30am

Fourth Monday of the Month
Ventura Village, 2323 11th Ave. S.
2nd Floor of Phillips Community Center
9:30am - 11:30am

Watch City Hall Live!

The Minneapolis City Council take up important topics that matter to all of the City residents. There are several ways for the public to watch the meetings, even if they can't make it to City Hall.

These meetings will be broadcast live on Minneapolis 79

Vikings stadium legislation only makes available for the Target Center to do basic maintenance and will not cover any upgrades. Had the Convention Center sale taxes not been redirected to the Viking stadium, these funds could have been available for these Target Center “first class” improvements. Likely the taxpayers of Minneapolis will be called on to support all three of these public facilities.

The council voted on the stadium legislation first in [Committee of the Whole](#) on Thursday, May 24 then in full council on Friday the 25th. On the evening of Thursday, May 24 I attended a Safety Committee meeting of the [Stevens Square Community Organization](#) (SSCO). At that meeting a representative of residents of [Minneapolis Public Housing Authority](#) (MPHA) addressed the group and spoke to me as a neighborhood resident and as a constituent. There are two MPHA high-rises in Stevens Square and a total of seven in my ward. The representative spoke of MPHA resident fears because of a significant drop in security at their buildings. MPHA has had to cut \$1.4 million from their security budget since the City stopped using a special property tax that provided these funds in 2010. MPHA has also had to spend down its budget reserves based on federal direction. MPHA took an additional \$200-thousand cut from the State of Minnesota that formerly supported their most excellent organizational infrastructure; specifically Project Lookout, their safety organization. It really made this decision to subsidize a billionaire’s business more real.

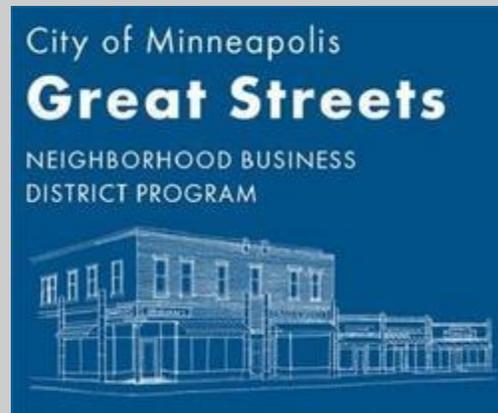


(Comcast Cable channel 79 in Minneapolis). Viewers can also watch the live broadcast on the City of Minneapolis website at www.minneapolismn.gov/tv/79 or on a smartphone at <http://minneapolis.implex.net/video.htm>.



City of Minneapolis Awards \$322,800 to Support Small Businesses

The Great Streets program continues its support for a wide array of small businesses that make our local economy strong. Please take a look at this press release [announcing the awardees](#) - congratulations to all!



Minneapolis to switch to single-sort recycling in 2013

Next year, recycling in Minneapolis will get easier, helping both residents and the environment. The Minneapolis City Council and Mayor R.T. Rybak today approved moving forward to implement a single-sort recycling collection program for City of Minneapolis residential recycling customers. Single-sort recycling is a system in which customers put all of their recyclables into one container for collection instead of separating glass from plastic from paper, etc. Read more [here](#).

Goals for Women & Minority Participation on Vikings Stadium

I was proud to work with my Council colleagues on establishing the framework to set and meet the highest possible goals for women and minority contractors, skilled and unskilled workers on the Stadium project; and to set us up to meet or exceed these goals. Council Member Elizabeth Glidden was the lead author on [an important staff direction](#) that, with continued effort and Council leadership, will bring opportunities to traditionally disenfranchised communities and to residents of the City of Minneapolis. I was a lead collaborator on this effort; we counted on the support of Council Members Betsy Hodges and John Quincy who also served as key

leads. We asked Council Member Don Samuels to offer the motion in committee, acknowledging how important these issues are to the communities he represents.

I was able to expand on the source for the cost of contract compliance by shifting to the project's costs rather than the City of Minneapolis Civil Rights Department budget and to establish *regular progress reports* so that we don't get to the end of the project and find we have not met our goals when it's too late to address. I was also able to add language to set goals that are "ceilings" rather than "floors" and to create a process of engaging community experts and stakeholders in helping us set and – as importantly – meet these goals.

In this work I was able to call on my experience in my first term in office on the Midtown Exchange, the former Sears building at Chicago Ave and Lake St. This project was the focus of my first term. Opportunities for women and minorities, both in the project's construction and in its ongoing operations, were primary goals for me. I am thrilled when I see how successful these efforts were.

To this day the Midtown Exchange remains the highest performing major development project in Minneapolis in the area of women and minority jobs. Opportunities are ongoing with the inclusion of affordable housing (rental and ownership), a unique Allina entry level job programs and notably, the [Midtown Global Market](#). I drafted the language into the City's Request for Proposal on the Midtown Exchange that directed the creation of the Global Market.

While I do not support the enormous public subsidy for the Vikings stadium, I do intend to stay involved in this area, setting and meeting participation and employment goals, to see that communities in Minneapolis benefit directly.



Public Info Session: The Abbott Air Permit Application

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) will hold an Information Session for the Abbott Northwestern Hospital (Abbott) Air Permit Application.

Date: Thursday, May 31, 2012

Time: 6-7 p.m.

Location: St Paul's Lutheran Church, 2742 15th Ave S, Minneapolis

The Information Session is for the public to review application materials and also a time to ask MPCA staff about the permitting and application review process. There will not be a formal presentation. Abbott Northwestern Hospital (Abbott) is proposing two changes to their air permit:

1. To change the backup fuel for several boilers from Fuel Oil #6 (residual oil), to Fuel Oil #2 (diesel).
2. To add natural gas heating and an emergency generator for the lab building.

The air permit application is available for review at www.pca.state.mn.us/qzqh484, at the Franklin Library located at 1314 East Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis, and at the MPCA offices located at 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul.

Abbott is located in the area described by Minn. Stat. § 116.07, subd. 4a., which requires the MPCA to consider the cumulative levels and effects of past and current environmental pollution. Therefore, the permit application includes an air dispersion modeling report, an air emissions risk assessment and a cumulative levels and effects analysis report. Information about this statute and the MPCA's process and outreach can be found at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/qzqh484>.



The MPCA will provide email and text message updates throughout the processing of the permit application. Interested parties may sign up for email and text messages [here](#). For questions please contact:

Sara Sevcik at sarah.sevcik@state.mn.us or 651-757-2715

Kristie Ellickson at kristie.ellickson@state.mn.us or 651-757-2336

Help communities bridge the digital divide

While the majority of Minneapolis residents have computers with Internet access at home, technology access and knowledge gaps still exist with certain populations in the city. This is among the many findings of a survey conducted to help City leaders determine the state of the “digital divide.” This divide is the gap between individuals and groups in their access to information and communication technologies, and their use and knowledge of these technologies.

As government, education, health care providers and businesses are increasingly using technology to connect with people online, it’s important to ensure that all individuals can participate in the benefits of the digital society. The city’s residents and businesses need to be equipped to effectively compete with others around the world—to be smarter, more creative, more knowledgeable, and more innovative.

City leaders and staff will be hosting a number of community meetings with residents, businesses, community groups, and many other stakeholders to share the survey results and get feedback about how to overcome the digital divide in Minneapolis:

Wednesday June 13, 3:30 – 5 p.m.
Northeast Library
2200 Central Ave. NE

Monday June 18, 6:30 – 8 p.m.
McRae Park
906 47th St. E

Tuesday June 19, 6 – 7:30 p.m.
North Regional Library
1315 Lowry Ave. N.

Wednesday June 27, 4:30 – 6 p.m.
Phillips Community Center
2323 11th Ave. S

At the meetings we will explore the survey results as a community, generate ideas and actions to make the most of our community technology resources, and share experiences and build relationships across sectors to overcome the digital divide in Minneapolis.

Residents and business owners in Minneapolis should attend. Neighborhood Associations and community activists are also welcomed! Business Associations, local employers, anyone from the private sector interested in connecting with residents and improving technology skills and access as well as non-profits and educators should also join us.

To view the survey report, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/it/inclusion and click on “2012 Community Technology Survey.”

Enjoy Your Summer Fire Safely this Summer

Minneapolis Fire Department wants you to enjoy your recreational fires safely this summer. Here are the allowed parameters for recreational fires in Minneapolis:

- Only burn unpainted, untreated wood
- Amount of wood burning should be 3 ft wide and 2 ft high or less
- A non-combustible fire barrier at least 6 inches high must be used, such as a fire ring, fire pit, chiminea, or enclosed free standing fire pit
- Recreational fires must be at least 25 feet from a house, garage, wood fence, or other combustible material or structure
- Rec fires must be constantly attended by at least one person 18yo or older
- You must have something readily available to put out the fire – such as a garden hose, buckets of sand, and/or a class 4-A portable fire extinguisher
- Enjoy your recreational fire between 9am-10pm, and when winds don't exceed 10mph.

If you have any questions about recreational fires, or have any other fire safety questions or concerns, please call Minneapolis 311, or visit Minneapolis Fire Department's website: www.minneapolismn.gov/fire

If you live outside of Minneapolis, please contact your local fire department to find out what types of recreational fires are allowed in your municipality.



New 6th Ward Intern Kelly Geistler

Kelly Geistler, Policy Aide/ Graduate Student Intern for the 6th Ward, is a Minnesota native currently entering her second year of law school at the University of Saint Thomas School of Law. Also an alumnus of the University of Minnesota and a former basketball state champion and metro all-stater from Osseo High School,

Geistler returned to the state after more than a decade of living in North Dakota, Florida and New York where she was working as a Chef. Geistler also played Division 1 basketball at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, playing all four years, including a berth in the 1992 NCAA Tournament. In an effort to become more involved in her community after returning to the Twin Cities in late 2007, Geistler decided to return to school with the intent to gain an education geared toward the ability to shape public policy. Though Geistler left college in 1995 shortly after the conclusion of her basketball career to pursue other interests, she returned to college in 2009 to receive a Bachelor of Arts with Distinction in Multidisciplinary Studies with a focus in Political Science from the University of Minnesota. Geistler then immediately enrolled at UST Law. Active in the community volunteering with people with chemical dependency and mental health issues, Geistler intends to impact constituent interests with strong organizational and networking skills as well as a developed follow-up initiative and planning ability. Please help us in welcoming Kelly to the ward - she will be proudly working for all of the 6th ward residents this summer!



From the Office of City Council Vice President Robert Lilligren
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