



9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

June 4, 2007

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Schiff condemns use of church property by federal agents



The City Council has urged ICE to discontinue the use of the word "Police" on their jackets.

Council Member Gary Schiff has sent a letter to the directors of the Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and Immigration and Customs Enforcement asking for a formal apology for using a church parking lot without permission in preparation for the [serving of federal warrants](#) at unrelated addresses. The church, St. Paul's Lutheran Evangelical, asked the federal agents to leave on the morning of Saturday May 19, to no avail. "At approximately 10:30 a.m., five vehicles with police officers of ICE and one or more officers of the state BCA parked in our parking lot, disembarked from their vehicles, donned their bullet proof vests, and adjusted their weapons, in plain sight of the community," said the church

council in a written statement. The church cancelled its activities for the rest of the day for fear that parishioners would be randomly arrested, according to Pastor Patrick Cabello Hansel.

In the statement to ICE, Schiff wrote, "I join the community in applauding the work by ICE and the BCA that helped bust an international prostitution ring that has victimized women, but the way it was handled has severely disrupted trust between the community and the police," said Council Member Schiff. "Why did ICE choose a parking lot of a predominantly Latino congregation as a staging ground for their action? This action violates the separation of church and state, and is a cultural insult to all people of faith. While it is understandable that law enforcement must sometimes use facilities in the area where they are conducting business, the choice of a predominantly Latino church appears like an intentional effort to send a message."

In May 2006 the Minneapolis City Council unanimously passed a [resolution](#) authored by Council Member Schiff urging ICE officials to wear visible identification clearly distinguishing them as ICE agents. ICE continues to use the word "police" to this day. In 2003, Council Member Gary Schiff authored an ordinance reinforcing the separation of the Minneapolis Police Department from federal immigration enforcement. "When residents are confused and misled like this, the Minneapolis Police Department's ability to protect and serve the people of Minneapolis is damaged," Council Member Schiff said.

Find crime stats for your neighborhood online

City residents can find statistics and maps for neighborhood and city-wide crime on the [Minneapolis Police Department website](#). The statistics show locations of gun violence and where the sound of gunfire has been reported or detected by the ShotSpotter system; precinct maps of locations where crimes are reported, including property crimes, drug offenses, and violent crimes; monthly neighborhood crime statistics for homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny theft, motor vehicle theft and arson. In addition, residents can [find their police precinct](#), [learn more about police precincts](#) and [see maps of Minneapolis neighborhoods](#).

Minneapolis parks offer expanded teen programming

To ensure that all kids have a safe, fun, meaningful summer break, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board will offer expanded teen recreational programs during extended evening hours. "Providing safe places to go, interesting things to do and people who care are critical to youth and community development," MPRB Superintendent John Gurban said. "Not only do these opportunities add to the quality of life of our young people, they also work to reduce juvenile delinquency and youth violence."

Beginning June 18, Creekview, Folwell, Farview, North Commons, Logan, Peavey/Stewart, Powderhorn, Green Central and M.L. King recreation centers will offer expanded teen programming until 10 or 11:00 p.m. three to six nights per week. To find out more about programming in the parks or to volunteer for park programs contact Richard Mammen at 612-230-6473.



MPRB expanded programming is sponsored by the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board.

Fire stations offer graffiti removal products

The city of Minneapolis is providing free environmentally friendly graffiti removal solvent to residents. A quart of Green Solutions, the only "green label" solvent available for removal of graffiti is available at local [fire stations](#). Green Solutions is a highly affective solvent that can be used on multiple surfaces including porous surfaces such as brick and stucco.

For more information on city graffiti removal programs, contact [Angela Brenny](#).

City seeks community input on future of Minneapolis



Minneapolis residents are invited to share their thoughts and ideas about what Minneapolis should look like in the future by taking an [online survey](#) about sustainability, heritage preservation and urban design.

The survey, which is part of the city's process to update its comprehensive plan, will be available online through mid-June. The plan addresses housing, jobs, transportation, parks and open spaces, and water resource management.

For more information about the city's comprehensive planning efforts, [click here](#). The City's current comprehensive plan is [available here](#).