



February 2009

Eighth Ward News

"Bancroft, Bryant, Central, Field-Regina-Northrop, Kingfield, Powderhorn"

From Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden

Subscribe to 8th Ward E-news by sending an e-mail to:

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Neighborhood Meetings

Bancroft

Bancroft Neighborhood Assoc Council
www.bancroftneighborhood.org
Meets 2nd Thursday, 7 pm
4120 17th Avenue South

Bryant

Bryant Neighborhood Organization
Meets 1st Tuesday, 7 pm
Helps Park, 3900 Chicago

Central

CANDO
Meets 3rd Thursday, 6:15 pm
Sabathani Community Center
310 East 38th Street, Room 304

Central Weed & Seed
Meets 2nd Wednesday, 5:30 pm
Green Central School

Field-Regina-Northrop

www.frnng.org
Meets 3rd Wednesday, 6:30 pm
1620 E 46th Street

Kingfield

www.kingfield.org
Meets 2nd Wednesday, 7 pm
ML King Park, 40th & Nicollet

Powderhorn

www.ppna.org
Meets 2nd Thursday, 6:30 pm
821 E 35th Street

38th & Chicago

38th & Chicago Implementation
Committee
Meets 3rd Monday, 7 pm
Pillsbury House 3501 Chicago Ave S

Minneapolis Faces Funding Crisis Due to State Cuts

Like other Minnesota cities, Minneapolis faces significant financial challenges in large part due to State finances. Governor Tim Pawlenty's action that cut \$13.1 million from local government aid (LGA) to Minneapolis has left City Officials no choice but to revamp the 2009 budget, and prepare for even more significant cuts from the State.

In addition to the \$13.1 million cut, the Governor has proposed reducing funding to the City by \$17 million in 2009 and \$35 million in 2010. Minneapolis already receives \$36 million less in State aid than it did five years ago – reductions that have forced Minneapolis and many other cities to raise property taxes to fund public safety and other services. If the Governor's cuts are made permanent, there is no question that public service to the residents of Minneapolis will be severely negatively impacted.

The City is asking residents, businesses, and City employees to share their priorities and ideas for making these significant cuts. You can learn more about the City's 2009 budget and share your priorities through an on-line survey at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/2009budget. In addition, two public meetings have been scheduled to hear your thoughts.

- **Monday, Feb. 9, 7 – 8:30pm, MLK Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave S**
- **Tuesday, Feb. 10, 7 – 8:30pm, Eastside Neighborhood Services, 1700 2nd St NE**

How much is \$13 million in terms of City services? It is the equivalent of paying for 130 police officers or 150 firefighters. It represents a cut that is about twice as much as it cost the City to respond to the Interstate 35W Bridge collapse.

The vast majority of the City's annual budget is restricted for specific purposes. Out of the City's \$1.4 billion budget, \$374 million is from its general fund, which is funded primarily through property taxes (\$183 million) and LGA. More than half of the general fund, or \$200 million, goes to public safety.

Mayor Rybak will propose a new 2009 budget to the City Council in mid-to-late February. The City Council is expected to vote to approve a new budget in early March.

Congratulations 8th Ward Community Leaders!



Back Row L to R: Catalina Carbonell, Tessa Trepp, Elizabeth Glidden, Catherine Williams
Front Row: Ashley Coleman, Ceola Lazo, Shonda Allen

The Eighth Ward Community Leadership Awards and Stephanie Ball-Bailey Youth Leadership Awards were presented at “Early Mornings with Elizabeth” on January 30, 2009. Please join us in congratulating these outstanding community members for their dedication and service to community.

Community Leadership Awards

Park Avenue Youth and Family Services

(Central neighborhood): Providing service to youth and families in Central, Powderhorn Park, and Phillips neighborhoods with summer camps, academic programs, and family services.

Catherine Williams (Field neighborhood):

Lifelong community leadership and political activism, including service as an election judge for over 20 years.

Steve Jevning (Kingfield neighborhood):

Founder and director of Leonardo’s Basement, promoting community connections and creative learning for youth and adults through a mixture of art, science and technology.

Ceola Lazo (Regina neighborhood): Inspiring her Green Central students by “making history real”, organizing and fundraising for a yearly trip to the Bad Lands.

Stephanie Ball-Bailey Youth Leadership Awards

Shonda Allen (Powderhorn Park

neighborhood): Spearheading creation of Kidz

Café, a creative combination of nutritional meals and adult mentorship for neighborhood youth
Ashley Coleman (Bryant neighborhood):
Founder of Diva Rags at the age of 15, 23-year-old Ashley promotes a business model that incorporates community service and “giving back.”

Crime is Down in Minneapolis and 8th Ward Neighborhoods



For a second year running, crime is down in Minneapolis

Successful crime-fighting strategies such as proactive policing, community outreach and youth violence prevention have helped Minneapolis achieve a second straight year of double-digit reductions in crime.

Citywide for 2008, violent crime in Minneapolis dropped 13 percent from the previous year, and 24 percent from 2006. Homicides were down 22 percent from 2007 and 39 percent from 2006. Robberies decreased 18 percent, aggravated assaults were down 8 percent, and juvenile crime fell 17 percent.

Minneapolis’ coordinated youth violence enforcement and prevention programs continued to show progress in 2008 and are making the City a national leader in the fight to end violent crime among youth. Less than 20 percent of all arrests in 2008 involved juveniles – a decrease from more than 30 percent in 2006. Juvenile violent crime fell 23 percent in 2008. Over the last two years, juvenile violent crime in Minneapolis has dropped 42 percent as a result of several interwoven innovative prevention and enforcement strategies.

Every Minneapolis police precinct reported drops in violent crime last year, with the Fifth Precinct showing a 12% decrease and the Third Precinct with an 11% decrease. For 8th Ward neighborhoods, the largest crime reductions occurred in Central and Powderhorn Park. Powderhorn saw a 27% decrease from 2007, while Central experienced a 15% decrease from 2007 and 23% decrease from 2006 figures. Two

neighborhoods had increases in crime – 5% in Field and 8% in Bancroft, primarily due to increased burglaries. All other 8th Ward neighborhoods, however, experienced decreases in crime ranging from 5% (Bryant) to Powderhorn’s 27%.

When we asked Crime Prevention Specialist Karen Notsch the reason for the large crime reductions – particularly in Central and Powderhorn - she said increased community activism, attention from City licensing on problem businesses, block meetings attended by herself and Lt Wes Ostlund, as well as special attention from officers, probation and other partners contributed to 2008 results.

Instant Runoff Voting – Coming to Minneapolis!



On Friday, February 6th, the City Council took a significant step to implement Instant Runoff Voting – ordering elections staff to begin preparing for

an IRV election in 2009. Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden, chair of the Elections Committee, states, “We have a mandate from the voters, who told us to implement Instant Runoff Voting. We will do everything we can to respect the will of the voters.”

This action comes less than one month after District Court Judge McGunnigle strongly rejected a lawsuit brought by the Minnesota Voters Alliance against the City of Minneapolis, challenging the right to use IRV elections. Judge McGunnigle’s ruling stated clearly and unambiguously that IRV is constitutional and does not violate state law. The Voters Alliance has appealed this decision, and is cooperating with the City in a request for expedited review from the Minnesota Supreme Court.

In addition to preparing for an IRV election, City Elections staff were instructed to make contingency plans for a traditional primary, as the City still is waiting for the Minnesota Supreme Court’s ruling in this case.

We will continue to keep the community up to date on implementation activities for IRV – contact Councilmember Glidden if you have any questions at (612) 673-2208 or Elizabeth.glidden@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Minneapolis Supports Marriage Equality Bill



On the motion of Councilmember Glidden, Minneapolis is now supporting passage of the Marriage and Family Protection Act, or what is commonly known as the

“Marriage Equality Act.” This bill would set the stage for legal marriage of same gender couples.

For a city that has consistently supported civil rights, equal benefits and equal treatment for all, this was an easy decision for Minneapolis policy-makers, who supported the motion 13 to 0.

Early Mornings with Elizabeth!



Mark your calendars, the next Early Mornings with Elizabeth! meeting will be held on **Friday, February 27th 7:30 – 9:00am** at Turtle Bread (located at 48th and Chicago). This month, we

welcome Mayor RT Rybak, who will be speaking about the revised 2009 City Budget.

Ward 8 Community Office Hours



Join Elizabeth for her community office hours every Monday, from 9-11:00am at Sabathani Community Center, 310 E. 38th Street, Room 129. You can always call the 8th Ward Office with your questions at (612) 673-2208.