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# 12<sup>TH</sup> WARD UPDATE

Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy

July 2004

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Sign up for the monthly Update by sending an e-mail to: [Sandra.Colvin.Roy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:Sandra.Colvin.Roy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

## LRT Running Smoothly, but Traffic is not

Tens of thousands of passengers welcomed the Hiawatha LRT line to Minneapolis and partied at neighborhood celebrations at each station along the way last Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. On Monday I commuted using LRT, and on Tuesday I took out of town visitors for lunch at Cap's using LRT (no parking, no fuss) and have talked with many LRT riders since paid service began. Reviews are very positive. The trains are running on schedule, the bus connections are working smoothly, the ride itself is smooth and it gives some great new views of our city. I am confident this line will convince many skeptics in our community to take a ride, and then they will work it into their lives. That's how systems have grown in all the other metro areas of our country where LRT has been introduced.

But we can't all use LRT to get where we need to go and there are problems remaining with traffic flow along Hiawatha and especially crossing Hiawatha. Even after many adjustments and new software, the signals are still not working as they should. I have heard from many frustrated constituents, some of whom fear an accident as the result of dangerous driving choices made when signals are not changing. It is a very serious issue that city and project engineers have worked hard to resolve but, together with MnDOT and Metro Transit, we have now asked for help from Federal officials. Two engineers with extensive experience in LRT timing will help Metro Transit get a better system in place for moving traffic on the cross streets and Hiawatha Avenue. Temporary solutions will be in place at all intersections except 26<sup>th</sup> Street by July 7<sup>th</sup>. At my request, our Regulatory Services have called together a meeting to see if we can provide some human traffic direction in the meantime. I don't know what we'll be able to do, but we have to try to improve safety while we wait for the fix.

## Smoking Debate Smolders

The latest City Council discussion on the proposed smoking ban makes it clear that there will be a ban in Minneapolis. Because the details about the proposed ban were unclear from the start, the Council decided to follow the advice of other cities and do more work on the front-end to make sure the details are taken care of so that enactment goes smoothly. I was representing the city and state at a National League of Cities environmental steering committee, so was not at the Council meeting, but I did inform my colleagues that I supported more work on a plan for our city before final action. This will be a huge step for Minneapolis and we owe it to residents and businesses to do it right.

## Neighbors Raise Concerns about Crime

A large meeting organized by neighbors in the Minnehaha neighborhood brought out residents' concerns about recent crimes and activities in the area of Super America at 34<sup>th</sup> Ave. & 51<sup>st</sup> St. I was joined by Lt. Jack Kelly, Crime Prevention Specialist Sue Roethele and city Business Licensing staff to hear the concerns and answer questions.

Much of the concern was driven by recent robberies in the area. Those crimes were compounded by loitering problems at the SA. Lt. Kelly and SA Management made plans to vigorously enforce the juvenile curfew, improve management of the store and crack down on illegal use of the alley. Officers are watching the whole area closely.

## Work Continues on LRT Noise

LRT related noise has bothered many residents near the line. After meetings with residents and me, Metro Transit has lowered the volume on both the train "gong" and pedestrian warning actuators on the platforms. Horns are to be used for emergencies only and the gate arm bells are changed to ring only while the gates are dropping.

Reports from neighbors indicate a welcome and noticeable difference, but there is still room to improve. Promised improvements must be completed and there is work to be done on operating procedures, particularly early in the morning and late at night. LRT operations must be safe, but the residents must be considered also.

## LRT Parking in the Neighborhood

Calls about on-street parking in areas around LRT stations started on the Monday after opening day. Experts from other LRT lines were brought in last year to learn from their experience. We also counted parked cars to get baseline information before LRT began. The experts met with staff and residents, then made recommendations, including that we wait 6-8 weeks before implementing any parking restrictions so that problem areas are accurately identified. At that point, staff will observe the parking patterns and start discussions with the affected blocks about solutions. In the interim, please let me know if you are seeing a lot of park-and-riders in your area.

## EVENTS & SPECIAL MEETINGS

### MAC Sound Insulation Program Decision

Monday, July 19<sup>th</sup> – 1 p.m.

MAC Boardroom, Lindbergh Terminal

### Festival of Neighborhoods Celebration

Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Nokomis Community Center

### Festival of Neighborhoods Celebration

Friday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Bossen Field

## MONTHLY NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

### SENA Board Meeting

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 4000 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. S  
July 12, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.standish-ericsson.org](http://www.standish-ericsson.org)

### LCC Board Meeting

Longfellow Park  
July 15, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.longfellow.org](http://www.longfellow.org)

### NENA Board Meeting

3000 East 50<sup>th</sup> Street  
July 22, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org)

## Open Appointments

- Minneapolis Charter Commission  
(open indefinitely)
- Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC)  
(closes 7-30-04)
- Civilian Police Review Authority (CPRA)  
(closes 8-13-04)

For more information, visit:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/>

## Midtown Public Market Opens in July

The best Public Market in the Twin Cities (*City Pages 2004*) opens for its second year of business at Lake Street & 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave. (almost under the LRT Station). Make sure you take some time to enjoy yourself and the fresh produce and products from our area.

### 2004 Market Schedule

July 10 - Oct 30

Tuesdays 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Saturdays 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

For more information, please visit their website at <http://homepage.mac.com/pandre/mpm.htm>

## Fireworks Facts from the Minneapolis Police Department

Minnesota law now permits the sale, possession and use of some fireworks. Examples include sparklers, cones and tubes that emit sparks, and novelty items like snakes and party poppers. Aerial fireworks (bottle rockets, missiles, roman candles) and explosive fireworks such as firecrackers *are still illegal*.

Please be a considerate neighbor. Shooting off fireworks can be extremely frustrating for neighbors, especially when people are trying to sleep or children or pets are frightened. If someone is shooting off illegal fireworks, call 911. Fireworks complaints are most prevalent on summer nights when the police are most busy, so please be patient. To dispatch a squad car, the caller must provide the exact address and some description of the person(s) setting off the fireworks.

## Eleven New Members added to the MPD: All Named Harley Davidson

As Police Chief, one of Bill McManus's first actions was to ask police officers what they would like to see in the department. The officers responded with overwhelming interest in a motorcycle unit. Through a partnership with Harley-Davidson, Minneapolis will now have a motorcycle unit.

Harley-Davidson Motor Company offers law enforcement agencies a one year lease on their motorcycles for \$1. The department paid for the additional costs from its current budget: \$800 for bike set-up at the dealer, \$1,150 for red lights and siren, and \$180 for the installation of the emergency equipment. The same police motorcycle from another company costs \$17,000!

Using this program to get our officers out on motorcycles is a great way to improve the visibility in the community and to boost morale. Our officers have tough jobs. They take a lot of heat from the media and I am happy to support a program they can take pride in.

## 2003 State of the City Report is Online

The Minneapolis Planning Division has released the twenty-ninth edition of the State of the City. The report provides a wealth of the up-to-date information, including indicators of the health of the city. This year's edition contains recently released decennial census data.

The State of the City report is now available only on the Web, which makes it possible to update the reports when new data become available. It also saves the cost of printing. You can find the report on the at:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/citywork/planning/soc03/>