

Ward 11 Monthly Newsletter

Council Member Scott Benson

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Safe City Initiative

Interim Police Chief Tim Dolan recently released details about a new, city-wide Safe City Initiative. The goal of the Safe City Initiative is to reduce the number of homicides, shootings, and robberies across the city by focusing on repeat offenders and youth. The main objective of the plan is to increase the number, visibility, and presence of police officers in high density and high crime areas of the city, including downtown. The far-reaching plan includes public safety strategies for neighborhoods across the city. The Initiative is funded in part with \$2 million in new funding from the State of Minnesota that will be matched with \$2 million in funding from the City of Minneapolis.

The plan stems from the police department's effort to put as many more officers on the street as possible before summer begins. The city is hiring as many as 75 more police officers this year from the current budget. While the hiring process takes place, Chief Dolan is using city, state and county funds to put the equivalent number of officers on the street now by maximizing existing patrols.

In addition to increased police visibility and street presence, the Safe City Initiative incorporates a multi-pronged effort to improve public safety throughout the city for the rest of the year, especially in popular areas and in neighborhoods most challenged by crime. Included in the plan was direction to:

- Create a new Juvenile Unit in the police department to coordinate youth enforcement and work with schools to centralize juvenile crime prevention.
- Target loitering by tracking repeat offenders, making routine visits to those on probation, targeting drug dealers, attacking prostitution, and enforcing curfews.
- Implement more rigid geographical accountability to encourage officers to take greater ownership for the neighborhoods where they are located.

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Important Phone Numbers

- Ward 11 Office
673-2211



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- Improve the livability of the five most problematic neighborhoods (Jordan, Hawthorne, McKinley, Phillips and Central) by pairing specific patrols with specific gangs and preventing retaliation after homicides and shootings.
- Promote a greater sense of safety downtown by supporting the successful Downtown Safe Zone. The city also has plans to harness this Safe Zone model of collaboration between police and businesses for use in Uptown and north Minneapolis.

Expanding collaborations with other law enforcement agencies, criminal justice agencies, business leaders and neighborhood groups.

Juvenile crime and violence is a growing area of concern for the city. To help address some of these concerns, The Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support (MDHFS) will dedicate \$500,000 over the next two years to support community-based strategies that will intervene with disconnected young people and redirect them toward healthy, and contributing adult lives. The Minneapolis Foundation is also issuing violence prevention grants this spring. The two organizations are coordinating their efforts to help stem youth violence and positively change the course of young lives.

More details about the Safe City Initiative are available at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/20060503safecity.asp>

Minneapolis Mosaic

Minneapolis is known for its vibrant and diverse cultural scene and Minneapolis MOSAIC celebrates all of the ways we express ourselves and our cultural traditions through the arts. Presented by the City of Minneapolis, the fourth annual Minneapolis MOSAIC festival promises to be better than ever.



From June 10 through August 31, more than 100 Minneapolis artists and cultural organizations will open their doors. From parades to performances, to exhibitions to neighborhood festivals, there's plenty to do and you're invited. That's MOSAIC—and there's a piece for everyone to enjoy.

It all begins June 10 - 11 with U.S. Bank's Many Worlds. One Weekend—a two day celebration of free performances and events! The June 10 event happens from 6 – 10 pm on Hennepin Avenue, and the June 11 event is all afternoon at Fair Oaks Park just south of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts.

For a complete MOSAIC Calendar of Events of participating artists and organizations see <http://www.minneapolismosaic.com/>

Minneapolis Goes Wireless

Find out what a wireless city may mean for you and how it may help bridge the digital divide. Come to a Wireless Minneapolis Information session.

Tuesday, May 9, 2006, 6 - 8 p.m.

Martin Luther King Recreation Center, 4055 Nicollet Ave. S, Minneapolis

Wednesday, May 17, 2006, 6 - 8 p.m.

Roosevelt High School, Media Center (2nd Floor), 4029 - 28th Ave. S, Minneapolis

Those who attend will have the opportunity to share their ideas and feedback about what "community benefits" should be negotiated to help bridge the digital divide.

Additional meetings are being planned. For more information or to sign-up to receive e-mail updates on the project, visit the wireless Minneapolis webpage at

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/wirelessminneapolis

March Crime Statistics

NEIGHBORHOOD	TOTAL	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
Diamond Lake	4			1		1		2	
Field	10			2	1	2	3	1	1
Hale	2					1	1		
King Field	29	1		2		15	6	5	
Northrup	9					5	2	2	
Page	2					1		1	
Tangletown	12			1		1	10		
Wenonah	8		1	1	3	2		1	
Windom	19		1	3		3	7	3	2

Definitions of the types of crimes and statistics from other months can be viewed at:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/crime-statistics/>

Electronic Newsletter

Council Member Benson publishes an electronic newsletter to keep you up to date on what is happening at City Hall. If you would like to receive this update, please e-mail me at

scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us and put the words "E-mail Update" in the subject line.

Monthly Community Meetings

Field Regina Northrop Meets Third Wednesday 6:30 PM Lake Nokomis Presbyterian 46 th St. & 17 th Ave	Hale Page Diamond Lake Meets Fourth Monday 7:00 PM Emmanuel United Methodist 5144 13 th Ave S	Kingfield Meets Second Wednesday 7:00 PM Martin Luther King Park 4055 Nicollet Ave S
NENA Meets Fourth Thursday 7:00 PM NENA Office 3000 E. 50 th St	Tangletown Meets Third Monday 7:00 PM Fuller Community Center 4800 Grand Ave S	Windom Meets Second Thursday 7:00 PM Windom Community Center 5821 Wentworth Ave S

Coffee With Scott

Whatever is on your mind, you can sit down with **Scott Benson** and talk about it over a cup of coffee, from **8:00 AM until 9:00 AM** at coffee shops around the 11th ward.

May 6	Sister's Sludge 4557 Bloomington	July 6	Mike's Corner Store 5601 Chicago Ave
June 1	Anodyne @ 43rd 4301 Nicollet	Aug 3	Betsy's Backporch 5447 Nicollet

Open Appointments

The City of Minneapolis has more than 45 boards, commissions and advisory committees. These organizations, composed of citizen volunteers, advise the City on current issues and assist the City in policy development and administration of services.

No Current Vacancies

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