



9th Ward E-News

From Minneapolis Council Member Gary Schiff

February 23, 2007

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Ninth Ward state legislative agenda announced

At this morning's Breakfast with Gary, Council Member Gary Schiff announced the 2007 Ninth Ward Legislative Agenda, which highlights five bills of significance to Ninth Ward neighborhoods. "These five bills are important for improving quality of life in our neighborhoods," Council Member Schiff said. "We can't do it alone. We need State action."

Included in the bills are new measures to combat graffiti and gang activity as well as new funding for drug treatment programs and anti-prostitution efforts. For more about these bills, [click here](#).

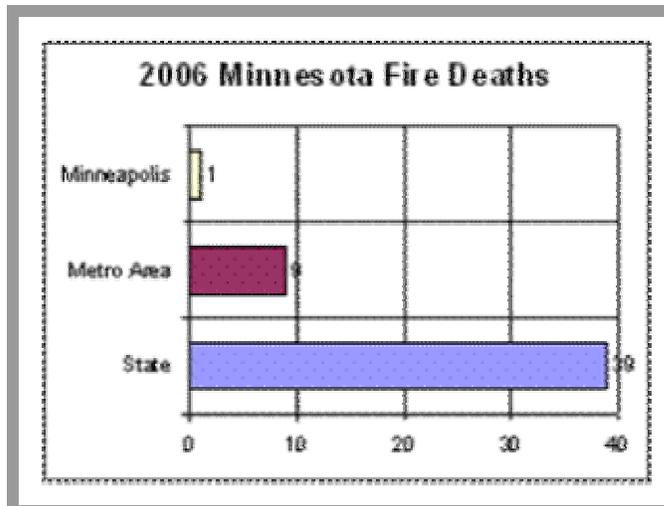
The Ninth Ward office will announce public hearings and coordinate lobbying throughout the session. "We need to share our experiences with state legislators this year and demand action," said Hassan Mian, Ninth Ward legislative coordinator.

Council Member Schiff and Bill Ziegler, executive director of Little Earth of United Tribes testified on Thursday in favor of [House file 49](#), authored by Rep. John Lesch to help protect neighborhoods from gang recruitment. The bill will be considered as part of the House omnibus crime bill.



Bill Ziegler and Council Member Schiff use photos of gang graffiti while testifying for new anti-gang legislation at the Capitol.

Minneapolis fire death rate among nation's lowest



According to the [Minnesota Fire Marshal](#), in 2006 Minneapolis had only one fire death, one of the lowest fire death rates in the nation per capita for a major city.

"Residents of Minneapolis have benefited from a strong focus on fire prevention over the last several years. Efforts in housing inspections have been especially effective in reducing injuries and deaths from fire," Fire Chief Jim Clack said. "Our firefighters are focused on getting to every 911 call within three

minutes. Residents should take comfort in the knowledge that we have one of the most professional and effective fire departments in the nation."

Also Friday, Chief Clack was officially appointed Fire Chief. Clack has been with the Minneapolis Fire Department for over 20 years. He began his career as a firefighter, working his way up through the ranks. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Fire Administration from Southwest State University and completed a short course education program for Government Managers from St Thomas University.

Tenants testify about heat shutoffs

The City Council's Public Safety and Regulatory Services committee heard from tenants about heat shutoffs and slow city response time at a special hearing called by Council Member Schiff this week.

"No one should have to live a week without heat, and the landlords that cause constant complaints must face tougher consequences," Schiff said. The City hopes stories from tenants will help streamline city response and help draft new legislation to get tougher on landlords whose buildings cause repeat violations. Both [Fox-9](#) (follow the green link that says "video stories") and [WCCO](#) television covered the hearing.



Jessica, 7, stands next to an ice cold radiator.

Police seek community ideas to address crime

The Minneapolis Police Department is requesting suggestions on how the MPD and the community might address community crime concerns. [Click here](#) for a police survey to express your opinion on what the police can do about graffiti, pedestrian lighting, better communication, and other issues. "We want to identify what the neighborhood's concerns are, but we're also looking for creative solutions," Crime Prevention Specialist Karen Notsch says. Survey's should be returned by Saturday, March 10, and can be submitted to CPS Karen Notsch via [e-mail](#), fax: (612) 673-3563, or regular mail (Third Precinct MPD, 3000 Minnehaha Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55406).

Celebrate Chinese New Year at Midtown Global Market



Celebrate Chinese New Year on the seventh day of the Year of the Pig, February 24, 2007 at [Midtown Global Market](#) (920 East Lake Street) from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. The event is sponsored by United Noodles Grocery and features appetizers, a traditional dragon dance and a kung fu demonstration to welcome the Year of the Pig.

Chinese New Year is the longest and most important celebration in the [Chinese calendar](#). The Chinese year 4705 begins on February 18, 2007, the first day of the New Year containing a new moon and ends on the [Lantern Festival](#) fourteen days later.