

Ward 11 Newsletter

Council Member Scott Benson

December 2006

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2007 City Budget

The Minneapolis City Council adopted the 2007 budget. Significant increases in Public Safety funding are central to this budget. The new Public Safety money will allow the city to:

- Hire 43 new police officers – a restoration of the police force to the same number before state budget cuts began in 2003.
- Dedicate \$2 million over the next two years to public safety technology such as safe-zone cameras, shot-spotter, and squad car video.
- Expand funding for community prosecutors in police precincts to increase convictions.
- Increase support for proven community-based youth crime prevention grants.
- Expand and improve coordination of graffiti removal, enforcement and education.
- Hire a police department finance administrator to ensure strong financial management in the police department, allowing police leadership to focus on crime-fighting strategy.

One of the most talked about provisions of the budget was library funding. The budget adds an additional \$1.2 million of one-time “bridge funding” on top of the \$24 million already in the budget for city libraries. This one time funding will allow the City Council and the Library Board to jointly develop a long term strategy for adequately nurturing a world class library system. The first steps of that strategy includes

- Lobbying the legislature to restore the cuts in local government aid that are at the core of this problem.
- Working with the Library Board’s Advisory Committee addressing long-term solutions.
- Working with the Hennepin County task force examining the role Hennepin County can play in funding and governing city libraries.
- Exploring structural library governance issues, including whether the libraries should become a city department.

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Important Phone Numbers

Ward 11 office
673-2211



City's Community Engagement report available for public comment

In May 2006, the Minneapolis City Council directed staff to review and summarize previously documented feedback, reports and recommendations on the City's current community engagement system and activities.

The initial [report](#) has been presented to the City Council's Ways and Means Committee and is now available for public review and comment before it is discussed by the full City Council. The [report](#) is being distributed to neighborhood groups and other organizations referenced in the report, including official City boards, commissions and jurisdictional partners. The City Council plans to discuss the Community Engagement report early in 2007. As a result, written **comments must be received by Thursday February 8, 2007.**

Please submit comments to Clara Perrin, Community Engagement Coordinator, 301M City Hall, 350 S. 5th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55415; by fax to (612) 673-2011; or by e-mail to: clara.perrin@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

The Full report is available at:

http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/docs/CE_Report_final.pdf

Get Fit Twin Cities

January 10 – May 10, 2007

Get Fit Twin Cities is a fun, team-based fitness challenge designed to jump start healthy habits that will help adults feel better, look better and live longer, healthier lives.

Teams of 2-10 adults register in the Minutes of Activity Division and/or the Weight Loss Division. Each participant receives a Get Fit Passport to access free or reduced-fee fitness opportunities at area locations. All teams are eligible for incentives and prizes.

Family members, friends and co-workers are encouraged to join. A free toolkit makes Get Fit Twin Cities easy to implement in worksites. Registration is \$5; the first 10,000 people who live or work in Minneapolis/Saint Paul are free. Registration information will be available in mid-December at www.getfittwincities.org.

For more information, e-mail info@getfittwincities.org or call (612) 673-3485.

Get Fit Twin Cities is a program of the Steps to a Healthier Minneapolis/Saint Paul, the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul and their many community partners.



46th St BRT Station Transit User Group

Metro Transit is interested in recruiting a few residents to serve on a Transit User Group to discuss the service planning and function of the new station, its north/south service along the I-35W corridor and east/west service on 46th Street.

Voting members of the Transit User Group are appointed by the neighborhood associations, Council Members Benson and Glidden, and two others selected at the first meeting. If you are a transit user and interested in serving as Council Member Benson's appointee to this group, please contact John at 673-2211.

The kick-off meeting for this project will be January 23rd, 7:00 PM, at Field School. The meeting will include an overview of the station project and an introduction to the public involvement. Future meetings of the Transit User Group will be on the 4th Tuesday of the month in February-May 2007. Interested transit users are encouraged to attend the kick-off meeting or send a letter of interest if they are unable to attend.

November Crime Statistics

NEIGHBORHOOD	TOTAL	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Theft	Motor Vehicle	Arson
Diamond Lake	22			2	2	10	8		
Field	8						6	2	
Hale	6					1	3	2	
King Field	27			4		9	7	7	
Northrup	18					11	5	2	
Page	3				1		2		
Tangletown	21		1	1	1	3	11	3	1
Wenonah	18			2		10	5	1	
Windom	17			1	1	3	8	4	

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

<p>Field Regina Northrop FRNNG.org Meets Third Wednesday 6:30 PM Lake Nokomis Presb.</p>	<p>Hale Page Diamond Lake HPDL.org Meets Fourth Monday 7:00 PM Emmanuel United Methodist 5144 13th Ave S</p>	<p>Kingfield Kingfield.org Meets Second Wednesday 7:00 PM Martin Luther King Park 4055 Nicollet Ave S</p>
<p>NENA Nokomiseast.org Meets Fourth Thursday 7:00 PM NENA Office</p>	<p>Tangletown Tangletown.org Meets Third Monday 7:00 PM Fuller Community Center</p>	<p>Windom Windomcommunity.org Meets Second Thursday 7:00 PM Windom Community Center</p>

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

Jan 4	Sister's Sludge 4557 Bloomington	Mar 1	Mike's Corner Store 5601 Chicago Ave
Feb 1	Anodyne @ 43rd 4301 Nicollet	Apr 5	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.

[Minneapolis Arts Commission Vacancy \(closes 12/15/2006\)](#)

[Youth Violence Prevention Steering Committee Vacancy \(closes 12/22/2006\)](#)

[Senior Citizen Advisory Committee \(closes 1/31/2007\)](#)

[Minneapolis Private Industry/Workforce Council \(PIWC\) \(closes 1/12/2007\)](#)

[Latino Advisory Committee to the Mayor and City Council \(closes 1/15/2007\)](#)

For more information:

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