

Ward 11 Newsletter

Council Member Scott Benson

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Airport Update

Recognizing the impact that airport noise has on your daily life, we wanted to update you on the progress the City is making in its attempt to obtain noise abatement insulation for homes in your area. We are also writing to enlist your support in the City's effort to boost visibility of this issue in the court of public opinion.

As you may know, the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) promised in 1996 to expand its sound insulation program to Minneapolis homeowners experiencing noise levels above 60 DNL (day/night noise level). In exchange, the impacted cities did not take steps to block MAC's runway expansion plan. In 2004, MAC reneged on its promise and announced it would not insulate homes and, instead, would pay only part of the cost of air conditioning homes. That prompted the City of Minneapolis—along with Richfield and Eagan—to file a lawsuit demanding that MAC comply with the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act and make good on its original commitment to provide a full noise mitigation package to homes within the airport's 60 - 64 DNL area.

On January 25th, Judge Stephen Aldrich ruled in favor of the cities on some important points. His ruling is a significant victory, finding that the MAC committed to provide mitigation to the 60-64 DNL contours to the same level as the 65 DNL and greater contours and that the MAC's commitment to provide sound insulation is enforceable as an environmental standard. He further stated that, ***"This court cannot allow the MAC to receive the benefits of a long fought over public bargain and then abandon its repeated commitments upon which so many people have relied."*** The full trial is scheduled to start February 20th.

While this ruling is good news, we still face an uphill battle. On Feb 7th, MAC granted the airlines \$290 million in rate and rent relief rather than use these funds for noise abatement. Bottom line: lawyers can't do it all. We need your help to keep this issue in the public eye!

For our grass-roots mobilization to be effective, we need to reach you and your neighbors quickly and without the cost of printing and postage. To make that possible, please take a few minutes to sign up for our airport noise e-mail initiative. To do this, simply send a message to Council Member Benson at "scott.benson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us with the subject line, airport update. In exchange, we promise to use your e-mail address *only* for the purpose of airport noise mitigation and to -

- Send you periodic updates concerning the lawsuit's progress
- Notify you of upcoming meetings concerning MAC proceedings
- Inform you of legislative initiatives or pending votes which might impact MAC's plans.

In turn, we ask you to exert pressure in the court of public opinion. We need you to voice your concerns at public meetings, write letters to the editor, and contact your state and federal legislators prior to key votes. Public pressure is crucial to our effort to resolve this issue! Please help us by enrolling in our e-mail notification campaign today.

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Important Phone Numbers

Ward 11 office
673-2211



311 Website

When the City of Minneapolis launched 311 in 2006, it made it easier than ever for folks to access City services and information. Now 311 is now becoming more than just a phone number. By visiting <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/311/>, residents and visitors can submit service requests to the City through 311 without even picking up the phone!

Dozens of service requests are already available on 311's Web site, and the number is growing all the time. The forms help people report or request a wide range of things, including:

- Pothole reporting
- Traffic sign and signal repair requests
- Graffiti reporting
- Street light repair requests
- Parking meter repair request
- Animal control complaints
- Abandoned vehicle complaints

Service requests are sent directly to the relevant City departments. When you submit a request, you are given an estimate of how long the problem will take to fix and a tracking number so you can follow up on the request if you like.

Preparation for Pandemic Flu Outbreak

In early November, representatives from various City departments tested the plan to maintain essential City functions in the case of a pandemic flu outbreak. The plan specifically focuses on the City's ability to maintain police, fire, animal control, water supply and sanitation functions with the assumption of a 40 percent decrease in its workforce.

The exercise was coordinated by the Continuity of Operations Task Force that includes representatives from various City departments. The task force will incorporate changes to the plan based on findings from the November test, then repeat the exercise in February with department heads who will explore methods for communicating between departments and transferring employees to essential positions. For more information, contact Pam Blixt at (612) 673-3933.

December Crime Statistics

NEIGHBORHOOD	TOTAL	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Theft	Motor Vehicle	Arson
Diamond Lake	9				1	4	1	3	
Field	9			1		1	7		
Hale	6					3	2	1	
King Field	34			1	3	11	13	6	
Northrup	12				1	5	4	2	
Page	4			2		1		1	
Tangletown	15			4	1	2	4	3	1
Wenonah	7			1	1	3	1	1	
Windom	21			1	2	5	10	3	

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

Mar 1	Mike's Corner Store 5601 Chicago Ave	May 3	Sister's Sludge 4557 Bloomington
Apr 5	Betsy's Backporch 5447 Nicollet Ave S	June 7	Anodyne @ 43rd 4301 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 Charter Commission \(closes 2/16/07\)](#)

[Latino Advisory Committee to the Mayor and City Council \(closes 2/16/2007\)](#)

[Minneapolis Telecommunications Network \(MTN\) \(Closes 2-9-07\)](#)

[Minneapolis Public Housing Authority \(closes 2/16/2007\)](#)

[Senior Citizen Advisory Committee \(closes 2/23/2007\)](#)

For more information:

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