



Ninth Ward E-News

From Minneapolis City Council Member Gary Schiff
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward9

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City Council Forwards Instant Run-Off Voting Charter Amendment

The Minneapolis City Council [voted last Friday](#) to submit to the voters a charter amendment to use [Instant Runoff Voting](#) (IRV) for city elections. It will appear as a question on the November 7, 2006 ballot. "IRV is a chance for Minneapolis to lead the way nationally in changing the tone of politics," says Council Member Gary Schiff.

Under instant-runoff voting, the primary election would be eliminated. IRV allows voters to rank candidates in order of preference. If a candidate receives a majority of first choice votes, that candidate wins. If not, a virtual instant runoff election is held and the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated and votes cast for this candidate are transferred to the second choice listed on each ballot. A candidate wins when he or she receives at least 50 percent of the vote.

Representatives from [FairVote Minnesota](#) will be speaking about IRV at the next Breakfast with Gary on Friday June 30, 7:30 a.m. at the Cafe of the Americas, 3019 Minnehaha Ave S.

Project Cease Fire Offers Gun Buy Back Program this Weekend

This Weekend, Project Cease Fire will provide two opportunities for people to turn in unwanted guns for cash. On Friday, June 2nd; from 10 am to 10 pm, people may drop off unwanted guns at Old Broadway Rental Bldg. 2101 W. Broadway, N. Mpls. On Saturday, June 3rd, from 10 am to 10 pm, people may drop off guns at Urban Ventures, 3041 4th Ave., S. Mpls.

Guns must be unloaded and in a clear plastic bag, and there is a four gun per person limit. A Visa gift cards will be given with each gun, with \$50 per revolver and \$75 per semi-automatic weapon.

Police Chief Tim Dolan endorses the program. "Gun violence is harming many of our neighborhood and business communities. Minneapolis citizens can reduce these senseless acts of violence by turning in unwanted weapons. I personally

guarantee that those who turn in weapons will not be identified or fingerprinted. Please join others in our community collaborative to make Minneapolis a safe place for all.”

Minneapolis City Council Sends Message to ICE

On Friday, May 26th, the Minneapolis City Council unanimously passed a [resolution](#) authored by Council Member Schiff urging Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Officials to wear visible identification clearly distinguishing them as Immigration and Customs



Enforcement agents. Co-authored by all Council Members, the resolution is a response to ICE officials wearing jackets that have the word “Police” on them, misleading the public into thinking they were acting as part of the Minneapolis Police Department.

In 2003, Council Member Gary Schiff authored an ordinance reinforcing the separation of the Minneapolis Police Department from federal immigration enforcement. “When residents are confused and misled like this, the Minneapolis Police Department’s ability to protect and serve the people of Minneapolis is damaged,” Council Member Schiff said. The Minneapolis Police Department’s interim Chief, Tim Dolan, supported the resolution.

Legislative success for East Phillips and arts bonding campaigns

Funding for the East Phillips Cultural Center at [East Phillips Park](#) was included in the final State of Minnesota [2006 bonding bill](#), signed officially today by Governor Pawlenty. Currently, Phillips is one of the only Minneapolis neighborhoods with no current park building. “The Cultural Center is key to our anti-crime strategies and will provide a great opportunity for kids in Phillips to take part in after-school programs” said Council Member Gary Schiff.

[The Shubert Theater](#) was also approved for funding. The Legislature approved \$11 million in bonding to help build the new center for dance in downtown Minneapolis. The Minnesota Shubert Center will consist of the 1910 Shubert Theater and the 1888 Hennepin Center for the Arts, and a new addition that will connect the two older buildings. The Center will be a performing home for more than 20 Minnesota arts

organizations, including all the area's major dance companies. An additional \$5 million was approved for the new [MacPhail Center](#) for Music.

2006 Transit Funding in the bonding bill included \$60 million for the completion of the [Northstar Commuter Rail](#), \$3.3 million for [I-35W Bus Rapid Transit](#) stations, and \$7.8 million to engineer the [Central Corridor](#) transit way between the two downtowns.

The [School Board Governance Reform bill](#) sponsored by [Representative Jim Davnie](#) and [Senator Wes Skoglund](#) passed the House unanimously after having passed the Senate. The bill is modeled on the way Park Board commissioners are elected, moving the Board from a seven member board elected at large to a nine member board with six members elected by district and three at large. The reform would not take effect until the 2008 school board elections at the earliest and then only after either the Board approves this reform or puts it to the voters.

Metro Paint-a-Thon Taking Applications for Seniors

The Metro Paint-A-Thon, a program of the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches will be painting homes on August 5-6, 2006 for low-income senior or disabled homeowners. They are accepting [Homeowner applications](#) (and ignore the deadline)

for this free service that revitalizes neighborhoods and keeps seniors living independently. You can [email Deidre Pope](#) with questions or for more information.

Some of the eligibility requirements are: you must be the owner and occupant of a single-family home. Your home and/or garage must be in one of the following counties: Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, Washington. Your house must be in need of paint, but not major repair. You must be over the age of 60 OR permanently physically disabled (if under 60). Your monthly income must not exceed \$1600 per month (for one person in the home) or \$2,140 (for two people in the home).



Since 1994, volunteers have painted over 5,500 homes