Sixth Ward E-News

From Minneapolis City Council Member Robert Lilligren
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward6

June 1, 2006

Contact Robert!

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Inspections

Report Graffiti

Animal Control

Public Works

311

Need to report a broken street light? Is there a stray dog roaming your neighborhood? Do you just want a question about the City of Minneapolis answered? Minneapolis 311 can help.

Just call 3·1·1 weekdays from 7:00 AM to 11:00 PM and a 311 agent will assist you.

New Alley Ordinance Proposed

At the May 26th Council Meeting, Council Member Paul Ostrow moved to introduce for Council Member Lilligren (who is recovering from surgery) a motion to introduce the subject matter of enacting Title 15, Offenses – Miscellaneous, Chapter 385, In General, Section 385.85 Use of Alleys by Pedestrians of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances, to prohibit use of alleys for through pedestrian traffic, except for abutting property owners, tenants, their guests and invitees, law enforcement personnel, emergency medical or fire personnel, persons performing public service activities or inspections, and persons performing services for public or private utility, garbage collection, or communication companies.

In short, the motivation behind the ordinance is two-fold: (1) to increase the safety of persons who use alleys (because there is a safety risk due to motor vehicle traffic in the alleys, some of which proceeds at speeds much higher than 10 miles per hour); and (2) to increase public safety and aid law enforcement (alleys are easy targets for criminal activity, such as graffiti, drug-related traffic, use of guns, and many other crimes).

The motion will be discussed in the upcoming weeks at the Public Safety/Regulatory Services committee (no date set at time of press).

Instant Runoff Voting to be on November Ballot

In a bold step forward for democracy, the Minneapolis City Council today voted to submit to the voters a charter amendment to use Instant Runoff Voting (Single Transferable Vote) for city elections. It will appear as a question on the November 7, 2006 ballot. (Go to council agenda http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2006-meetings/20060526/Council20060526agendax.asp#TopofPage. Scroll down to Intergovernmental Relations.)

The nearly unanimous (11-1) vote was unexpected and is testimony to the depth and breadth of the educational and organizing effort of the Better Ballot Campaign, backed by a coalition of 40+ community organizations and 40+ elected Minneapolis leaders. A few council members, whose support came unexpectedly, said that while they still had concerns and unanswered questions, the strong grassroots

expression of interest motivated them to move the question forward for public debate and a decision by the voters. (excerpt from http://www.betterballotcampaign.org/node/346)

For more information on Instate Runoff Voting go to http://www.betterballotcampaign.org

2400 Block of Stevens Gets New Streets Lights

As a condition of their expansion, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts will be installing six pedestrian levels lights along the 2400 Block of Stevens. The Minneapolis Institute of Arts will be paying for these lights. There will be NO assessments to property owners.

City Expands Graffiti Removal Program

The City Council approved $350,000 in March to expand graffiti services. Last year the City started free clean up on painted surfaces, the additional services will coordinate removal of graffiti from properties with sensitive surfaces (brick, metal and stucco) and graffiti more than eight feet above ground level. Under the expanded program, properties owners will be notified of graffiti and the need for removal. After ten days, if property owners do not remove the graffiti, the City of Minneapolis will remove the graffiti, and place a layer of protective covering. Property owners will be assessed for the cost. Gang graffiti is a public safety threat. If it isn't cleaned up quickly, rival gangs will add to the problem, and more neighbors are affected. To report graffiti, **please call 311.**

Upcoming Events in Ward 6

To add an event in Ward 6, please send an email to tiffany.green@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Midtown Exchange Grand Opening June 3, 2006 (Saturday) 10am-4pm @ Chicago and Lake. For more information go to http://www.midtowncommunityworks.org/exchange/
(Across the street from the ward BUT THIS WAS A MAJOR PROJECT OF COUNCILMEMBER LILLIGREN during his last term.)

RED HOT ART 2006: Outdoor Community Art Festival in Stevens Square Park
(1801 Stevens Ave, Minneapolis, MN)
Visual Art, Performances, Film, Public Art, Interactive Art Activities
Saturday, June 3, 2006; 11 AM-7 PM
Sunday, June 4, 2006; 11 AM-5 PM
(Kick Off Party – Friday, June 2 – 7-11 PM at SSCA, 1905 Third Ave S, Minneapolis)

Minneapolis Institute of Arts GRAND OPENING
Sunday, June 11 is our big Grand Opening. There will be events at the museum and in Washburn Fair Oaks Park throughout the day.

- Things begin with an all-you-can-eat Pancake breakfast at 9:00 AM in Target Park. Tickets for this are $5 and are available at the event. Musical entertainment will be by Nachito Herrera, playing Cuban jazz.
- At 11:00 AM we will cut the ribbon the new Target wing!
- From 11:00 - 5:00 the museum will be open. The permanent collection is free everyday, but to celebrate the opening, our new special exhibition "The Surreal Calder" will also have free admission. Members will have a special cafe available and gifts, so please bring your member card!
- Also from 11:00 - 5:00, there will be 4 stages with musical performances in the park. Performers include jazz, drums, accordions, flamenco and orchestras. There will also be events and activities for children including the Silly Sisters, butterfly rides, magicians, tumbling workshops and interactive art projects. All these events are free and open to everyone. Again, more information is available on the website.
- Food vendors from Eat Street will be there to tempt you with their offerings. And the Whittier Alliance will be raising money by selling beverages.

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