

12TH WARD UPDATE

Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy

September 2004

Sign up for the monthly Update by sending an e-mail to: Sandra.Colvin.Roy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Photo Cop

Residents of the 12th Ward are often concerned about traffic issues in their neighborhood. Whether it is speeding, stop sign running or other violations, the difficulty is always finding enough enforcement to really affect dangerous driving behavior. A Police Department proposal to make our streets safer has my support and appears to have enough support on the full City Council to be in place by 2005. Photo Cop uses cameras and sensors at signalized intersections to catch drivers who ignore the red light, creating a dangerous situation for pedestrians and other drivers. Other cities with similar systems saw red light violations between 34% and 42% at intersections with the cameras drop. At least 21 states and cities such as New York, San Francisco, and Phoenix use camera enforcement. I support photo cop because it is a good investment in public safety and is a smart way to use our resources.

Medicinal Marijuana

The topic of medicinal marijuana was brought to the City Council in late August by a group who want to put a charter amendment on the ballot. Despite my belief that marijuana, has legitimate medicinal value, I voted with a majority of my colleagues to not put the amendment on the ballot this fall.

A lot of medical evidence indicates that marijuana has the ability to help people who are suffering from painful disease, particularly cancer. It is distressing that people who could find relief thru the benefits of the drug are being denied, but the decision to make its use for medicinal purposes legal is not up to the City Council.

A clear opinion from the City Attorney states that Minneapolis may refuse to place an amendment question on the ballot if it finds that the proposed amendment conflicts with Federal or Minnesota law. The proposed charter amendment itself recognizes that establishing medicinal marijuana distribution centers is in conflict with current state and federal laws. It is not the role of our charter, and in fact is constitutionally impossible, for us to go against state and federal law. For these reasons, I voted not to put the charter amendment on the ballot.

This petition was about establishing distribution centers *if the federal or state government were to legalize marijuana*. I support federal legalization of medicinal marijuana, an important issue to many citizens whose loved ones are suffering, but I will not support misuse of our city charter.

Nokomis Library Fundraiser a Success

Congratulations to all the volunteers who gave their time, money and stuff to this great event. The Nokomis Library Community Yard Sale raised \$5,081 in one day. Thrivent Financial Services for Lutherans will be adding \$1,000 to that total.

I35W/Crosstown Not Delayed by Mpls Denying Municipal Consent is the only way we can say yes to a highway project that creates more room for cars AND more room for transit and carpooling.

Part of the process to reconstruct any highway, including the I35W/Crosstown, is called Municipal Consent. The intent of this law is to allow communities who are absorbing the impacts of highway expansion to have a voice during the design of the project. The State statute specifically states that consent should be granted only if a city endorses **all aspects** of the project, and it does not allow the possibility of saying “yes” to the project with details to be worked out later. The City is representing the interests of its residents when we vote on Friday to tell MnDOT that we will not consent without expanded transportation options (bus rapid transit, supported by elected officials all the way out to Lakeville) and better environmental remediation.

Minneapolis is not causing a delay to the project, scheduled to be bid in 2006, and we are encouraging MnDOT to expedite the next steps in the project.

The next step is up to the MnDOT Commissioner, who can agree with all or a portion of the city’s suggestions, or ask for the appeal (does not include court.) A major point to remember is that the additional 35W lanes thru the Crosstown end at 42nd Street, moving the bottleneck into our city. And all of the extra freeway capacity will bring cars into a downtown that has no extra capacity, so we have to plan for moving some extra people without cars.

There is time for MnDOT to come to the table and work with Minneapolis on a project that will give commuters a choice, a project that doesn’t result in a freeway choked with cars in the middle of our city, a project that is not congested on the day it is opened.

EVENTS & SPECIAL MEETINGS

SENA Annual Meeting

Monday, September 13th, 6:30 p.m.
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 4000 28th Ave. S

NENA Town Meeting – LRT Parking Issues

Thursday, September 16, 7 p.m.
Nokomis Community Center

Danebo Senior Housing Annual Friends & Family Festival

Saturday, September 18, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
3030 West River Parkway South

LCC General Membership Meeting

The Future of Our Neighborhood's Parks
Wednesday, September 22, 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
Carpenter's Union Hall, 4023 East Lake Street

SENA Traffic Issues Neighborhood Meeting

Tuesday, September 28th, 7 p.m.
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 4000 28th Ave. S

MONTHLY NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

LCC Board Meeting

Longfellow Park
September 16, 7:00 p.m.
For more information, visit www.longfellow.org

NENA Board Meeting

3000 East 50th Street
September 23, 7:00 p.m.
For more information, visit www.nokomiseast.org

Participate in School Closing Discussion

Minneapolis Public School administrators, teachers and students, along with residents are currently discussing big issues like diversity, achievement, choice, and the purpose of schools in order to create a facilities plan we can afford. We all have a stake in public education. Please take some time to express your views:

- ◆ 9/13/04 – 6 to 8 p.m. (Parents/Families)
Hiawatha Rec Center – 4220 44th Avenue S
- ◆ 9/14/04 – 4 to 6 p.m. (School Staff)
Nokomis Library – 5100 34th Ave. S
- ◆ 9/23/04 – 6 to 8 p.m. (Students)
Nokomis Library – 5100 34th Ave. S

Take Advantage of the Solid Waste & Recycling Website

The city's Solid Waste & Recycling page (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/solid-waste/>) has a wealth of information about the services provided, including a recycling calendar that gives scheduling information by address.

- ◆ **Yard Waste pick up ends the week of November 15, 2004.** Please be sure to review our [Yard Waste pickup and disposal information](#) to learn what to do with yard waste from November 14 until spring pickup.
- ◆ **NEW Recycling Calendar** - your recycling schedule ONLINE. [Recycling Calendar](#).
- ◆ **Coming soon** - We are updating our "What to do with?" page. It will contain a list of everything you could possibly want to get rid of.
- ◆ **Clean out your clutter!** The **Free Market** is a quick, easy and free way to find someone who will take it off your hands. <http://www.twincitiesfreemarket.org/>
- ◆ **Recycle your technology Hardware**-Don't throw it away...<http://www.officedepot.com/recycle>

Applications Being Taken For Police Department Citizens Academy

Have you wondered what it means to "walk the beat" as a Minneapolis Police Officer? If so, the Minneapolis Police Department's Citizens Academy may be for you. This 10-week (11-session) course which begins on Mon., Sept. 13 is open to Minneapolis residents and City employees and will give participants an inside view of the types of training police officers receive to serve and protect the community.

Minneapolis residents and City employees are welcome to attend the Academy. There is no charge and the course is limited to 15 - 25 participants. Applicants will need to pass a criminal background check. Complete and submit an application by Friday, Sept. 3, to:

Lt. M. Przynski,
MPD Professional Development Unit
350 S. 5th Street, Rm CH #310 ½,
Minneapolis, MN 55415.

The Citizens Academy will meet at the Fifth Precinct, 3101 Nicollet Avenue from 6 - 9 p.m. on Monday evenings, Sept. 13 - Nov. 15, 2004. There is one Saturday class in this series, tentatively scheduled for Sept. 23.

For more information on the Citizens Academy or to receive an application by mail, call MPD Professional Development Unit's Sgt. Mike Chiappetta at (612) 673-2862 or Lt. Marie Przynski, at (612) 673-3422.