

# 5<sup>th</sup> Ward News

HARRISON, JORDAN, NEAR NORTH, SUMNER-GLENWOOD, NORTH LOOP, WILLARD-HAY

From Council Member Don Samuels

OCTOBER 2009



## 5<sup>TH</sup> WARD NEIGHBORHOOD ORGANIZATIONS

### Harrison Neighborhood Association (HNA)

503 Irving Avenue North  
Suite 100  
Minneapolis, MN 55405  
612.374.4849

### Heritage Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA)

612.664.8195

### Jordan Area Community Council (JACC)

2009 James Ave North  
Minneapolis, MN 55411  
612.353.5601

### North Loop Neighborhood Association

P.O. Box 582178  
Minneapolis, MN 55458-2178  
612.339.3904

### Northside Residents Redevelopment Council (NRRC)

1500 Golden Valley Road  
Minneapolis, MN 55411  
612.335.5924

### Old Highland Organization

[www.oldhighland.org](http://www.oldhighland.org)  
[info@oldhighland.org](mailto:info@oldhighland.org)

### Willard-Homewood Organization-

[www.willard-homewood.org](http://www.willard-homewood.org)  
[info@willard-homewood.org](mailto:info@willard-homewood.org)

The Office of Council Member Don Samuels publishes an electronic newsletter to keep you up to date on what is happening in the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward.

If you would like to receive this newsletter please send an email to [monique.cuff@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:monique.cuff@ci.minneapolis.mn.us) and put the words **NEWSLETTER** in the subject line.

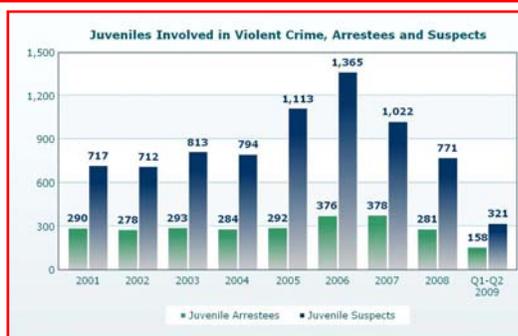
## Public Safety Still Minneapolis' Core Task

"Economic development curbs crime and crime cures economic development;" so the saying goes. And it is proving out here in the 5<sup>th</sup> Ward, as the crime on Broadway and Plymouth is receding and being replaced by exciting development.

The most promising aspect of our crime reduction is that, unlike other cities, our reductions are not 2009 phenomena. Crime has been down here 3 years in a row, promising a new sustainable way of life. By staying the course we will become the safest city of our size in the nation with the safest inner city community.

It has not been easy getting to where we are today. It's has taken a joint effort of Police, Regulatory Services, youth providers, schools, businesses, engaged citizens and others. But while we take a minute to celebrate, we must not settle for the current gains of safety and economic development, but demand more.

As we work toward that goal, we will also work to convince all of our police officers to have a positive and respectful relationship with the community. We are working to end police brutality and replace it with a new perception of law enforcement by our young people.

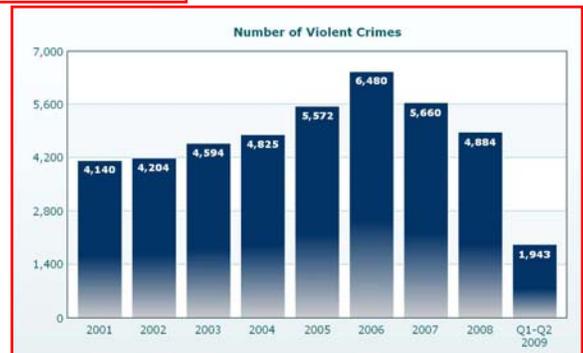


## MPD Juvenile Violent Crime Graph 2001-2009

For more details go to:  
[www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/results/publicsafety.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/results/publicsafety.asp)

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## Crime at Lowest Level in Years

*(This article is based on the MPD 6 month report presented last month to the city council .)*

According to the 6 month report from the Minneapolis Police Department; for the 3rd straight year crime in Minneapolis is on the decline, and it's falling to the lowest level in years. Violent crime rates, half-way through the year are at the lowest level in eight years and the city's homicide rate is the lowest in 25 years.

Through June, citywide violent crime is nearly 17 percent lower than this point in 2008, nearly 28 percent lower



than in 2007, and nearly 39 percent lower than in 2006. Violent crime in Minneapolis is more than 20 percent lower than it was ten years ago.

There have been 6 homicides recorded January through June 2009, a 66 percent drop from 18 homicides at this point in 2008, a 76 percent drop from 26 homicides in 2007, and an 81 percent drop from 32 homicides in 2006. *(At the time of going to press, there have only been 16 homicides citywide and 7 in North Minneapolis.)*. The last time that the homicide rate was this low was 1984.

Other types of violent crime—robbery and aggravated assaults—have seen double-digit percentage reductions every year for five straight years in a row.

For the first time since 2001, none of the homicides in Minneapolis were of a juvenile. *(There has been 1 juvenile homicide since the writing of this report.)* The number of juveniles arrested for violent crime is 15 percent lower than it was five years ago and nearly 44 percent lower than ten years ago.

***Crime rates have fallen most dramatically in the 4th Precinct in north Minneapolis, where violent crime is down nearly 42 percent in 2009 compared to this point just 3 years ago.***

Along with violent crimes, “livability” crimes have consistently fallen over the past decade. Part 2 crimes last year were 22 percent lower than in 2001 and 13 percent lower than in 2006.

Minneapolis has focused on proactive policing, targeting the most violent criminals and reducing youth violence to drive down crime rates, and that work is paying off.

You can see these recent public safety numbers on the Web. In the ongoing effort to have a results-focused, accountable and transparent local government, the City created Results Minneapolis: a place where public safety data and other City performance information is available online. Check it out at: [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/results](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/results).

## NLC honors Blueprint for Action

The City of Minneapolis received national recognition for its “Blueprint for Action” plan that works to address the root causes of violence and significantly reduce youth violence in Minneapolis. In its report, *The State of City Leadership*, the National League of Cities applauded Minneapolis for its efforts and calls this program one of the nation’s three most innovative city models for preventing youth violence.

The report also states that “Minneapolis has successfully reframed youth violence as a public health issue through an extensive process of planning and community engagement which has united and galvanized community leaders and residents around a broader vision of youth violence prevention.”



Since 2007, juvenile crime has declined by 29 percent throughout the City, and 37 percent since 2006. What’s more, in four of the five target neighborhoods, youth violence was down by an average of 39 percent since 2007 and 43 percent since 2006. for information about the Blueprint for action go to [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/yv.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/yv.asp)

## Bike Cops for Kids Reach Out to Youth in North Minneapolis



Don Samuels joins Officer Mike Kirchen (left) and One Man Minneapolis winner Mark Klukow before their shift in North Minneapolis.

This year, the MPD Juvenile Unit, in an effort to highlight their core belief that prevention works when it comes to juvenile justice and crime reduction, initiated the "Bike Cops for Kids" program. Officers Mark Klukow and Mike Kirchen, working on bike patrol in North Minneapolis, used this program as a way to connect with kids in their community.

The program, funded by the The Ciresi Foundation, PEACE Foundation, Bell Bike Supplies, North Memorial Medical Center and Penn Cycle distributed 400 bike helmets, bike supplies, and 30 brand new bikes to youth in North Minneapolis and hopefully made the summer memorable for hundreds of kids.

The officers conducted "spontaneous" bike rodeos



throughout the Northside Achievement Zone (NAZ) with kids in their neighborhoods.

During these rodeos, the kids learned bike safety, simple maintenance tips, and spent some quality time with a trusted adult who happen to be police officers. They also got a free helmet with "Bike Cops for Kids" stickers on them. Bikes were also given away as prizes to those participants who continued to wear their bike helmets and practice bike safety.

You can follow the experiences of officer Klukow and Kirchen on their web-blog at: <http://bikecopsforkids.blogspot.com/>.

## Keep Your Home & Family Safe – Install & Inspect Smoke Detectors

Daylight-saving time ends Saturday, Nov. 2 and you get an extra hour to do something that could keep you and your family safe. Minneapolis Emergency Preparedness would like to remind you that as you switch your clocks over, make it a point to **change the batteries in your home smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors and emergency flashlights.**

According to the National Fire Protection Association, although 96 percent of American homes have smoke alarms, 19 percent (or about 25 million homes) do not have a working smoke alarm, mostly due to dead or missing batteries.

Also, Minnesota has a

carbon monoxide alarm law that requires carbon monoxide alarms in all single-family homes, and in all residential construction built after Jan. 1, 2007. Multi-family dwellings must have carbon monoxide alarms installed as well. In rental situations, the landlord is responsible for installation and the tenant is responsible for maintenance.

Other ideas to keep your home safe from fire include:

- Don't leave your stove unattended when you are making dinner. Never pour water on a grease fire! If you can do it safely, turn off the burner and cover the burning pan with a lid or a wet cloth.
- Make sure that your home isn't at risk for a fire. Complete NFPA's *Fire Inspection Checklist* at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).



- Develop a home escape plan and practice it regularly with your family.

Prevention and fire preparedness is the key to keeping your home and family safe.

For more information go to: [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/fire/index.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/fire/index.asp)

Don Samuels  
5th Ward City Council  
City Hall, Room 307  
350 South Fifth Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55415  
612.673.2205  
Don.samuels@ci.minneapolis.mn.us  
www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward5

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*From Council Member Don Samuels*



## Block Clubs Help Create Safe Neighborhoods

*By Tim Hammett/ Crime Prevention Specialist*

Since its inception, the Community Crime Prevention Specialists of the Minneapolis Police Department has worked to establish block clubs throughout the city. Studies have shown that block clubs are one of the most effective tools available to citizens in reducing crime and increasing public safety.

Block clubs provide a way for people to meet each other and build the mutual recognition and trust needed to implement effective crime prevention strategies. They provide a forum to educate, exchange information, keep people informed on neighborhood crime trends. They also help to build healthy

communities, and healthy, engaged communities are much less likely to experience crime in the first place.

Block clubs provide an opportunity for neighbors to get together and have fun. Pot luck dinners, organizing youth activities, street dances, craft or card parties, and talent shows, are just a few examples of social activities that block clubs can do. Block improvements like group litter pick ups, street and alley beautification, community gardening and graffiti removal, are some of the things that block clubs can do to improve their neighborhoods, build community and contribute to crime reduction and increased security.

If you're interested in

getting a block club started, call your local Crime Prevention Specialist and sign-up for Block Leader Training. Then, talk to your neighbors to get them interested. You will probably find that they already are and they're just waiting for someone to take the lead.

For more information on getting started call your local Crime Prevention Specialist. In the 4<sup>th</sup> Precinct call 673-2803 to be connected with the CPS for your area.



*Tim Hammett is a Crime Prevention Specialist in the 5th Ward. Tim has worked as a CPS 12 years*

*Tim and Jennifer Waisanen, the other CPS for the Ward, can be reached at the 4th Precinct—673.2803*