



Ward One Update

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Message from Council Member Kevin Reich

I have had many conversations with Eastside neighbors regarding proposed cuts to firefighter personnel over the past few months. My agreement with your consensus view on the importance of public safety in general and firefighter personnel in particular was the basis for my personal involvement and formal votes in recent decisions on the Fire Department budget.

Some background on this situation: the State of Minnesota's recent budget agreement cut an additional \$23 million from the State-certified amount of Local Government Aid (LGA) from the City of Minneapolis in 2011. Exacerbating the reduction of funds was the late timing due to the State government shutdown. That action forced cuts at a late date and set in motion a priority matrix of cuts that Council had previously put in place. That priority formula would have included \$1.45 million in cuts to the Fire Department. This cut was unacceptable and would have dictated the laying off of 44 firefighters.

Clearly, a change of that magnitude would have been untenable in terms of response times and related staffing issues. The initial budget proposal recommended using \$1.1 million in contingency funds to retain 34 firefighter positions. There was a counter motion that would use contingency funds to prevent all firefighter layoffs. I and seven of my colleagues voted in favor of this proposal, but it was vetoed by the Mayor. A key point stressed by the Mayor was his insistence to not manage the budget with one time cost shifts. This, to me, logically suggested that going through the exercise of finding more permanent cuts could be a way of finding resources to fund all firefighters in a manner consistent with this approach to the budget. This was the basis of my communicating with others who were still poised to uphold the veto and was designed to provide an alternative way to keep firefighters working. At the following meeting on Sept. 2, the effort to override the Mayor's veto failed on the same 8-5 vote. However, the framework for a compromise measure that funded four to five additional firefighter positions through 2012 passed successfully. There was enough money to fund all firefighters for 2011, but wording in the prevailing motion directed those dollars to the 2012 budget.

Moving forward, I authored or supported other measures that should hold the line on staffing levels, including Safer grants (which are similar to the "Clinton Cops" program), additional funds from other departments and eliminating the "Board Up" responsibilities by the Fire Department, which should also further free up firefighters for their primary duties. I have to credit the helpful information that I received from our neighbors who, as firefighters, gave me a good picture of the significance of staffing levels and deployment and other valuable insights that inform my support.

Budget cuts are never easy. However, I am committed to continue to work with my colleagues to ensure that future reductions to the City budget will not impact essential services and public safety. I will take clear stands on these issues and will continue to work on sustainable, structural solutions that best support these positions over time.



Minneapolis Taproom Ordinance

On August 19, 2011, the Minneapolis City Council unanimously passed a new City ordinance that allows breweries to sell pints of beer on-site. The ordinance creates a new type of liquor license, called a taproom license, following a recent change to State law that lifted the restrictions on breweries' ability to sell their product on-site.



The intent of this new ordinance is to remove barriers for new breweries that could potentially bring jobs and development to Minneapolis. Mayor RT Rybak signed the new ordinance in the presence of Omar Ansari, founder and president of Surly Brewing Company of Brooklyn Park, and Ryan Petz and Jim Diley, co-founders of Minneapolis-based Fulton Beer. They were joined by Council Members Kevin Reich and Gary Schiff.

One Minneapolis, One Read

One Minneapolis, *One Read* is a community read initiative that will offer opportunities for shared conversations revolving around "The Grace of Silence", by Minneapolis native and National Public Radio host Michele Norris. This memoir describes the experience of the Norris' as the first black family on their block in a South Minneapolis neighborhood.



On Monday, Oct. 3, Michele Norris joined MPR host Kerri Miller for a discussion of "The Grace of Silence", at the Guthrie. Please visit www.oneminneapolisoneread.com for information and a list of other upcoming *One Read* events.

Last month Council Member Kevin Reich, MPS Board Member Jenny Arneson and Council Member John Quincy (pictured at left with Edison staffer Jill Pohtilla) delivered copies of "The Grace of Silence" to Edison High School.

Pillsbury School Target Makeover

NE Minneapolis' **Pillsbury School** unveiled their new Target School Makeover Library on Sept. 28. This comprehensive and colorful redesign includes 2,000 new books, new computers, iPads, carpet, furniture, shelves and art work to transform an aging facility into a state-of-the-art resource for learning. As an added benefit, Target has launched a school-based food pantry site at the school and has provided each student and his or her siblings with seven books to take home.

Principal Laura Cavender (pictured with CM Reich) and dozens of excited students welcomed Target employees, Minneapolis Public School staff and elected officials to



inaugurate the new library. The library, as well as the food pantry and home libraries that go along with it, are a tremendous asset to the students of Pillsbury School.

Tree Canopy Map

A new mapping study of the Minneapolis tree canopy, made with the latest available technologies including satellite imagery, is now available online. The study finds that nearly 32 percent of Minneapolis is covered in tree canopy, which is greater than previously estimated. Not only is the majority of the city's tree canopy on residential property, but the greatest potential for new tree canopy also lies on residential property. Minneapolis property owners can check the map to find out which privately owned spaces in their communities could make the best use of trees. (Private property owners must not plant trees on boulevards.)

Our tree canopy is an important part of the urban environment. Most people know that trees are important to any city's character, beauty, property values and air quality. Perhaps less intuitive are trees' effects on health, crime and energy consumption. The map can help neighborhoods strategically plan and target resources for the greatest return on investment in our tree canopy, including reduced stormwater runoff and reduced energy consumption.

For more information and to see the map, visit www.minneapolismn.gov/trees.

Commercial Recycling Ordinance

The Most Minneapolis businesses already recycle, but a new ordinance taking effect Sept. 1 requires all businesses in Minneapolis to offer recycling. This expands the same recycling requirement that's already in place for all residential property. For businesses that don't already offer recycling, resources are available to help them set up a new system.

The ordinance puts in place the requirement that all nonresidential properties in Minneapolis that have garbage service will also have recycling service. "Throwing away" trash is expensive. Recycling takes two expensive problems – managing garbage and generating new material - and turns them into each other's solutions.

To help ensure that every property owner is able to offer recycling and comply with the new ordinance, Minneapolis is working with Hennepin County to provide information and technical assistance to those who need it.

Under the new ordinance, businesses are required to provide:

- Regular recycling collection (at least twice a month) for all materials generated onsite deemed recyclable in Minneapolis, including paper, cardboard, metal cans, plastic bottles, and glass bottles and jars.
- Recycling containers.
- Recycling collection and storage areas.
- Written recycling information and instructions sent to tenants and/or employees annually or posted.
- A written recycling plan.

Property owners with questions about this new recycling requirement can call the City of Minneapolis at 311 or (612) 673-3000. Hennepin County also provides technical assistance and education resources at www.hennepin.us/businesswaste.



Many of us are trying to cut back on paper bag use by taking our own bags to the grocery store. If you find that that practice leaves you short of paper bags for separating your recycling, the City of Minneapolis has an alternative for you. You may use wastebaskets, pails or corrugated boxes for separated paper, plastic or cans. *These alternative containers should be 10 gallons or less and there must be a city recycling sticker on at least one side of the container.*

The Ward One office has a supply of recycling stickers, so if you need some, just give us a call at 612-673-2201. We would be happy to mail or drop them off for you.

**First Ward
Neighborhood
Associations**

[Audubon Park
Neighborhood
Association](#)

[Columbia Park
Neighborhood
Association](#)

[Holland Neighborhood
Improvement Association
\(HNIA\)](#)

[Logan Park Neighborhood
Association](#)

[Concerned Citizens of
Marshall Terrace](#)

[Northeast Park
Neighborhood
Association](#)

[Southeast Como
Improvement Association](#)

[Waite Park Community
Council](#)

[Windom Park Citizens in
Action](#)

Minneapolis Boards & Commissions

The volunteer boards and commission members in the City of Minneapolis provide valuable insights, help shape key policy decisions and provide community-based input into administration of services. Applications are now being accepted for openings on a number of open board and commission positions that the City Council and Mayor will appoint this fall. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City. There are currently over 100 open positions on 16 City boards/commissions. Applications began being reviewed Monday, October 3, 2011; however, positions are open until filled. For further information, please visit www.minneapolismn.gov/boards-and-commissions.

New Domain Name for City of Minneapolis

The City of Minneapolis now has a new, more user-friendly web domain name and email protocol. The new domain name – www.minneapolismn.gov – is shorter, easier to remember and more secure. The most significant benefit is that it provides the public with an added reassurance that it is the official City Government site, since only government entities are allowed to have a “dot gov” domain.

The protocol for email will now be name@minneapolismn.gov, as in kevin.reich@minneapolismn.gov. Don’t worry, the old domain name and email addresses will continue to work indefinitely, allowing everyone to make the transition to the new domain name and protocol.

New Homegrown Food Council

Do you have experience growing, processing or distributing food? Would you like to help make our food system more healthy, sustainable and local? If so, there may be a spot for you on the recently created Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council.

The council develops policies and advises elected leaders on ways to get more people in Minneapolis access to locally grown foods. Along with improving how folks can grow food, council members will address other challenges, including distribution, promotion and, of course, consumption.

The Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council will include community members as well as representatives from City government. Applicants should live or work in Minneapolis, and have a passion for getting locally grown produce in the hands and mouths of more people in town. Up to 14 community positions will be filled.

If you’re interested in applying, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/boards-and-commissions, click on “current openings” between October 3 and October 21, then download and complete the application.

Meet with your Council Member

If you would like to discuss an issue or concern with Kevin, he'd be happy to meet with you at either City Hall or a convenient location in Ward One. Please call the Ward One office at 612-673-2201 or email lisa.brock@ci.minneapolis.mn.us to schedule a date.

Eastside Community Schools BBQ Recap

The 5th Annual Eastside Community Schools BBQ was bigger and better than ever, hosting over 1800 guests. Students, families and community friends were greeted by the smiling faces of a host of school principals, district staff, School Board members, elected officials, business owners and community members who all helped to make this event a rousing kick-off to the 2011/2012 school year. Some of the highlights:



Recovery Bike Shop teamed up with GREEN Schools' coordinator Ashley Mueller to promote a student "Bike to School" initiative. Recovery Bike Shop owner Brent Fuqua and his staff repaired bikes on-site, while Bike Ambassador Mackenzie Turner supervised a popular smoothie-making project in which kids pedaled a bicycle to power a blender. Other Bike Ambassadors offered bike safety tips and information on customized bike routes to Eastside schools.

Edison's IB-certified Art teacher Seexeng Lee orchestrated a giant human "Big E" in the street in front of the school, while Mark Latosky, president of the Firefighters' Union, ascended a fully extended fire truck ladder to shoot aerial photographs. **Celebrity Grill Meisters** and their assistants cooked up 2450 burgers, brats, polishes, chicken breasts and hot dogs. **Eastside school** principals and staff joined students and community volunteers to serve up 26 gallons of baked beans, 40 gallons of potato salads, 30 gallons of coleslaw, 1800 brownies, 486 lbs of watermelon, and 15 gallons of pickle spears.

Special guests included MPS board members Jenny Arneson, Jill Davis, Rebecca Gagnon, and David Mammon; MPS staff members Superintendent Bernadeia Johnson, Associate Superintendent Mark Bonine, Associate Superintendent Michael Thomas, CEO Rick Mills, Family Engagement Executive Director Scott Redd and Public Affairs Assistant Director Rachel Hicks; Mpls Park Board Commissioner Liz Wielinski; State Representative Diane Loeffler; First Ward Council Member Kevin Reich.

Eastside Community Schools were represented by a number of principals and associate principals, including Donna Andrews and Diane Schmitz (**Marcy Open**); Padmini Udupa and Pat Palan (**NE Middle**); Laura Cavender and Gary Lussier (**Pillsbury**); Al Pitt and Wendi Jarson (**Sheridan**); Cindy Mueller (**Waite Park**); Carla Steinbach, Jerry Pedersen and Jon Peterson (**Edison**).

Save The Date:

- **Weed It & Reap NE Clean-up Days – Oct. 6, 7 & 8, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.**
Volunteer with your friends, families and neighbors to help clean up Northeast by picking up debris near local businesses, boulevards, parks and streets. Vests, gloves, garbage bags and area assignments provided. For more information, please visit www.minneapolischamber.org/weedit or call 612-378-0050.
- **4th Annual NE Dinner Bell Meals on Wheels Mission Nutrition Music Benefit – Saturday, Oct. 8, 7 p.m.**, Ritz Theater, 345 13th Avenue NE. Fundraiser for the Meals on Wheels program that serves elderly and homebound Northeast residents. The event will feature the music of the Mighty Mofos, Tea and Sympathy, Screaming Vermilion and Sister Gin, as well as raffles, chair massages and more. Admission is \$10. For further information, contact Jeffrey Aronen at 612-789-4524 or jaronen@comcast.net.
- **Northeast Network, Thursday, Oct. 13, 7:30 – 8:45 a.m.**, Eastside Food Co-op's Granite Studio, 2551 Central Ave NE. This month's topic is "Alternative Business Models: Creating the New Economy". Guest speakers will include Recovery Bike owner & partner Seth Stattmiller, Pastor Craig Pederson and Mary Hamel, Executive Director of Metro Independent Business Alliance. To RSVP, send an email to board@eastsidefood.coop.
- **Minneapolis Fire Department Open House, Saturday, Oct. 15, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**, Firefighters Hall & Museum, 664 22nd Ave NE. Free admission, free fire truck rides, informational presentations and more.
- **Minneapolis Animal Care & Control (MACC) fundraiser, Saturday, Oct. 22, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.**, 212 17th Ave N. Elected officials and local celebrities will be "kenneled" to raise funds for the 4000 animals cared for every year at MACC. Events include face painting, dog agility demonstrations and a veterinarian Q&A.

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