

# State of the City 2005

Mayor R.T. Rybak

April 12, 2005

# What we've learned on the South side: *"build it all together"*

We have been successful by working comprehensively

- Public safety
- Housing
- Jobs
- Transportation
- Partnerships

## **Public Safety**

*Resident Involvement is about citizens taking back their neighborhood one block at a time*

- The work of Phillips Weed and Seed
- Bloomington Lake Citizens Patrol
- Muriel Simons on 27th and Portland
- Pursard and the 1800 Park Block Club
- Little Earth of United Tribes (NEW) block patrol

*It is also about reaching out to new arrivals*

- Insp. Gerlicher has regular meetings with Somali elders
- Reaching out to the Latino Community

# *“Build it all together,” continued*

## *Public Safety, continued*

### *CLEAN (Community Law Enforcement Action Network)*

- ❑ Program works with community to ID chronic offenders
- ❑ Identified 46 “chronic offenders”
  - These 46 individuals were arrested or were suspects in crimes 2,668 times 22 of them had been arrested or were suspects more than 60 times
- ❑ Since May 2004, these 46 chronic offenders have been arrested 277 times
- ❑ Working with the courts, CLEAN was able to ensure significant time in prison or the workhouse for 19 out of the 46 chronic offenders

### *Constant innovation - Directed Patrol Shift:*

- ❑ Inspector Gerlicher, working with Inspector Arneson and others in the 5th Pct created a Robbery Task Force last year to deal with a spate of robberies.
- ❑ That work was so successful that Insp. Gerlicher has set up a Directed Patrol shift to provide a rapid response to incidents such as robberies or gang violence. This is working well and we are looking to replicate it elsewhere.

# *“Build it all together,” continued*

## **Housing**

In Phillips alone, 818 units of housing were completed in 2004, are under construction now, or approved by the City, including:

- 219 units of new housing at the Midtown Exchange and
- Franklin-Portland Gateway with Hope Community and CCHT
- Many Rivers East and West (AIHCDC)
- Bloomington and Lake (Sherman)

## **Jobs**

*Small businesses, including neighborhood “institutions”*

- Roberts Shoes
- Ingebretson’s

*...that started off no different from the entrepreneurs of today:*

- Ernesto Reyes – Me Gusta Place and Carne Asada
- Maria Hoyos – Maria’s café
- Enrique & Noelia Garcia – La Loma

*Innovators on the Chicago Avenue Life Sciences Corridor*

- Business incubator; investment fund

*Larger corporations: over \$600 million of private investment coming to the Phillips Neighborhood*

- Wells Fargo – \$200 million and 4,000 jobs
- Midtown Exchange -- \$189 million and about 2,000 jobs
- Expansions of major institutions on the Life Sciences Corridor:
  - ANW Heart Hospital
  - Children’s Hospital expansion
  - Phillips Eye Institute
- Who are also partners in our Health Careers Institute
  - 1,200 graduates since 2000

# *“Build it all together,” continued*

## **Transportation**

### *Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)*

- ❑ Fighting state efforts to cut transit, we’ve led the City to oppose expansion of 35W unless it includes priority Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service. Some said we’re being too tough when we voted deny municipal consent, but we used that process as part of a broader effort to build a shared vision for to build Bus Rapid Transit on 35W.
- ❑ Imagine being able to ride a bus from Lakeville to Downtown Minneapolis at the peak of rush hour going 55 miles an hour all the way. Mayors, Legislators, Council Members and business leaders all along the 35W corridor now agree that Bus Rapid Transit needs to be operating in 35W on the day it re-opens.
- ❑ Last month’s agreement by Commissioner Molnau to implement the Appeals Board recommendations is a big step forward for the whole region.

### *Pedestrian Friendly Street Design - here on Lake Street*

- ❑ Due to City intervention, the rebuilding of Lake Street will include wider sidewalks, six more pedestrian “bumpouts” and, recognizing importance of on-street parking as a buffer between pedestrians and moving cars, 35 more on-street parking spaces.
- ❑ Payne-Lake Community Partners supported this study, and is working with us to support businesses during the reconstruction
  - Multi-cultural marketing consultant developing marketing plan
  - Identifying temporary parking options and signage plans
  - Providing technical assistance to businesses

# *“Build it all together,” continued*

## **Partnerships**

*Faith in the City has continued its great work:*

- ❑ Thrivent matched a \$705,000 grant from the federal government to set up an Individual Development Account (IDA) program to help Phillips residents buy a house, go to school, or open a business. Every dollar saved by the resident, it will be matched 2 to 1.
  
- ❑ Tax clinic. Friday is tax day. Even though many people are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit, they don't know about it or don't know how to claim it. FITC has been helping residents of Phillips with their taxes the past two years. For this year, they have helped 62 families prepare their taxes, helping them over \$87,000 in tax refunds.
  
- ❑ In November FITC opened a program called Wellness Connection at Lutheran Social Services on Park Ave. So far, they have helped 250 people, particularly new immigrants, understand and navigate the health care system and increase their well-being.

*Neighborhoods are important partners on the South side*

- ❑ Neighborhoods like Powderhorn Park, East Phillips, Whittier and others have helped create the Minneapolis Neighborhood Information System (MNIS), an “early-warning system” to identify potential problem properties
- ❑ Others, such as King Field and neighborhoods along Lake Street and S. Lyndale have been key partners in the Corridor Housing Initiative.
- ❑ Neighborhood residents and the Phillips Weed and Seed are a key part to the success of the CLEAN Project in the Phillips neighborhood.

*Other partners on the South side*

- ❑ Phillips Partnership / Midtown Community Works
- ❑ Neighborhood Development Center/Ryan
- ❑ Honorary Ecuadorian Consulate

# Now we're taking these successful strategies to the North side

Once again, we will succeed by working comprehensively

- ❑ Public safety, Housing, Jobs, Transportation
- ❑ And as on the South side, partnerships are key

## Public Safety

- ❑ Addressing crime and safety issues are key
- ❑ Met with Chuck Wexler from Police Executive Research Forum, an nationally-recognized Washington D.C. firm that was hired by General Mills to help us address these concerns
- ❑ Set context:
  - In 1995 we had over 43,000 Part 1 crimes; last year we had 25,445
  - In 1995 we had 97 homicides; last year we had 54
  - 29 of these were on the Northside; 29 too many
- ❑ System broken:
  - 96% of those arrested and accused with murder had been arrested previously
  - An average of 15 times
  - 70% were on probation when they were accused with murder
- ❑ Gangs, drugs, and domestics
  - 45% of the homicides last year were gang- or drug-related
  - Another 17% were related to domestic violence
- ❑ Implementing specific tactics
  - Last week opened probation house on 26th and Irving
  - Created new STOP Division to provide a pro-active, strategic, and tactical force that can respond to violence throughout the City on Monday
  - With help of PERF (Wexler) we will be meeting with other partners in law enforcement and the community to address crime and safety concerns.

# *“Taking it North,” continued*

## *Public Safety, continued*

### *Northside Community Crime Initiative*

- ❑ MPD is not enough; we need the support of others—
  - Just as Honeywell, Wells Fargo and Allina stepped up in Phillips, General Mills has stepped up to convene the Northside Community Crime Initiative
- ❑ Partnering with neighborhoods to develop appropriate grassroots responses
  - EZ recently approved over \$500,000 for community safety program including funding for:
    - Folwell Neighborhood Association Curfew Truancy
    - MAD DADS
    - Minneapolis Urban League

# *“Taking it North,” continued*

## **Housing**

Last year I announced we were setting up the Northside Home Fund. We have. I want to thank the following partners

- Northside neighborhoods: Harrison, Near North, Jordan, Hawthorne, and Folwell
- The Family Housing Fund (Tom Fulton Chairing Board as of December) and McKnight Foundation
- Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, Fannie Mae, LISC
- General Mills and Franklin National Bank

Together, these organizations have committed to increase participation in existing funding program set-asides of over \$40 million.

To date a little over \$5.5M disbursed, including:

- 90 home improvement loans;
- 7 loans to help homeowners deal with inspections orders on their properties; and
- 30 mortgages for new homeowners.

Northside Home Fund is organized around three key principals: prevention, intervention and remediation.

### *Prevention:*

- Addressing concentration of predatory lending in North Mpls
- Attracting stable owner-occupants, at all income levels, to North Mpls.

# *“Taking it North,” continued*

## *Northside Home Fund principles, continued*

### *Intervention*

- ❑ Providing money to existing homeowners to improve their properties
- ❑ Working with neighborhoods to target most challenging properties
  - Since July 1, the Problem Properties unit has focused on 67 of the City’s worst problem properties
  - They had over 2,800 police calls in the previous 12 months and nearly 2,900 inspections orders
  - So far, one-third of these have now been successfully dealt with through rehabilitation, demolition or new management.
  - Another 15% are in a monitoring phase on their way to resolution
  - When we talk about housing being related to crime, it is important to note that police calls to the properties being addressed by the problem properties unit have been reduced by over two-thirds
  - That’s about **1900 fewer calls** to distract police from other urgent matters
  - I especially want to thank Tom Deegan and his interdepartmental team of folks working in this unit. In just a short time, they have had a huge impact.

### *Remediation*

- ❑ Goals of program are:
  - Increasing the number of homeownership units
  - Providing \$ to developers seeking to build or renovate for homeowners
  - Reducing the number of boarded and vacant properties
- ❑ City has created a \$1 million “**pilot project**” to acquire 5-7 vacant and boarded homes in order to make them available for redevelopment.
- ❑ Will be done collaboratively with the neighborhood in “**clusters**”
- ❑ First cluster target area was identified yesterday at 25th and James (about a block away from the Probation House)

# *“Taking it North,” continued*

## **Jobs**

### *Close the Gap*

- ❑ Last year I announced “Close the Gap” our effort to beef up our job training efforts to close the historic unemployment gap between the City of Minneapolis and the rest of the region.
  - I put an additional \$1M into job training last year and for 2005
  - Helped more than 4,000 Minneapolis-residents get jobs
  - 281 new placements in 2004, including 191 on the City’s Northside
- ❑ Worked with Urban League to place residents at new Cub Store
- ❑ Thank Chip Wells at METP

### *Career Ladders*

- ❑ Job training programs start most people off at more than \$10/hour
- ❑ But you have to earn more than \$18 to afford a 2-BR apartment
- ❑ We continue to work with higher education institutions to build career ladders for the residents of the City
- ❑ Working closely with Minneapolis College President Phil Davis to expand highly-successful the Health Careers Institute
  - They will be adding additional programs to their campus this fall
  - Supporting their new \$19 million regional Science and Nursing Center
- ❑ Building trades are another great opportunity
  - Working closely with contractors and Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades Council to develop Construction Careers Coalition
  - Together, we have identified a career path for a student in the construction small learning community at either North or Roosevelt High School to become a pre-apprentice and then an apprentice working here in Minneapolis.
  - Thursday, as Principal for a Day at Roosevelt, will promote program
  - We are focused particularly on getting women and people of color
- ❑ Career ladder to move students in public service academy at Edison High School into jobs in public service, such as police officers or inspectors.

# *“Taking it North,” continued*

## **Youth employment**

### *Step Up!*

- ❑ Last year I also talked about our work with Achieve Minneapolis and the Step Up! Program to help get high school kids their first job.
- ❑ Remember how important that first job was?
- ❑ Working with the private sector, with Ben Taylor of the Star Tribune and Richard Davis of U.S. Bank leading the way, we provided 200 summer jobs last year
- ❑ This year we increased our goal by 50% to 300 jobs, and we met that goal!
- ❑ In addition to the jobs provided through Step Up the City helps fund over 900 summer jobs for kids.
- ❑ Governor Palwenty has recommended elimination of State funding for 150 of these jobs; President Bush has recommended a 50% reduction to CDBG.
- ❑ Minneapolis has stepped up for kids; help us make the case to the State and Federal governments that this is the wrong time to turn their backs on the workforce of the next generation

### *At-Risk Kids*

- ❑ This need for investment in our future can most be seen in those young people that are “at-risk”
- ❑ Last year we started a pilot project call “Northside Job Connection” with Hospitality House and Pillsbury Neighborhood services to focus on getting kids out of gangs and into jobs
  - We made 28 placements in the second half of last year
  - We are expanding this pilot project to make an additional 80 placements this year (out of gangs; into work; nothing more important!)
- ❑ In addition, working with our partners at General Mills and Hennepin County, the Youth Opportunity Program will
  - Employ 40 youth selected by Hennepin County Juvenile Probation Officers
  - They will be supervised by Hennepin County

# Focus on Downtown

Minneapolis is one first downtowns in the country to regain all the population it lost since its peak in the 1950s

- 30,000 residents live downtown; the same as in the 1950s
- more than Denver, Indianapolis, Houston and Dallas combined

But here again, we need to “build it all together”

## *Public safety*

- Working closely with businesses, the Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA), DT Council, and our other criminal justice partners such as Hennepin County, Sheriff, and Metro Transit to address safety in DT Mpls.
- What is done:
  - We have Stepped up patrols and focus by the 1st Precinct
  - Safe Zone Cameras – thank Target for their leadership?
  - Begin to do joint patrol with private security and are offering additional training to them
- What we are in the process of doing:
  - Chief McManus has worked closely with Sheriff McGowan and Metro Transit Police Chief Jack Nelson to develop and propose an innovative DT Task Force to the Downtown Businesses
  - In addition, we are working with them to establish a DT Safety Ambassadors program.

## *Transportation*

- First citywide plan in years;
- Will address getting people into and out of downtown (41% on bus)

## *Retail*

- Working with downtown council to reposition downtown retail
- Grocery stores, services and amenities for new residents

# Preserving Minneapolis as a great Middle-Class City

Every city has rich and poor neighborhoods; Minneapolis is unique as a city of vast middle-class neighborhoods

The Minneapolis housing boom is good and bad...

- ❑ In 2004 and the first quarter of this year *alone*:
  - 1,887 new housing units were completed, and 3,071 new units had funding or permits approved
  - That's 4,958 new units in just over one year,
- ❑ Property in Minneapolis is a great investment
  - If you bought a home in Minneapolis in 2000 for \$104,000, that house is today worth an estimated \$206,000 – a growth of 98%.
  - If you had taken that same \$104,000 and invested it in the stock market, you'd have lost 10.7% or about \$12,000.
- ❑ But housing is becoming too costly for some
  - The median sales price in 2000 in the City of Minneapolis was \$127,450. It is currently \$217,450 (71% increase!)
  - The median price of a house in all neighborhoods has increased in the past four years
  - In some neighborhoods – as here in the Phillips – it has nearly doubled

We are working hard to keep housing affordable:

- ❑ In spite of huge funding cuts from State and Feds
  - More than doubled City affordable-housing investment from \$8M in 2001 to over \$20M in 2004
  - We established a 3-year goal of creating or renovating 2,100 units of affordable housing from 2003 - 2005.
  - As of December 2004, construction had started on 2,027 affordable Multifamily units, bringing us to 97 percent of our goal in two years.

# *“great Middle-Class City,” continued*

But we need to do more, especially for:

## *First time homebuyers*

- People can't afford to buy in the neighborhoods they grew up in
- We have City Living program:
  - Mortgages as low as 5%
  - Down-payment and closing cost assistance
  - Forgivable loans for low-income families
- MHFA (Commissioner Marx and Don Samuels) leading an effort to increase ownership among people of color (Emerging Markets Homeownership Initiative)

## *Seniors*

- Help keep the people who built our neighborhoods in their homes
  - Brush with Kindness and Hearts and Hammers
  - City “code abatement” loans
  - State of MN “Property Tax Deferral for Senior Citizens”
  - Development of Senior Housing:
    - Monroe Village, 19<sup>th</sup> and Central
    - Shingle Creek Commons, Humboldt Greenway
    - Trinity Apartments, 28<sup>th</sup> and Lake
- No easy answers
- Partnership of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program is important to address the unique housing needs in each Minneapolis neighborhood; new housing menu will help

# A Well-Run City

One of the most important things we can do for middle class families is make sure the City runs well...

## *Budget discipline & debt reduction*

- Balanced 5 budgets in three years, in spite of \$37M in State cuts
- Paid down \$16 million in debt and avoided another \$17 million in debt, freeing up an additional \$2 million a year for basic services
- In 2004, all City departments operated within their budgets for the first time in memory, allowing us to avoid additional debt and free up an additional \$1M a year for public safety
- Better budget management means better services for you

## *Results management = better service for city residents*

- Minneapolis One Call
- Successful pilot project is complete: here's an example
  - When you call my office to report a street light that is out, we create a service request from our office that goes directly to the person in Public Works responsible for fixing the problem: for you, it's just One Call!
  - We give you a unique tracking number so if you call back for an update on the progress, anyone in the City will be able to look it up
  - For example: Charles Rosensteel who lives on LaSalle Avenue in the Loring Park neighborhood called to let me know that the new streetlights were in place but hadn't been turned on yet
  - My office created a service request that immediately notified Public works of Mr. Rosensteel's concern and got them working on it that day
- Today, you still need to figure out where to call first...
- In January of this year, you'll have one number to call: **311**

# *“Well-Run City,” continued*

## *Building environmental goals into City policies*

- New incentives to protect our water quality
  - Separating storm water and sewer fees is a more accurate and equitable way to charge for storm water management
  - The City makes no new money; the purpose is to create a new incentives to protect the quality of our water
  - Property owners can reduce their fees by taking environmentally-friendly steps like rain gardens and “pervious” pavers that let water soak into the ground
  - It’s working: Minneapolis Public Schools are now considering ways to save money by introducing green alternatives
  - At Folwell School, the property is currently covered in asphalt that increases runoff (more pollution reaching our Mississippi) and the danger of flooding in a flood-prone area
  - Green landscaping alternatives proposed for Folwell will
    - reduce flooding in the immediate area
    - reduce pollution reaching the Mississippi River
    - save the money for the Minneapolis Pubic Schools
    - provide a great, on-site educational opportunity
    - enhance appearance of the site for the neighbors

## *“Well-Run City,” continued*

### *Dynamic new leadership appointed during past year*

- Bonnie Bleskachek, Fire Chief
- Elizabeth Ryan, Director of Housing Policy and Development
- Jonathan Palmer, Empowerment Zone Director
- Gretchen Musicant, Health Commissioner
- Lori Olson, Director of Environmental Services
- Gayle Prest, Environmental Coordinator
- Steven Bosacker, Results Manager (One Call / 311)
- Natalie Ellertson, Deputy City Coordinator
- Heather Johnston, Budget Director

### *Thank City staff for great work during a period of change*

- First ever employee survey is helping us listen, manage change
- Survey reflects City employees' commitment to public service
- A great example of this commitment: over 350 City employees attended the One Call / 311 kick off meeting last week and there was lots of excitement about how it will make it possible to provide better service

# Our Greatest Asset: Kids

## As Chair of the Youth Coordinating Board

- ❑ Refocused board on its true mission: advocacy and coordination of programs that support children and youth
- ❑ This means working closely with schools, parks, libraries as well as City activities that affect kids and families
  - Superintendent Thandiwe Peebles, John Gurbin at the Parks, and Kit Hadley at the Libraries are great partners for the City

## Help us create the Children and Youth Agenda

- ❑ We've started by asking children and youth themselves
- ❑ The Youth Development Community Mapping Project engages youth and adults in conducting a thorough inventory of the formal and informal resources for youth in their own neighborhoods
  - *Formal* resources are the drop in centers, church run after school programs, businesses that will hire youth in the summer
  - *Informal resources* are people and places in the neighborhood that children and youth know they can go to if they need someone to talk to, something to eat, or a safe place to hang out.
- ❑ We've had great youth participation and leadership
  - In the Hawthorne, Jordan, Cedar-Riverside, Field-Regina-Northrup and Hale-Page-Diamond Lake neighborhoods, we've had 8 or 9 youth leading the mapping effort in each neighborhood
  - Mapping is being funded with NRP and City general fund dollars ; the work is being contracted with YO! The Movement.

## Please plan to join us for a community presentation of

- ❑ results of the Youth Development Community Mapping Project
- ❑ our vision and goals for the Children and Youth Agenda:

Tuesday, May 24 from 2:00-4:00 p.m.

at the Zurah Shrine Center at Park Ave. and 25<sup>th</sup> Street S.

## *“Our Greatest Asset,” continued*

We all need to rally around our kids and their education

- ❑ Recognizing this, I worked with the Empowerment Zone to allocate \$1M of limited EZ resources towards
  - closing the achievement gap
  - helping English language learners
  - enrichment for students performing below grade level
  
- ❑ Specifically, the Minneapolis Empowerment Zone provided funds to 10 programs including:
  - American Indian Center \$150,000
  - Broadway High School – Teen Parent Program \$125,000
  - City of Lakes AmeriCorps \$50,000
  - Harvest Preparatory Charter School \$100,000
  - Hospitality House Youth Directions \$150,000
  - La Oportunidad, Inc. \$70,000
  - North High School – Construction Program \$75,000
  - Phyllis Wheatley Community Center \$100,000
  - Project for Pride in Living \$55,000
  - Sabathani Community Center \$125,000

Reminder: You can still help us find more jobs for kids this summer, through the Step Up program:

- ❑ Call David Brandt at (612) 455-1558, or go to [www.achievinneapolis.org](http://www.achievinneapolis.org)

# Unique Qualities of a Great City

As I finish, I want to make a point of the fact that none of the work that we have talked about today can take place in isolation.

Building a great city is not just about a housing program, a crime strategy, a jobs department. It all has to happen in concert, woven together, across boundaries and jurisdictions.

Cities are unique that way. They aren't office parks or shopping centers or freeways. It all works together in a uniquely urban way.

For decades that has worked against us. Ever since the post war suburban sprawl, cities have tried to imitate suburbs – trying to be competitive places to shop even though we had worse parking; competitive places to live, even though our houses were older; competitive places to work, even though it was harder to get to the office.

Things are very different today. Now suburbs try to imitate our well-established neighborhoods with historic homes of character, downtowns and neighborhood shopping districts where you can walk from shop to office.

To continue to build a great city we need to continue to capitalize on what's unique about Minneapolis – to build the infrastructure of the city of tomorrow that capitalizes on our uniquely urban qualities.

## *“Unique Qualities,” continued*

Cities are places away from the traffic jam where you can move on foot or bike or mass transit.

Which is why tonight we will celebrate the federally funded suspension bridge that will link the Midtown Greenway over the LRT line....and next week celebrate four new Northside bikeways that will finally link an underserved part of town with the rest of the city’s trail network.

Cities are places where the natural and built environment complement each other, instead of compete.

Which is why later this month we will celebrate the beginning of the conversion of the Riverside Coal plant to cleaner natural gas; why we are working on a plan to reforest boulevards ravaged by Dutch Elm; and why we have a plan to divert some airplane traffic from over our neighborhoods.

## *“Unique Qualities,” continued*

Cities are places where arts and cultures are woven deep into the everyday fabric of our lives, and grows because of our diversity.

Which is why I hope you all hold the first weekend in June to attend the open three nights of the Mosaic Arts Festival

Why we celebrate the conversion of the Ritz Theater into a new home for Ballet of the Dolls and the emergence of Plymouth Avenue as an arts corridor, and need to redouble our efforts to renovate the Capri Theater, Hollywood Theater and Parkway.

Why we celebrate the unprecedented opening of half a billion dollars in new cultural institutions, starting with the Walker Art Center this weekend, followed by the Children’s Theater, Institute of Art, Guthrie, Central Library and, as of yesterday’s bonding will signing: a new Planetarium.

And that brings us back here to Plaza Verde...

## *“Unique Qualities,” continued*

Some great events are going to take place in this room but one of the best moments will take place in a couple weeks when volunteers walk up onto the floor above us, and take out the giant masks that members of this community have built over the past couple decades to be used in the great May Day Parade.

And once again all parts of Minneapolis will come out for that uniquely Minneapolis event. You will see them all – gay and straight, people speaking 80 different languages, from around the world, and from Minneapolis for generations, everyone together.

And walking around Powderhorn Park, you will see people survey the crowd and say something I consider the highest compliment, and something we should aspire to in ALL our work:

“This could only happen in Minneapolis.”