

2012 Voter's Guide For District 6 Neighborhoods

CARAG
East Isles
ECCO
Kenwood
Lowry Hill
Lowry Hill East
Whittier
Lyndale
Stevens Square-Loring Heights
Kingfield

**For Neighborhood Representative Members on
the City's Neighborhood and Community
Engagement Commission**

Candidate information and questionnaire responses

Compiled by the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department

Voter's Guides are available online at the City's Web site:
http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/2012_Neighborhood_Elections

The City of Minneapolis invites and encourages participation by every resident to each program, service and event within our city. Should you require an accommodation in order for you to fully participate, or should you require this document in a different format, please let us know by contacting 612-673-3737, TTY: 612-673-2157, at least 5 days prior to the meeting.

English: Attention. If you want help understanding this information, call 612-673-3129. **Spanish:** Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame al 612-673-2700 **Somali:** Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500 **Hmong:** Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab dawb txhais cov xov no, hu 612-673-2800

Voter's Guide District 6

As part of the neighborhood election process to elect 5 neighborhood representatives to the City's Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC), applicants interested in serving were asked to respond to the following statements on their applications to be used in the Voter's Guide:

- ❖ How have your life/work/cultural experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative on the NCEC?
- ❖ How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?
- ❖ Describe why you want to serve on the NCEC.
- ❖ How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent, if elected?
- ❖ How do you plan to engage with under-represented groups within your district?
- ❖ Please list any community-based organization(s) with which you are currently involved.
- ❖ Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

Candidates for District 6:

(To quickly navigate to a candidate's information, hold Ctrl and left click on candidate's name)

[Henry Jimenez](#)
Pages 3-4

[Bryan Thornton](#)
Pages 5-6

The City-wide meeting to elect five neighborhood Commissioners will be held on Thursday, June 28, 2012 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 pm at Minnehaha Academy-North Campus:

City-Wide Election for Districts 2, 4, 5, 6 & 8

Thursday, June 28, 2012

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Minnehaha Academy-North Campus

3100 West River Parkway

Minneapolis, MN 55406

[\(Click here for a MAP and DIRECTIONS\)](#)

The building is ADA accessible. If any special accommodations are needed, please contact 612-673-2243.

All votes must be cast on June 28, 2012.

If you have any questions about the elections for Districts 2, 4, 5, 6 and 8 or the Voter's Guide, please feel free to call Cheyenne Erickson at (612) 673-2052 or Carrie Day Aspinwall at (612) 673-2243. You can also find more information on our website at http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/2012_Neighborhood_Elections.

1. How have your life/work/cultural experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative on the NCEC?

Having the opportunity to serve on the board of the Kingfield neighborhood association has prepared me to better understand the concerns of all neighbors. As a Transitions Coach I have worked with homeless youth for the last 3 years. This has helped me better understand the needs and barriers that this population faces every day. I believe it would be helpful to have that perspective in the commission. I also believe I have been able to productively work and assist in engaging the Latino community and other under-represented communities.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

I am on the Kingfield Neighborhood Association. However, prior to being part of the board I have attended and participated in as many neighborhood meetings and events.

3. Describe why you want to serve on the NCEC.

I believe the NCEC is going through a very important transitional period and it's vital to have a representative on the board that understands the needs of our neighborhoods in Minneapolis. It's also important to have individuals on the board that can work with others to ensure that we have a working commission that is able to meet its goals.

4. If elected, how do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent?

I would plan to attend as many neighborhood association meeting as I can and continuously update associations and neighbors personally. I would also plan to use updated social media for those who would prefer to be updated in that way.

5. How do you plan to engage with under-represented groups within your district?

It's important to build genuine personal relationships with the people one is trying to engage with that being under-represented or not. It's also important to meet people in their comfort zone and meet them where they're at. Many of the under-represented groups in District 6 already are organizing and congregating within their circles. I would like to become more involve within their events and serve as a liaison and connect all the groups to the neighborhood associations and encourage more engagement.

6. Please list any community-based organization(s) with which you are currently involved.

Kingfield Neighborhood Association

Conflict Resolution Center

7. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

YouthLink – Transitions Coach at Nicollet Square

Kingfield Neighborhood Association – Board Member

Conflict Resolution Center – Bilingual Mediator

1. How have your life/work/cultural experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative on the NCEC?

My professional work as a port security consultant in the Twin Cities as well as my neighborhood work with the Minneapolis Park Board has two distinct qualities that I will bring to the NCEC; listening and planning. My work in the port community has helped me understand the linkages, often unseen, between stakeholders and outcomes and has helped teach me how to listen and in turn how to identify the best course of action. Working with youth through the Park Board has helped to strengthen that skill even more. Ultimately I believe that in order to be a successful organization, and be part of a successful organization, there needs to be respect for all of the participants, the ability to understand conflicting points of view, and the willingness to work to achieve the organization's mission. The NCEC's mission has been laid out. What I will bring to this position is an objective approach built on the willingness to listen and the want to seek out differences of opinion in order to build stronger neighborhoods in the City of Minneapolis.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

I live in the Kingfield neighborhood and have been on the Kingfield Neighborhood Board for the past two years. I currently serve as Vice President of the organization. I am also on the Crime Prevention and Safety Committee and have helped with budgetary planning for several of the Kingfield Neighborhood Association (KFNA) committees. Additionally, I also participate in the KFNA sponsored programs/activities that are held throughout the year.

3. Describe why you want to serve on the NCEC

I sincerely believe that vibrant and engaged neighborhoods are the foundation upon which a successful city is built. The sixth district is diverse group of neighborhoods; economically, politically, and ethnically. I think that is a good thing and in turn I believe that there are many ideas waiting to be brought to light that address how to improve the district's deficiencies. My objective on the NCEC would be to engage the diverse members of the sixth district and help unearth those ideas. In order for the City of Minneapolis to continue to prosper neighborhoods must also continue to prosper. I believe I can represent the sixth district and help to achieve that goal as we move forward.

4. If elected, how do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent

I firmly believe that in order to understand what issues are important and to whom you need to be there to listen. While I am sure that an email group or perhaps neighborhood social media sites would be used to keep up with the general goings on of each neighborhood in the sixth district, what I believe is more valuable is to be present at neighborhood meetings and events and to solicit conversation about neighborhood concerns openly as a NCEC member. Reliability is key in this type of role and for neighborhood associations or other organized groups to know not only that I am there to

Bryan Thornton

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listen to their concerns and ideas but also will be present at meetings and events, I believe, will ultimately have the long term result of increased confidence in the NCEC as a mechanism that can effectively address neighborhood concerns.

5. How do you plan to engage with under-represented groups within your district

I would seek advice from the individual neighborhood organizations/associations first to identify groups that they feel are underrepresented. If that was a success I would attempt to meet members of that community either through community specific events or activities where I could get involved (e.g.: organized recreation activities). I would also use my Park Board experience to try and set up events at the local recreation center designed to bring in underrepresented groups. While this may not directly translate to NCEC related goals, establishing the connection is the key part and I believe that once the connection(s) are made the long-term goal(s) of engaging all of a neighborhood's residents can be achieved.

6. Please list any community-based organization(s) with which you are currently involved

Kingfield Neighborhood Association

7. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations

N/A