

2014 Voter's Guide For District 6 Neighborhoods Special Election

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

[See the NCEC District Map](#) (pdf)

**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>

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)

[Matt Barthelemy](#)

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The City-wide meeting to elect two neighborhood Commissioners to fill vacancies in NCEC Districts 6 and 8 will be held on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 from 6:00-8:00PM at Matthews Recreation Center:

Election for Districts 6 & 8

Tuesday, January 14, 2014

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Matthews Recreation Center

2313 28th Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55406

The building is ADA accessible. If any special accommodations are needed, please contact 612-673-2052.

All votes must be cast on January 14, 2014.

If you have any questions about the elections for Districts 6 and 8 or the Voter's Guide, please feel free to call Cheyenne Brodeen at (612) 673-2052. You can also find more information on our website at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr>.

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

Throughout most of my adult life, I've held jobs that have empowered me with a strong ability to connect with others. I've worked in offices, restaurants, night clubs and parks in Minneapolis, and even in a variety of unique settings in Beijing, China. Many of these jobs allowed me the privilege of working alongside folks of all backgrounds, economic statuses, and personalities, more often than not at the ground level. Getting to know so many amazing people helped me recognize that everyone - no matter what they look like, where they live or how much money they make - has a voice that deserves to be heard. Driven by the desire to encourage participation by breaking down the barriers between spectator and performer, watcher and doer, I've been organizing events and initiatives in Mpls that seek to do just that throughout the past decade. Some of what I organize includes community discussion events, ping pong parties, community-building health initiatives, and this year's Red Hot Art & Music Festival, Steven Square Community Organization's annual community outreach event that brought 100 artists, 20 bands, food trucks and Mpls organizations together for an inclusive, memorable experience. My ability to plan, organize and execute creative, community-focused events earned me "Best Event Organizer of 2013" by local cultural publication, L'Etoile, and a write-up in the Star Tribune. Combining a passion for empowering community voices, experience promoting, organizing and executing people-driven events, a robust social network throughout the city, and an enthusiasm to see a more representative democracy, I feel that I'd be well equipped with a unique set of tools to represent my neighborhood's district in the NCEC.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

For the first 1.5 years living in Whittier, I hadn't known about the Whittier Alliance or its meetings - even as an active member of the Mpls community. Seeking out the organization's gatherings on my own, I began to attend meetings and encouraging others to do so as well. After realizing how under-represented Whittier residents were on the neighborhood organization's Board, I unsuccessfully ran for a seat. 9 months later, and with a heck of a lot more knowledge on how neighborhoods - and neighborhood organizations - work, I continue to be an active, enthusiastic participant in neighborhood discussions and have been getting more and more people involved in neighborhood matters, in Whittier and other neighborhoods.

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

I'm one of our beloved city's biggest fans and believe a healthy city starts with an active, engaged neighborhood. There are so many benefits to an engaged neighborhood, including safety, increased sense of belonging, a stronger local economy, and greater levels of appreciation/respect for others. The more we participate in our neighborhoods, the better.

I see so many amazing people doing amazing things to make our city better and better. But I also see many voices go unheard. These voices are crucial in ensuring that Minneapolis reflects the values of the residents. The more we encourage people to use their voices and become more active in their neighborhoods, the more likely are to create a more safe, vibrant, sustainable, friendly Minneapolis.

Because I believe engaged neighborhoods are an important aspect of happiness and democracy, and have the skill set to facilitate effective neighborhood engagement, I'd love the opportunity to serve on the NCEC.

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

I would find out from others on the commission what has been most effective and utilize those tactics. Aside from that, I plan to be in communication with neighborhood organizations, groups not involved with neighborhood organizations, groups who are priority for NCEC engagement efforts and individuals with community engagement issues via email, phone calls and face-to-face when needed. I'd also write up a monthly email summing up efforts for neighborhood engagement for neighborhood leaders and everyone else who would benefit from NCEC contact.

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

To engage under-represented groups, it's necessary to:

- 1) find out what they are interested in (this may include cultural elements like food, sports, entertainment as well as issues of concern, such as transportation, housing, education, food, etc);
- 2) find out the ways that most members of said group gives/receives information (word of mouth, at church, mailers, special events, social media);
- 3) utilize determined communication methods to reach out to community to address the group's interests/issues.

For more comprehensive engagement, I'd bring in local business/organizations, interested individuals and/or available resources to create discussions, events, other means of facilitating conversations and making their voices heard in both a more official and neighborly capacity.

I'm sure I'll learn along the way, so there are tactics/strategies I can only develop after better understanding the neighborhoods and the scope of my capability as a District 6 representative of the NCEC.

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

Whittier Alliance member, Stevens Square Community Organization's project coordinator for its annual neighborhood festival, Buds of Spring, Presentation Night.

7. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

Common Roots Cafe (Paid), advocate for: social equity, Castle Rock Farms whole milk (it's sooo tasty), community gardens, Earth Wind & Fire (the band), ping pong, hi-5s.