

District 7 Voter Guide



As part of the neighborhood election process to elect 4 neighborhood representatives on 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.

District 7 Neighborhoods: Bancroft, Bryant, Central, Corcoran, East Phillips, Midtown Phillips, Phillips West, Powderhorn Park and Ventura Village.

Candidates for District 7:

[Julia Bobadilla-Melby](#)

Page 2

The special election for the District 7 neighborhood Commissioner will be held on Monday, September 19, 2016 at 6:00p.m. at the East Phillips Park and Cultural Center:

Special Election for District 7

Monday, September 19, 2016

6:00PM

East Phillips Park and Cultural Center

2307 17th Ave S

Minneapolis, MN 55404

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

All votes must be cast on September 19, 2016

If you have any questions about the special election for District 7 or the Voter Guide, please feel free to call Howard Blin, 612-673-3163. You can also find more information on our website at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/WCMS1P-122610>.

The building is ADA accessible. If any special accommodations are needed, please contact 612-673-3163.

Julia Bobadilla-Melby



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

I come from a family that has sought out justice and equity for various communities. My parents and I were refugees from Peru to Canada to escape a war in Chile. My parents were part of a multi-cultural group where I came to see the struggles of immigrants from all parts of the world. They helped each other. At the age of eight, my parents divorced, making me a child of a single-parent home, with three younger brothers to help raise, with little money. Despite these barriers, my mother helped others, stressed the importance of education, volunteerism, and work. Upon moving seventeen years ago from Vancouver, Canada to Willmar, MN to go back to college, I experienced racial discrimination for the first time by a police officer. My mother, brothers and their friends told me of their discrimination stories. I was inspired to create a multi-cultural group on the Ridgewater college campus, a community/police forum, my mother and I joined a community-building project called Willmar Vision 2020. I transferred to the U of M in Minneapolis, interned at FOX9 while working at UPS, then worked at KSTP all while in college full time. My first job out of college was a TV reporter in Arkansas where I worked with city police to inform Latinos on how to better work with the media. Reporting has helped me relate with people to get them to tell me their life stories and issues. I came back to MN to work for WDIO Duluth, then soon moved back to the Twin Cities as a Public Information Officer for the Department of Agriculture. My work on the aerial spray of Gypsy Moth along the North Shore had me attending town hall meetings, hearing the concerns of residents. This has given me a deep concern for the environment, as has being born near the rain forest, and having lived in the middle of mountains and ocean in Vancouver. While at MN Dept. of Ag., I also worked with low income, people of color to educate them on non-toxic pesticide options for the home. I was a substitute teacher for a few years. I know the struggles teachers face and the vast learning abilities and potential that our youth have. Sitting on the Board of Directors for Bryant Neighborhood has me pushing to work with the Boys and Girls Club to partner on youth programming to keep them off the streets with a better future. As a Thomson Reuters Latino Business Resource Group Treasurer, I assisted Former Minneapolis Mayor, now Thomson Reuters VP of Government Affairs and Community Relations, Sharon Sayles-Belton. I assisted her and Diversity and Inclusion leaders build partnerships with our corporate and community partners. I've helped her promote the company's dedication to diversity. I helped select and recruit the community based nonprofit partners and professional groups, and developed strong relationships with them. I also created communications for our company executives and diverse group members to increase morale. I also collaborated with Black Employee Network, Veterans Group, LGBTQ Pride at Work group, Asian Affinity, and Women's group to bring professional development presenters from diverse backgrounds and cultural awareness events to Thomson Reuters. I have spoken at Career Fairs where I used my life as an example to inspire youth to further their education. I am a member of Latino LEAD (Leadership Equity Achievement in Diplomacy) where I meet Latinos of various backgrounds; learn of Latino issues and how to help. I also sit on the Board of Directors, as Treasurer, and member of

the Executive Committee, and Fundraising & Finance Committee for the *Bryant Neighborhood Organization*. In this role I plan community-building events for residents, most recent, a social justice crime safety gathering, I execute logistics, monitor funds and report the organization's financial condition, work with Managing Director on finding and prioritizing funding opportunities and execution of programming, develop housing, environment, food justice, safety, youth strategies with City of Minneapolis Neighborhood Revitalization Program and Community Participation Program funds. I sat on the task force to negotiate with the Seward Coop a Community Benefits Agreement to curb negative aspects of gentrification, and wrote press releases. As a block leader with the MPLS Police Department, I work with our crime prevention specialist and organize our National Night Out event to bring neighbors together to help curb crime, build community and to learn of their concerns to bring to the neighborhood board and MPLS Police Community Specialist. All these experiences prepare me to be a results-driven neighborhood representative on the NCEC.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

See above.

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

The next few years will be critical to neighborhood organizations since funding is currently scheduled to end in 2020. Now is the time to show the council and the mayor why neighborhood organizations are necessary to ensure livability through well-planned growth and development. I want to represent my Bryant neighborhood and Ventura Village, Phillips West, Midtown Phillips, East Phillips, Central, Powderhorn Park, Corcoran, and Bancroft on this Neighborhood Community Engagement Commission. I am ready to engage in deep conversations to improve District 7 and the City of Minneapolis. The Vision for the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission is a City and community engagement process that increases inclusiveness, empowerment and greater opportunities for participation by all community members of the City of Minneapolis. – I am a community member and want to provide insight that I have from the relationships I have built with various business, residential, and minority communities. I possess a unique perspective that includes working with the NRP/ CPP funds to implement programming to build a strong, healthy community.

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

I plan to reach out to all the neighborhood associations in District 7 and introduce myself, ask them what their neighborhood issues are, how to engage with their residents and do it. I will make a strong effort to attend events in District 7 to meet residents and discuss concerns, solutions. Being accessible is important to me whether it be out amongst people in person, phone, or online. I plan to use social media, like neighborhood Facebook groups, and Nextdoor, to stay on top of resident concerns, and events and to be easily accessed. I will read their websites and newsletters. I will be ready to listen, bring back to the commission, and strategize on solutions.

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

I will rely on the leaders/resident representatives of the neighborhood organizations to inform me of how best to do this. My hope is that time spent at local businesses and attending events will expose me to different types of people, whether it be people of color, LGBTQ, those with disabilities, youth, immigrants. I do not plan on discriminating on the types of events and places I go to or the people I speak with. While tutoring youth, I worked at Little Earth, I know where to go to hear people from this community. I know Francisco, Executive Director for Waite House, which has many outreach programs with people from under-represented groups. I would ask him for direction on events, programs to attend. I will reach out to other leaders I know in the community. I will not leave out the addicted. There are some great programs in district 7 that assist those with chemical dependency issues which brings low income issues. I will reach out to them also to try to get a comprehensive understanding of the issues and what their solutions are. My neighbors are people from under-represented groups. I talk with them all the time and know of their concerns, ideas for solutions. My connections are vast. Having lived in Seward in a strong Somali community, I know how to relate with them. I know some Somali business owners of restaurants, where I eat at and will plan to engage people there in conversation of their community concerns and ideas for solutions. I will make it a point to see that information can be offered in Spanish, Somali, and any other language that may be needed, hard of hearing, hard of seeing and made easily available. I look forward to doing this. Being around people energizes me. Being available is key to engaging someone. Listening is the other. Bringing it all back to the commission so we can come up with solutions is what I'm ready to take on.

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

Bryant Neighborhood Organization, Latino LEAD, Latino DFL Caucus Revival Committee, Get Out the Vote, DFL Senate District 63 Director, Neighborhoods Organizing for Change, MPLS Police Block Leader

7. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

Prospanica (Latino Professionals group), ALPFA: Association of Latino Professionals for America, Black Lives Matter, Public Relations Society of America.