



Ward Six News

September 2015

Latino Renters Listening Session

August 11th, 2015

Renters Listening Session

On August 11th the Ward 6 office hosted a listening session in City Hall for Latino renters. During the session many shared their stories as individuals and families living in Minneapolis. The renters expressed a series of concerns regarding their living conditions and treatment by landlords/managers. Throughout, they iterated that they wanted to be heard and be respected.

The top three areas for request for action were:

- Help stop rent increases
- Support the renters when suffering intimidation or retaliation in response to raising their voice
- Look into just cause eviction law

The City, including City Council and department directors, expressed their support for the issues presented, particularly pointing out that there are things that can happen right now. Namely sending inspectors to look at living conditions and uphold city standards, as well using the services of the Civil Rights department in cases of discrimination. The use of 311 was highlighted as a mechanism to get city services involved in particular cases.

This dialogue created awareness and started processes to look at potential changes that can be implemented in the near future. There is true commitment from city staff as well as council members to work on these issues so that Minneapolis can be a great city for all to work and live in.

Free Graffiti cleanup solvent at fire stations

Minneapolis residents and property owners are encouraged to help Minneapolis wipe out graffiti. Graffiti makes neighborhoods and commercial districts look and feel unsafe, and that can harm property values and retail revenues – especially for small, neighborhood businesses.

Left alone, graffiti attracts more graffiti. Graffiti that is not cleaned off or covered up promptly is more likely to return.

REPORT IT

If you see someone vandalizing property or committing any other crime, call 911.

Anyone who sees graffiti in their neighborhoods should report it to the City by:

- Calling 311.
- Using the City's 311 smartphone app, which lets you snap a picture of the graffiti and send it with your report along with the location provided by the GPS on your phone.
- Using minneapolismn.gov/graffiti.



REMOVE IT

It is the property owner's responsibility to clean up graffiti. All Minneapolis fire stations offer free graffiti removal solvent to Minneapolis property owners, and the City website has instructions for graffiti removal.

PREVENT IT

The best way to fight graffiti is to prevent it. There are ways to make your property less of a target for graffiti. For instance, a wall with a mural or plants in front of it is less likely to be tagged by a graffiti vandal. It can also help to add lights to your property.



PPL Learning Center

Free resources to advance your career

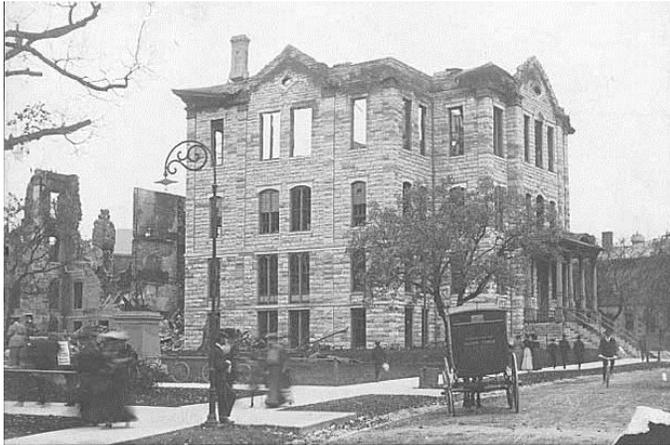
Professional Development Workshops

Gain the confidence and skills necessary to interview well and increase your job performance, so you can shine at work! You'll also have the opportunity to **connect with our employment coaches**, who will help you after the workshops are over. Call 612-455-5300 to sign-up!

As you may know **311 is hiring** for Customer Service Agents 1 and 2. Get the word out to recruit for bilingual applicants! If you know anyone or any organization please spread the word or let them know and PPL will go recruit and hand out job descriptions.

How did your neighborhood look decades ago?

Find out with online historical aerial photos



Minneapolis has changed a lot since the 1930s, and now you can see those changes for yourself.

As part of a collaborative effort with the City of Minneapolis and the Minnesota Historical Society, the University of Minnesota Libraries has digitized more than 4,500 historical aerial photos of Minneapolis. All of the large-scale, detailed aerial photos, dating back to 1938, are free and available to the public at

www.lib.umn.edu/apps/mhapo/index.html#mpls.

The Minneapolis photos were added to the library's existing Minnesota Historical Aerial Photographs Online collection, which includes more than 121,000 aerial photographs from around the state that date back to 1923.

Meetings for Phillips Community Center Aquatics Facility

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) will hold two public meetings for the community to provide input and review the design proposal for a renovated aquatics center at Phillips Community Center. Construction is planned to begin in 2016.

All are welcome to attend and provide comments.

Meeting #2: Monday, September 14, 2015, at 6:30 pm

Agenda: Review the proposed design for the aquatics facility.

Location: **Phillips Community Center, Meeting Room "A"** (2323 11th Ave S)

To learn more about the project, meeting times and open house dates, as well as to subscribe to receive future email updates on this project find the Phillips Community Center Aquatics Renovation at

minneapolisparcs.org/park_care_improvements/park_projects/current_projects/

Contact: Dana Murdoch, Project Manager

Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board

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City Launches new homeownership program

The City of Minneapolis launched Homeownership Opportunity Minneapolis (HOM), a new housing program aimed at increasing the number of homeowners in Minneapolis and reducing the racial disparity gap in homeownership. It is anticipated that about 125 families will be served by the program this year.

Minnesota has one of the worst racial disparity gaps in homeownership in the country at approximately 38 percent. In Minneapolis, it is also alarmingly high—at approximately 36 percent (2011-2013 American Community Survey).

The HOM program will provide up to \$7,500 in down payment and closing cost assistance to eligible Minneapolis homebuyers in the form of a zero percent interest loan, without a monthly payment. The loan will be completely forgiven after the homeowner lives in the home for five years (all of the funds are repayable if a homeowner moves out before five years). HOM funds may be used towards any single family home, duplex, townhouse, or condo anywhere in Minneapolis. Eligibility is based on income.

The HOM program is being promoted in partnership with Minnesota Housing and Minnesota Homeownership Center through the “Own Your Future, Own Your Home”. The campaign focuses on homeownership as an investment for the future. The partnership also focuses on providing information about quality, affordable mortgages available through Minnesota Housing. In addition, free, non-biased support is available from a variety of non-profit housing experts.

This partnership includes community-based organizations that provide culturally specific outreach and communication support. Including the African Development Center, African Economic Development Solutions, Bii Gii Wiin, EMERGE, Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation, Lao Assistance Center, Neighborhood Development Alliance, and PRG, Inc.

To learn more about HOM, visit the City of Minneapolis’ [website](#) or at hocmn.org/buyingahome/own-your-future/

OWN YOUR FUTURE  **OWN YOUR HOME**

A partnership of:

- Minneapolis City of Lakes
- Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
- Minnesota Homeownership Center

OWNING YOUR FUTURE IS AS EASY AS 1-2-3 !