



Minneapolis Connects

a bi-monthly newsletter brought to you by the
Neighborhood and Community Relations Department

January/February 2011

Neighborhood Programming Developments

On Monday, December 13, 2010 the Minneapolis City Council passed the 2011 City budget. The 2011 City budget provides property tax relief to Minneapolis property owners, while balancing City leaders' commitment to strong neighborhoods. The budget continues to provide funding for neighborhood organizations, while lowering the 2011 property tax levy, from an initially proposed 7.5 percent increase to a 4.7 percent increase. The passage of the budget also includes a staff directive that continues to support neighborhoods while providing further property tax relief for 2012 and 2013. The staff directive has significant implications for neighborhood organizations. See our website at: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/20101217_BudgetImplications.asp for a full description of the staff directive.

The City Council, Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC), and the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department (NCR) are all taking steps to ensure that support for neighborhood programs continues into 2011 and beyond. In important step, the City Council voted to establish the Neighborhood Funding Work Group, which is a City work group that will coordinate the internal structures needed to implement the 2011 Budget Staff Directive and to support neighborhood funding.

The Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission has recently met several times and is developing a full engagement initiative designed to reach out to neighborhoods and seek input and guidance moving forward. In the coming weeks and months, the NCEC will seek neighborhood engagement and input on how to address equity and programming issues among neighborhoods.

Meanwhile, there is new funding available for neighborhoods for 2011 through the Community Participation Program, which is now seeking applications for funding. Applications are available on the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department's website at: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/community-participation.asp. On the page, you may view neighborhood submissions that have already applied for funding.

Take the opportunity to participate in the Resident Survey

Beginning early this year you may get a telephone call and be asked to participate in the 2010 Minneapolis Resident Survey. The goal of the survey is to measure resident opinions, perceptions and expectations about City government services and priorities within the City of Minneapolis. The Neighborhood and Community Relations staff is working with National Research Center, Inc, a professional research firm, to develop and perform the survey. Those residents will be chosen at random for the survey.

If you are contacted to participate in the survey, please take the few minutes necessary to give your opinions about how we're doing in Minneapolis. The results will be used to help increase the quality of life for residents and visitors of the City of Minneapolis.

The City has conducted comparable surveys in the past as part of Minneapolis' ongoing effort to improve services and engage residents in local government. For more information or to see the past survey results please visit: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/results-oriented-minneapolis/citizensurvey/index.asp>

Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission – Selection/Diversity Task Force

The Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) has established a Selection/Diversity Task Force with the purpose of working with neighborhood organizations to establish uniform election procedures and to develop and recommend recruitment strategies for NCEC members for both city and neighborhood appointments that promote racial, ethnic, gender, age and geographic diversity on the Commission. For more information, please contact Cheyenne Erickson, 612-673-2052 or cheyenne.erickson@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Snow Emergency information in three languages

This year's snow season will go down in the city's record books as one of the snowiest seasons in Minneapolis history. The Access and Outreach team has been an integral part of snow emergencies. They have provided translation services in Hmong, Somali and Spanish for snow emergency materials, updated the 348-SNOW hotline each time a snow emergency has been declared, created a snow emergency DVD and provided translated parking restriction information.

The Access and Outreach team worked with neighborhood organizations, schools and cultural communities to get snow emergency information out so everyone is able to understand and follow the rules. If you would like any of these translated materials please contact Ahmed Muhumud, ahmed.muhumud@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or 612-673-2162.

A&O team assists Nokomis East Neighborhood Association

In late December 2010 and early January 2011, the Access and Outreach staff assisted the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association door knock Somali and Spanish speaking residents. The door knocking was done in an effort to gather input from residents about ways of improving quality of life in the neighborhood.

Families were asked to share their thoughts regarding safety, crime, and other livability issues in the vicinity. The feedback gathered will be used by the Nokomis East Neighborhood Association and community leaders to evaluate the delivery of city services.

American Indian Memorandum of Understanding

During American Indian Month in May of 2003, the City of Minneapolis and the American Indian community signed the American Indian Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The American Indian MOU as it is now called, represents a promise to develop reciprocal paths of participation and success between the American Indian community and the City. It furthers establishes a working partnership of dialogue, action and measurable results between the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors (MUID Group) and the Mayor and City Council of Minneapolis.

The Neighborhood and Community Relations Department has revisited this document with the American Indian community and the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors (MUID) and is moving forward with its implementation. We will not only be looking to strengthen the connection with the American Indian community, but will also look to consider if the MOU is a model that can be developed with other communities.

See the details of the MOU at: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/access-and-outreach.asp>.

Updated Limited English Proficiency Plan

The Neighborhood & Community Relations Department has finished updating the City's Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Plan. In November 2003, the City Council passed a resolution approving the creation of a citywide LEP plan, to give specific direction to staff about how to make city services accessible to those who speak limited English. Each city department has chosen a LEP liaison and the NCR department will be holding a meeting with liaisons in the next few weeks to review the updated information. This is the first update of the LEP Plan since its approval.

To view the plan online please visit: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/access-and-outreach.asp>

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