

## Report to SNG, 5-24-06

### Items:

- I. Central Corridor
- II. District Councils Collaborative
- III. Mercury Ordinance
- IV. Green Power Challenge
- V. CRA Work Group
- VI. Dancing on the Street
- VII. Instant Runoff Voting
- VIII. Youth Seats on Boards
- IX. OneStop
- X. Open Positions on Boards and Commissions

- I. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Central Corridor LRT line is still available to view. It can be viewed online at [www.centralcorridor.com](http://www.centralcorridor.com) – click on the “links and documents” link. You can send comments to the following address by June 5<sup>th</sup>: [DEIScomments@co.ramsey.mn.us](mailto:DEIScomments@co.ramsey.mn.us). I serve on the Central Corridor Coordinating Committee and very interested in making sure the Central Corridor transit line is developed in a responsive way that serves our neighborhoods and local businesses as well the larger area. I encourage you to get involved.
- II. Another way to impact this significant project is to make sure our neighborhood has a representative on the community advisory group that has formed. Seward has been invited to join the District Councils Collaborative, a coalition of neighborhood groups along the Central Corridor transit line. Call Andy Driscoll at 651.249.6877 or email him at [andy@districcouncilscollaborative.org](mailto:andy@districcouncilscollaborative.org) for more information, or visit [www.districtcouncilscollaborative.org](http://www.districtcouncilscollaborative.org).
- III. The City Council voted unanimously to support mercury reduction ordinances I supported, authored by Committee Chair Scott Benson in collaboration with Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota.
- IV. I am working with Green activists and the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee on a Green Power Challenge initiative to promote energy conservation and the use of renewable energy in Minneapolis.
- V. I am Vice Chair of the internal work group I helped form to address problems with the Civilian Review Authority. The group meets weekly, Thursday 8:00 am – 9:30, in room 319. So far the following recommendations were made to, and approved by, the Council in May.
  - a. A review of Internal Affairs Unit operations be conducted by an outside, independent auditor and be reviewed by the Public Safety and Regulatory Services Committee.

- b. That staff from departments including Police, City Coordinator, Human Resources, Civil Rights, and City Attorney, and the Police Federation, work to optimize an Early Intervention System for the Police Department. Early Intervention Systems allow departments to identify officers who are having performance problems and intervene before a major incident.
  
- VI.** Friday, May 12, at my initiative, the City Council unanimously voted to remove its ordinance making it illegal to dance in the streets. I'm looking into doing the same for the laws against loitering, lurking and trespassing that are often used in discriminatory ways to target people with mental illness or suffering from homelessness.
  
- VII.** I served as chair of a city sponsored Instant Run-off Voting Task Force that reviewed the steps and costs of implementing Instant Run-off Voting in City elections. I am also co-author of an ordinance placing the proposed charter amendment on the ballot in November that passed the Intergovernmental Relations committee yesterday and will go before the full Council on Friday.
  
- VIII.** I am working to make it possible for the City Council to reserve seats on its boards and commissions for people under 30.
  
- IX.** I am part of an effort to improve the city's OneStop program to better serve businesses and development projects. The City Coordinator has been directed to prepare a plan outline to consolidate the City's development review operations within one clear line of jurisdiction and accountability, appoint a Minneapolis One Stop Ombudsperson, evaluate the merits of an organizational structure in which the Development Review Office is responsible for day to day operational control, and report back to the Council June 30, 2006, and on a quarterly basis thereafter to address the City's progress in achieving the directives
  
- X.** There are open positions on the following City Boards, Commissions and Councils: The Minneapolis Ethical Practices Board (closes 6/30/06), the Zoning Board of Adjustment (closes 6/2/06) and the Minneapolis Private Industry/Workforce Council (closes 5/26/06). For more information, call 673-3358, email [cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us) or visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/>.