



**CITY OF CRYSTAL  
City Council Meeting Packet for  
Tuesday, August 20, 2013**

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Type of Meeting</b>	<b>Place</b>
6:30 p.m.	EDA Work Session*	Conference Room A
7:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting	Council Chambers
Immediately after the Regular City Council meeting	<p>Closed Council Work Session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to discuss pending litigation ████████████████████*</li> <li>• to consider preliminary charges arising out of CUABP allegations*</li> </ul> <p>Council Work Session to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Metro Fire-Rescue District citizen representative recruitment process</li> <li>• Code amendments regarding guns and the use of firearms</li> <li>• Intro to Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Program</li> </ul>	Conference Room A

\* Denotes no supporting information included in the packet.

**AGENDA**

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF CRYSTAL  
• WORK SESSION •  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2013  
6:30 P.M.  
CRYSTAL CITY HALL  
CONFERENCE ROOM A**

1. Call to order
2. Roll call
3. Update on The Cavanagh Senior Apartments
4. Adjournment



**City Council Meeting  
Preliminary Agenda**

August 20, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Council Chambers

**I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**II. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Mayor will acknowledge a contribution to the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Program in the amount of \$808 from the Crystal Lions.

**III. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

The Council will consider the minutes from the following meetings in a single motion:

- a. The Regular City Council Meeting from August 5, 2013;
- b. The Council Work Session from August 5, 2013;
- c. The Budget Work Session from August 8, 2013; and
- d. The Budget Work Session from August 15, 2013.

**IV. CONSENT AGENDA**

The Council will consider the following items, which are routine and non-controversial in nature, in a single motion:

1. Approval of the list of license applications submitted by the City Clerk to the City Council, a list that is on file in the office of the City Clerk;
2. Approval of disbursements over \$25,000 submitted by the Finance Director to the City Council, a list that is on file in the office of the Finance Director;
3. Approval of a resolution appointing Guy Mueller as the Crystal representative to the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Organization for an unexpired term expiring January 31, 2015; and
4. Approval of a resolution ordering the preparation of an assessment roll, declaring the amount to be assessed, and setting the date for a public hearing for year 2013 delinquent accounts.

**V. OPEN FORUM**

*(Open forum is a time for individuals in the audience to address the Council on subjects not on the regular Council agenda. Individuals are asked to step up to the podium and speak clearly into the microphone. You are allowed 3 minutes to make your comments and no items may be addressed more than ten minutes. The Council will not take action on items discussed during open forum or discuss matters under pending or threatened*

*litigation; however, the Council may add the item to a future meeting agenda and ask city staff for follow-up.)*

#### VI. REGULAR AGENDA

1. The Council will consider a resolution approving plans and specifications and ordering advertisement for bids for City Hall re-roofing phase 2; Project No. 2013-13.

**Earlier this year, the Council approved amending the Permanent Improvement Revolving (PIR) Fund to move up reroofing portions of City Hall due to leaks. In order to proceed with the project, recommend approval of the resolution approving plans and specifications and ordering advertising for bids.**

2. The Council will consider second reading of an ordinance amending Section 910 of the City Code regarding chickens and private kennel license requirements.

**At its August 5 meeting, the City Council heard comments regarding amending the City Code to allow for chickens and the first reading of the ordinance was approved. The proposed ordinance has been amended as approved at the August 5 meeting. Recommend approval of the second reading of the ordinance amending Section 910 of the City Code regarding chickens and private kennel license requirements.**

#### VII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

- a. The next Crystal Business Association meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 21 at 8:30 a.m. at Crystal City Hall.
- b. The next Beyond the Yellow Ribbon meeting is on Wednesday, August 21, at 7:15 p.m. at the Crystal Community Center.
- c. The Council will meet for a budget work session on August 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall.
- d. West Metro Fire is hosting a Blood Drive on Wednesday, August 28, 3- 6 p.m., at Station 2, 4101 Douglas Drive. Contact Aaron at 763-230-7005 for more information.
- e. City offices are closed on Monday, September 2, in observance of the Labor Day holiday.
- f. The next City Council Meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 3 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**IX. MEETING SCHEDULE ON AUGUST 20, 2013**

Time	Type of Meeting	Place
6:30 p.m.	EDA Work Session*	Conference Room A
7:00 p.m.	Regular City Council Meeting	Council Chambers
Immediately after the Regular City Council meeting	<p>Closed Council Work Session:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to discuss pending litigation ████████████████████*</li> <li>• to consider preliminary charges arising out of CUABP allegations*</li> </ul> <p>Council Work Session to discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Metro Fire-Rescue District citizen representative recruitment process</li> <li>• Code amendments regarding guns and the use of firearms</li> <li>• Intro to Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Program</li> </ul>	Conference Room A

*\* Denotes no supporting information included in the packet.*

**Have a great weekend; see you at Tuesday's meeting!**

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**



## Memorandum

DATE: August 15, 2013  
TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Anne Norris, City Manager  
SUBJECT: Acknowledgement of Contribution – Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Program

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In order to offset costs associated with the Quad City Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program, the following contribution was received and should be acknowledged by the Mayor and City Council:

\$ 808 from Crystal Lions raised at the July Steak Fry at the VFW.

# **COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

## I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pursuant to due call and notice thereof, the Regular Meeting of the Crystal City Council was held on Monday, August 5, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers at 4141 Douglas Drive in Crystal, Minnesota. Mayor Adams called the meeting to order.

### ROLL CALL

Mayor Adams asked the city clerk to call the roll for elected officials. Upon roll call, the city clerk recorded the following attendance:

### COUNCIL

Present: Adams, Budziszewski, Deshler, Hoffmann, Libby, Peak, and Selton.

### STAFF

City Manager A. Norris, City Attorney M. Norton, Assistant City Manager/Human Resources Manager K. Therres, Police Chief S. Revering, Assistant Community Development Director/City Planner J. Sutter, and City Clerk C. Serres.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Adams led the Council and audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

## II. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Mayor acknowledged the following donations to the Crystal Canine Fund:

1. \$1,000 from Leanne Edberg; and
2. \$25 from Melissa Stine.

## III. COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Council considered the minutes from the following meetings in a single motion:

- a. The Regular City Council Meeting from July 16, 2013; and
- b. Two Council Work Sessions from July 16, 2013.

Moved by Council Member Hoffmann and seconded by Council Member Peak to approve the above minutes in a single motion:

Motion carried.

## IV. CONSENT AGENDA

The Council considered the following items, which are routine and non-controversial in nature, in a single motion:

1. Approval of the list of license applications submitted by the City Clerk to the City Council, a list that is on file in the office of the City Clerk;
2. Approval of disbursements over \$25,000 submitted by the Finance Director to the City Council, a list that is on file in the office of the Finance Director;

#### IV. CONSENT AGENDA CONTINUED

3. Approval of a temporary on-sale liquor license for a Business Expo on September 12, 2013, submitted by Volunteers of America/Crystal Care Center;
4. Approval of a special permit submitted by Moses Yoko to serve wine and beer at the Crystal Community Center for approximately 250 guests to attend an anniversary party on Saturday, August 17, 2013, from 6:30 p.m. – midnight; and
5. Approval of solicitation licenses for Daniel Flaherty, Michael Kroll, Justin Mei, Steven Olson, Travis Sankey, and Aaron Welter of Custom Remodelers, Inc. to go door-to-door in Crystal through December 31, 2013, offering free estimates and scheduling appointments for exterior remodeling projects.

Moved by Council Member Hoffmann and seconded by Council Member Libby to approve the consent agenda.

Motion carried.

#### V. OPEN FORUM

The Mayor invited interested persons to address the Council.

Burt Orred addressed the Council to request funding for improvements and additional maintenance at MAC Park.

The following persons addressed the Council with their concerns about a police matter regarding the Ramirez family that occurred in 2008 along with concerns about city staff and personnel matters:

- Kari Erkenbrack Miller
- Jomari E. Alexander Sr.
- Ben McHenry
- Ben Bayard
- Daisy Gunn
- Michael Barlow
- Tabitha Bratz
- George Peterson
- Karen Lincoln
- Judi Kieper
- Anthony Jones
- Kim Peterson
- Michelle Gross
- Mary Sand
- Pat Ritzinger
- Jan Scofield
- Darryl Robinson
- G. Monroe

The Mayor called for a recess at 7:54 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:02 p.m.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

1. The Council considered a resolution approving the Preliminary and Final Plat of Crystal Economic Development Authority Sixth Addition subdividing 3556 Welcome Avenue North into two lots for new home construction.

City Planner/Assistant Community Development Director J. Sutter addressed the Council.

Moved by Council Member Hoffmann and seconded by Council Member Libby to adopt the following resolution, the reading of which was dispensed with by unanimous consent:

RESOLUTION NO. 2013 – 52

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE PRELIMINARY AND FINAL PLAT OF CRYSTAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY SIXTH ADDITION

Voting aye: Adams, Budziszewski, Deshler, Hoffmann, Libby, Peak, and Selton.

Motion carried, resolution declared adopted.

2. The Council considered second reading of a recodified Section 520 (Site Plan Review).

City Planner/Assistant Community Development Director J. Sutter addressed the Council.

Moved by Council Member Deshler and seconded by Council Member Peak to adopt the following ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 2013 – 02

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND RECODIFYING SECTION 520 OF CRYSTAL CITY CODE (SITE AND BUILDING PLAN REVIEW)

and further, that this is the second and final reading.

Voting aye: Adams, Budziszewski, Deshler, Hoffmann, Libby, Peak, and Selton.

Motion carried.

The Council considered authorizing a summary publication for Ordinance No. 2013 – 02.

Moved by Council Member Hoffmann and seconded by Council Member Libby to approve the corresponding summary ordinance for publication.

Motion carried.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA CONTINUED

3. The Council considered a resolution awarding the sale of the General Obligation Street Reconstruction Bond, Series 2013B; in the original aggregate principal amount of \$395,000; fixing its form and specifications; directing its issuance and delivery; and providing for its payment.

City Manager A. Norris addressed the Council.

Moved by Council Member Budziszewski and seconded by Council Member Deshler to adopt the following resolution, the reading of which was dispensed with by unanimous consent:

RESOLUTION NO. 2013 – 53

A RESOLUTION AWARDED THE SALE OF THE GENERAL OBLIGATION STREET RECONSTRUCTION BOND, SERIES 2013B, IN THE ORIGINAL AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$395,000; FIXING ITS FORM AND SPECIFICATIONS; DIRECTING ITS ISSUANCE AND DELIVERY; AND PROVIDING FOR ITS PAYMENT

Voting aye: Adams, Budziszewski, Deshler, Hoffmann, Libby, Peak, and Selton.

Motion carried, resolution declared adopted.

4. The Council considered first reading of an ordinance amending Section 910 related to private kennel licenses and allowing for the keeping of chickens.

City Manager A. Norris addressed the Council.

Moved by Council Member Selton and seconded by Council Member Hoffmann to amend the distance requirements in Section 910.05, Subd. 4.i.3. to read, "in no case closer than 10 feet to the lot line".

The Council discussed the proposed amendment.

By roll call and voting aye: Hoffmann, Libby, Peak, Selton, Budziszewski, and Deshler. Voting nay: Adams.

Motion carried.

Moved by Council Member Selton and seconded by Council Member Hoffmann to amend Section 910.01, Subd. 11. so as to clarify that chickens may not be maintained in dwelling units, and to read, "This limitation does not apply to fish, pet fowl, reptiles, or rodents which are confined or caged at all times and maintained within the dwelling unit, or chickens regulated by subsection 910.05."

The Council discussed the proposed amendment.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA CONTINUED

By roll call and voting aye: Peak, Selton, Adams, Deshler, and Hoffmann. Voting nay: Libby and Budziszewski.

Motion carried.

Moved by Council Member Selton and seconded by Council Member Hoffmann to amend Section 910 to include a subdivision requiring a special permit process and fee for the keeping of up to four chickens.

The Council discussed the proposed amendment.

By roll call and voting aye: Selton and Hoffmann. Voting nay: Peak, Adams, Budziszewski, Deshler, and Libby.

Motion failed.

The Mayor invited interested persons to address the Council.

The following persons addressed the Council with their comments and concerns regarding the proposed changes to Section 910 related to chickens and private kennel licenses:

- Paulette Magnuson
- Don Crawford
- Marge Lane
- Grace Lawson
- Jan Scofield
- Paul Seefeld
- Tyler Marsh
- Angela Mueller
- Bridget Bethke
- Chuck Tostenson
- Yvette Hewitt
- Jerry Kolb

Additionally, an email was submitted to the Council by residents opposing the proposed changes to the private kennel license requirements.

Members of the Council offered additional comments.

Moved by Council Member Deshler and seconded by Council Member Peak to adopt the following amended ordinance:

ORDINANCE NO. 2013 – 03

AMENDING SECTION 910 OF CHAPTER IX – PUBLIC SAFETY  
REGARDING PRIVATE KENNEL LICENSES AND  
ALLOWING FOR THE KEEPING OF CHICKENS

and further, that the second and final reading will be held on August 20, 2013.

By roll call and voting aye: Adams, Budziszewski, Deshler, Libby, and Peak. Voting nay: Selton and Hoffmann.

Motion carried.

VII. INFORMATION AND DISCUSSION

Mayor Adams read the following announcements:

- a. MN Night to Unite is Tuesday, August 6.
- b. The Council will meet for budget work sessions on August 8, 15, and 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at City Hall.
- c. The next City Council Meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 20 in the Council Chambers at City Hall.
- d. The next Crystal Business Association meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 21 at 8:30 a.m. at Crystal City Hall.
- e. The next Beyond the Yellow Ribbon meeting is on Wednesday, August 21, at 7:15 p.m. at the Crystal Community Center.
- f. West Metro Fire is hosting a Blood Drive on Wednesday, August 28, 3- 6 p.m., at Station 2, 4101 Douglas Drive. Contact Aaron at 763-230-7005 for more information.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Council Member Budziszewski and seconded by Council Member Peak to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

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Jim Adams, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Chrissy Serres, City Clerk

Pursuant to due call and notice given in the manner prescribed by Section 3.01 of the City Charter, the work session of the Crystal City Council was held at 9:35 p.m. on Monday, August 5, 2013 in Conference Room A at City Hall located at 4141 Douglas Drive, Crystal, Minnesota.

I. ATTENDANCE

The city clerk recorded the attendance with the following members:

COUNCIL: Adams, Budziszewski, Deshler, Hoffmann, Libby, Peak, and Selton.

STAFF: City Manager A. Norris, Assistant City Manager/Human Resources Manager K. Therres, City Attorney M. Norton, City Attorney S. Torgerson, Police Chief S. Revering, and City Clerk C. Serres.

II. AGENDA

Moved by Council Member Budziszewski and seconded by Council Member Deshler to close the work session for discussion regarding pending litigation:

Motion carried.

The Council and staff discussed pending personnel litigation regarding Alan Watt and Rob Erkenbrack.

Councilmember Selton departed the meeting at 11:35 p.m.

Moved by Council Member Deshler and seconded by Council Member Hoffmann to adjourn the closed work session.

Motion carried.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The work session adjourned at 12:00 a.m.

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Jim Adams, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Chrissy Serres, City Clerk

Pursuant to due call and notice given in the manner prescribed by Section 3.01 of the City Charter, the budget work session of the Crystal City Council was held at 6:32 p.m. on Thursday, August 8, 2013 in the Community Room at City Hall located at 4141 Douglas Drive, Crystal, Minnesota. The Mayor called the work session to order.

I. ATTENDANCE

The city clerk recorded the attendance with the following members:

COUNCIL: Adams, Budziszewski, Deshler, Hoffmann, Libby, Peak, and Selton.

STAFF: City Manager A. Norris, Assistant City Manager/Human Resources Manager K. Therres, Finance Director C. Hansen, Police Chief S. Revering, Community Development Director P. Peters, Public Works Director T. Mathisen, Recreation Director G. Hackett, Fire Chief S. Larson, and City Clerk C. Serres.

II. AGENDA

The Council and staff discussed the following agenda items:

- Preliminary 2014 general fund, EDA, and TIF goals and budgets; and
- Preliminary 2014 fee schedule.

III. ADJOURNMENT

The work session adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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Jim Adams, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Chrissy Serres, City Clerk

Pursuant to due call and notice given in the manner prescribed by Section 3.01 of the City Charter, the budget work session of the Crystal City Council was held at 6:31 p.m. on Thursday, August 15, 2013 in the Community Room at City Hall located at 4141 Douglas Drive, Crystal, Minnesota. The Mayor called the work session to order.

#### I. ATTENDANCE

The city clerk recorded the attendance with the following members:

COUNCIL: Adams, Budziszewski, Deshler, Hoffmann, Libby, Peak, and Selton.

STAFF: City Manager A. Norris, Finance Director C. Hansen, Police Chief S. Revering, Public Works Director T. Mathisen, Recreation Director G. Hackett, and City Clerk C. Serres.

#### II. AGENDA

The Council and staff reviewed and discussed the following agenda items:

1. Capital Funds:
  - Permanent Improvement Revolving Fund (PIR)
  - Police Equipment Revolving Fund (PERF)
  - Building Replacement Fund
  - Street Maintenance Fund
  - Street Reconstruction Fund
  - Fire Equipment Revolving Fund (FERF)
2. Adjustments to 2014 General Fund and questions from first work session

#### III. ADJOURNMENT

The work session adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

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Jim Adams, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Chrissy Serres, City Clerk

# **CONSENT AGENDA**

**APPLICATIONS FOR CITY LICENSE**

**August 20, 2013**

**GAS INSTALLER**

M & D Plumbing & Heating 11050 26<sup>th</sup> St NE St Michael, MN 55376

Cedar Heating & A/C 8921 Rice Lake Rd Maple Grove, MN 55369

United Heating 1295 Hackamore Rd Medina, MN 55340

**PLUMBER**

Elias Plumbing 3853 155<sup>th</sup> St W Rosemount, MN 55068

Metro Heating & Cooling 255 Roselawn Ave E #41 Maplewood, MN 55117

Easco Plumbing & Heating 7965 Pioneer Trail Loretto, MN 55357

Riverside Plumbing 7837 Mississippi Lane Brooklyn Park, MN 55444

Edward Heins Plumbing & Heating 21124 Horseshoe Tr Hamel, MN 55340

Todd Fransisco Total Plumbing 13767 Cottonwood St NW Andover, MN 55304

Patricki Plumbing 4241 6<sup>th</sup> St NE Columbia Heights, MN 55421

**RENTAL – NEW**

4235 Xenia Ave N – Luis Espejo (Conditional)

4409 Zane Ave N – 4800 C Heights LLC (Conditional)

6610 44<sup>th</sup> Ave N – Jack Kohler (Conditional)

6723 50<sup>th</sup> Ave N – Matt Selden (185 Group LLC)

**RENTAL – RENEWAL**

4354 Adair Ave N – Adam Ahmed (Conditional)

5732 Elmhurst Ave N – B & J Hedlund

5313 Kentucky Ave N – Winston Peterson

3409 Kyle Ave N – David O'Brien

3552 Major Ave N – Jeff Petersen

3425 Quail Ave N – Jeff/Michelle Petersen

3548 Quail Ave N – Vincent Martin (Conditional)

3216 Welcome Ave N – Chris Nelson

7224 33<sup>rd</sup> Ave N – Jeffery Rutter

6000-6002 36<sup>th</sup> Ave N – Brian Shiek

4709-4717 58<sup>th</sup> Ave N – MAP Investments LLC

**SIGN HANGER**

Schad Tracy Signs P O Box 357 Oronoco, MN 55960

**THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE ENTERPRISE**

Ira O'Neal, Massage Lakes, 235 Willow Bend, Crystal, MN 55428

**THERAPEUTIC MASSAGE THERAPIST**

Rebecca Hadlock, Massage Lakes, 235 Willow Bend, Crystal, MN 55428

**TOBACCO**

Adam Waller/Tony Foslien dba The E-Cig Lounge 2712 Douglas Dr N Crystal, MN 55422





## COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

### Regular Agenda: BCWMO new appointment

August 20, 2013 Council Meeting

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**FROM: Administrative Services Coordinator Trudy Tassoni**

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#### MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 12, 2013

TO: Crystal City Council  
City Manager Anne Norris

SUBJECT: Appointment to Bassett Creek Watershed Management Organization

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Organization (BCWMO) manages the water resources and works to enhance water quality of those resources within its watersheds. The BCWMO is composed of representatives from the following cities: Crystal, Golden Valley, Medicine Lake, Minneapolis, Minnetonka, New Hope, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, and St. Louis Park. Applicants for Crystal may be from the city at large.

Guy Mueller was appointed as an alternate representative to the BCWMO on October 2, 2012. Subsequently, on July 2, 2013, the Crystal representative position became vacant, and Mr. Mueller has indicated an interest in resigning his position as an alternate representative and instead being appointed as the Crystal representative.

Mr. Mueller participated in an interview with Mayor Jim Adams and Mayor Pro Tem Julie Deshler on August 8, 2013, and they both recommend his appointment.

#### Council Action Requested

**As part of the Regular Agenda on August 20, 2013, please consider the resignation of Guy Mueller as an alternate representative on the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Organization (BCWMO) and consider his appointment as the Crystal representative to the BCWMO for an unexpired three-year term expiring on January 31, 2015.**

CITY OF CRYSTAL

RESOLUTION NO. 2013 - \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING A REPRESENTATIVE  
TO THE BASSETT CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION**

- WHEREAS, the City of Crystal is a member of the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Organization (BCWMO); and
- WHEREAS, the BCWMO has been organized under Minnesota Statutes to manage the storm waters of cities whose boundaries fall within the water management area; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Crystal has adopted a Joint Powers Agreement with the BCWMO and appoints citizen representatives therein; and
- WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City of Crystal to appoint citizen representatives to the BCWMO; and
- WHEREAS, Guy Mueller is currently Crystal's alternate representative to the BCWMO and has indicated an interest in filling the Crystal representative position that recently became available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Crystal, Minnesota, to appoint **Guy Mueller** as the Crystal representative to the BCWMO for an unexpired three-year term expiring on January 31, 2015.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Crystal this 20th day of August, 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Adams, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christina Serres  
City Clerk



## Memorandum

DATE: August 12, 2013

TO: Mayor and City Council  
Anne Norris, City Manager

FROM: Charles Hansen, Finance Director

SUBJECT: Resolution Ordering the Preparation of an Assessment Roll, Declaring the Amount to be Assessed, and Setting the Date for a Public Hearing for Year 2013 Delinquent Accounts.

### Introduction:

Each year, the city levies special assessments on properties that have received services during the year, but have not paid the invoices that were sent out. These services include: utility charges, administrative citations, abatement of public health/safety hazards, tree trimming/removal, weed elimination and false alarm fines.

### Discussion:

Receivables that are included in the assessment are those that were 30 or more days delinquent on July 31, 2013. The total amounts due as shown on the resolution will be reduced by customer payments as they come in. In 2012, 34.8% of the August balance was collected prior to certification to Hennepin County in December.

<u>Service</u>	<u>August 2012</u>	<u>August 2013</u>	<u>Change</u>
Utility Charges	\$510,586.97	\$489,960.68	-4.0%
Administrative Citations	186,332.50	79,245.00	-57.5%
Vacant Building Registrations	37,450.00	21,400.00	-42.9%
Abatement of Health & Safety Hazards	9,749.35	5,892.73	-39.6%
Tree Trimming/Removal	10,803.40	8,739.03	-19.1%
Weed Mowing/Elimination	14,525.32	2,232.91	-84.6%
False Alarm Fees	<u>2,320.00</u>	<u>2,600.00</u>	<u>12.1%</u>
Total	\$771,767.54	\$610,040.35	-21.0%

The resolution sets the public hearing for October 15, 2013 at 7:00 PM. Letters will be sent in mid September to the owners of each property with an assessment to notify them of the special assessment and of this public hearing. Notice of the public hearing will also be published in the Crystal/Robbinsdale Sun Post in late-September.

### Recommended City Council Actions:

It is recommended that the City Council approve the resolution with any needed change to the date proposed for the public hearing.

RESOLUTION NO. 2013-\_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION ORDERING THE PREPARATION OF AN ASSESSMENT ROLL,  
DECLARING THE AMOUNT TO BE ASSESSED, AND SETTING THE DATE  
FOR A PUBLIC HEARING FOR YEAR 2013 DELINQUENT ACCOUNTS**

WHEREAS, properties within the city have benefited from services provided.

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Crystal, Minnesota, hereby approves the following:

1. That an assessment roll be prepared for delinquent payment of services
2. That amounts currently eligible for assessment are declared to be:
 

Utility charges	\$489,930.68
Administrative citations	\$79,245.00
Vacant building registrations	\$21,400.00
Abatement of public health & safety hazards	\$5,892.73
Tree trimming and/or removal	\$8,739.03
Mowing	\$2,232.91
False alarm fines	\$2,600.00
3. That a public hearing will be held on Tuesday, October 15, 2013

The City Council will meet in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 4141 Douglas Drive N., on Tuesday, October 15, 2013, at 7:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, to consider assessments to be levied against properties benefiting from services provided. Property owners may appear at this public hearing to object to proposed assessments against their property.

The Finance Director is hereby directed to cause notice of the hearing on proposed assessments to be published once in the official newspaper at least two weeks prior to the hearing. The notice shall include the total amount of proposed assessments. Mailed notice shall be given to the owner of each parcel described in the assessment roll not less than two weeks prior to the hearing.

The owner of any property so assessed may, at any time prior to certification of the assessment to Hennepin County, pay the whole of the assessment on such property.

- If the entire assessment is paid by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 27, 2013, no interest will be charged.
- Delinquent balances not paid by 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 27, 2013, will be assessed against the property. This means that the delinquent balance will be reported to Hennepin County, which will add it to the 2014 property tax statement for the Service Address. Assessed amounts will accrue interest at an annual rate of twelve percent (12%) from November 1, 2013, through December 31, 2014.
- An owner may, at any time thereafter, pay to Hennepin County the entire amount of the assessment remaining unpaid, with interest (12%) accrued to December 31st of the year in which such payment is made.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Crystal this 20th day of August 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Adams, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christina Serres, City Clerk

# **REGULAR AGENDA**



## **COUNCIL STAFF REPORT**

### **City Hall Roof Part 2 Project #2013-13**

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**FROM:** Tom Mathisen, Public Works Director & City Engineer

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**TO:** Anne Norris, City Manager (for August 20 City Council Meeting)

**DATE:** August 15, 2013

**RE:** Approve Plans and Specs, Order Ad for Bids

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As part of necessary building maintenance, \$120,000 (PIR # 4337) was budgeted to replace the second half of that portion of the city hall roof that was not replaced during the 1994 City Hall Reconstruction Project. This old portion of the roof was installed in 1983 and has more than outlived its useful life.

While \$120,000 has been budgeted, the cost of roofing projects has been hard to estimate this past year due to the changing marketplace. Once the bids are in, the results will be presented to the council for further action.

The plans and specifications have been completed to replace in-kind the remaining built-up asphalt roof and EPDM roof sections. While other types of more environmentally friendly roofing systems are available, the City Hall roof is not designed to carry the weight of a true vegetated "green" roof. In addition, "white" roofs are more expensive, do not have a proven life span track record in cold climates, and are less necessary in a climate where snow performs the same job of a white roof during the winter months.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the City Council adopt the attached resolution approving the plans and specifications and ordering the advertisement for bids.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Mathisen', written over the typed name.

**Thomas A. Mathisen**  
City Engineer/DPW

RESOLUTION NO. 2013 - \_\_\_\_\_

**APPROVING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS AND ORDERING AD FOR BIDS,  
CITY HALL ROOF REPLACEMENT PART 2 PROJECT #2013-13**

WHEREAS, funds totaling \$120,000 (PIR #4337) have been budgeted to replace that portion of the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the City Hall roof that was not replaced during the City Hall reconstruction in 1994; and

WHEREAS, the plans and specifications for the work have been completed by INSPEC, Inc.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF CRYSTAL, MINNESOTA:

1. Such plans and specifications are hereby approved.
2. The City Clerk shall prepare and cause to be inserted in the official paper, and in a trade journal, if applicable, an advertisement for bids for the making of such improvements under such approved plans and specifications. The advertisement shall specify the work to be done, shall indicate a date that the bids are due, at which time they will be publicly opened at City Hall by the City Clerk and Engineer, will then be tabulated, and will be considered by the Council at a subsequent Council meeting. No bids will be considered unless sealed and filed with the Clerk and accompanied by a cash deposit, cashier's check, bid bond or certified check payable to the Clerk for 5% of the amount of such bid.

Adopted by the Crystal City Council this 20<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Adams, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christina Serres, City Clerk



## Memorandum

DATE: August 8, 2013  
TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Anne Norris, City Manager *alw*  
SUBJECT: Proposed Changes to Section 910 Regarding Animals – Chickens and Private Kennel Licenses

---

### **BACKGROUND:**

At its August 5 meeting, the Council approved the first reading of an ordinance amending Section 910 of the City Code to allow chickens and revising the private kennel license requirements.

The draft ordinance was amended so that:

1. Section 910.01 Subd. 11 is clarified so that chickens may not be maintained in dwelling units; and
2. The distance requirement in Section 910.05 Subd.4.i.3. is no closer than 10 feet to a property line.

The draft ordinance includes the following changes to Section 910 of the City Code:

- Allows for the keeping of up to 4 chickens in single and two-family residential properties;
- Prohibits the butchering or breeding of chickens;
- Requires chickens to be kept in coops and runs;
- Limits the size of coops to no more than 120 square feet;
- Requires chickens to be no closer to a neighboring property than to the owner's property but no closer than 10 feet; and
- Prohibits roosters.

The draft ordinance also amends the private kennel license requirement so that residents may have up to 3 dogs or 3 cats, or 2 dogs and 2 cats without a private kennel license. A private kennel license is needed for a maximum of 5 dogs.

During the August 5 discussion, the Council requested information regarding whether neighboring cities allowing chickens require permits. Listed below is that information:

City	Permit Required?	Cost of Permit	Comments
Brooklyn Center	Chickens not permitted		
Golden Valley	Yes	\$50 first year, \$25 subsequent years	Handled administratively, no notification of neighbors
New Hope	Yes, to exceed limit of 3 chickens	\$75 first year, \$35 subsequent years	Public hearing in front of city council, neighbors within 350 feet notified
Robbinsdale	Yes, to have more than 2 chickens	\$50 first year + \$1 for every address for mailing list, \$25 subsequent years	Public hearing before city council, neighbors within 200 feet notified

The Council also asked about enforcement. Since there are no permits required in the draft language, enforcement would be done on a complaint basis. The procedure would be once a complaint is received, the Animal Control Officer would investigate and first time offenders typically receive a written warning and are given a period of time to remedy the problem. In cases of animal welfare, compliance may be required in a day or two, depending on the severity of the issue. The Animal Control Officer does have the authority to seize an animal if its health and/or safety are in imminent danger. Feces complaints are given two days or over a weekend to clean up.

Repeat offenders are typically issued citations and another written warning to comply.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Approve the second reading of the ordinance amending Section 910 of the City Code.

After the second reading of the ordinance is approved, the ordinance will be published. The changes to Section 910 will take effect 30 days after publication of the ordinance.

Attach:

CITY OF CRYSTAL

ORDINANCE #2013-\_\_\_\_\_

AMENDING SECTION 910 OF CHAPTER IX - PUBLIC SAFETY  
REGARDING PRIVATE KENNEL LICENSES AND  
ALLOWING FOR THE KEEPING OF CHICKENS

The City of Crystal Does Ordain:

Section 1. Chapter 910 of the Crystal City Code is amended by revising the following sections to read as follows:

910.01, Subd. 8. "Domestic animal" means a domesticated dog, cat, ferret, chicken or rabbit.

910.01, Subd. 11. "Private kennel" means any premises where ~~three to more than three (3) dogs, (3) cats, or more than two (2) dogs and two (2) cats not exceeding a total of five (5) four or five domestic animals~~ dogs and cats over three months of age, are kept or harbored within a dwelling unit. This limitation does not apply to fish, pet fowl, reptiles, or rodents which are confined or caged at all times and maintained within the dwelling unit, or chickens regulated by subsection 910.05.

910.05. Subd. 2. Number of domestic animals allowed. Up to three (3) dogs, (3) cats, or two (2) dogs and two (2) cats, are permitted without a kennel license in a dwelling unit.

910.05. Subd. ~~2~~ 3. Additional conditions.

910.05. Subd. ~~3~~ 4. Pot-bellied pigs.

910.05. Subd. 4.a. Chickens. No person shall keep on any single family or two family residential property more than four (4) total hen chickens. This is an addition to the maximum number of animals authorized by Section 910.01, Subd. 11.

b. Three or More Dwelling Unit Properties. Chickens are not allowed on properties with three or more dwelling units.

c. No Roosters. No person shall keep roosters, or adult male chickens, on any property within the city.

d. No Cockfighting. Cockfighting is specifically prohibited within the city.

e. No Slaughtering. The slaughter of chickens is prohibited in the city.

f. Ownership Occupancy. The owner of the chickens shall live in the dwelling on the property. If the property is not owner-occupied, then the property owner must provide a written statement to the city confirming that the tenant may have chickens at the property.

g. No Breeding. The raising of chickens for breeding purposes is prohibited in the city.

h. No Chickens in Dwellings or Garages. Chickens over the age of four weeks shall not be kept inside of a dwelling or garage.

i. Shelter and Enclosure Requirements. Chickens shall be properly protected from the weather and predators in a shelter or coop, and have access to the outdoors in an enclosure or fenced area. The shelter and/or enclosure shall meet all of the following requirements:

1. Applicable building, property maintenance and zoning requirements of Chapters 4 and 5.
2. Applicable electrical work shall be done according to applicable codes and with appropriate permits.
3. The shelter shall be situated closer to the chicken owner's dwelling than to any of the neighboring dwellings but in no case closer than 10 feet to the lot line.
4. Shelter and enclosure must not be located closer to an adjacent street than the owner's dwelling.
5. Screening from abutting residentially used properties and streets in the form of a solid privacy fence of at least four (4) feet in height constructed according to the fence standards of Section 515.13 Subd. 7 shall be provided for the shelter and enclosure.
6. A shelter shall not exceed 120 square feet in size and shall not exceed six (6) feet in height.
7. An enclosure or fenced area for chickens shall not exceed 20 square feet per bird and shall not exceed six (6) feet in height and shall have protected overhead netting to prevent attracting predators and other animals running at large.
8. An enclosure or fenced area may be constructed with wood and/or woven wire materials that allow chickens to contact the ground.
9. Constructed in a workmanship-like manner to deter rodents and predators.

j. Prevention of Nuisance Conditions. Owners shall care for chickens in a humane manner and shall prevent nuisance conditions by ensuring the following conditions are met:

1. The shelter and enclosure are maintained in good repair, and in a clean and sanitary manner free of vermin and objectionable odors.
2. Feces and discarded feed is regularly collected and stored in a leak-proof container with a tight-fitting cover to prevent nuisance odors and the attraction of vermin until it can be disposed properly.
3. Chicken feed shall be stored in leak-proof containers with a tight-fitting cover to prevent attracting vermin.
4. Chickens shall be secured inside of a shelter from sunset to sunrise each day to prevent nuisance noise and attracting predators.
5. Chickens shall remain in either the shelter or enclosure at all times and shall not run at large.
6. The shelter shall be winterized to protect the chickens in cold weather.

k. Sale of Farm Poultry or Eggs. Owners must comply with all requirements and performance standards for home enterprises in Section 515.33 Subd. 3b and all Minnesota Department of Agriculture requirements for the sale of eggs.

Section 2. This ordinance is effective in accordance with Crystal City Code, Subsection 110.11.

First Reading:

Second Reading:

Publication (Summary):  
Effective Date:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Adams, Mayor

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Christina Serres, City Clerk

**Crystal City Council Meeting Packet**  
**August 20, 2013**  
**Information and Discussion Items**  
**(Sorted alphabetically)**

- A. Battle of the Badges Community Blood Drive – August 28, 2013**
- B. Congressman Keith Ellison update – August 11, 2013**
- C. MN House of Representatives - Lyndon Carlson update dated August 9, 2013**
- D. Metro Cities News – August 9, 2013**
- E. Metro Cities Newsletter – Summer/Fall 2013**
- F. Robbinsdale Area Schools *Discover* – August 13, 2013**
- G. StarTribune articles:**
  - ***Steer clear of fear over Met Council – August 12, 2013***
  - ***Twin Cities suburbs should beware of the Met Council – August 3, 2013***
- H. SunPost articles dated August 15, 2013:**
  - ***Bottineau Light Rail entering next phase of public input***
  - ***Chickens survive the first hurdle in Crystal***
  - ***Hundreds rally to support two Crystal police officers***
  - ***Neighbors unite for crime prevention in quad cities***
  - ***'Personnel issue' should not be a cop-out***



**Team up to give blood  
and save more lives**

ALL BLOOD TYPES ARE NEEDED, ESPECIALLY TYPE O. CALL **1-888-GIVE-BLD** OR VISIT **MBC.ORG**

# West Metro Fire Rescue District Community Blood Drive

Wednesday, August 28th  
3:00pm-6:00pm

Location: Station 2 - 4101 Douglas Drive North, Crystal

Sign up at [www.mbc.org/searchdrives](http://www.mbc.org/searchdrives) and enter  
sponsor code 0372 or contact Aaron at  
[asurratt@westmetrofire.com](mailto:asurratt@westmetrofire.com) or 763-230-7005.



**Memorial  
BLOOD CENTERS**

A Division of Innovative  
Blood Resources

COMPLETE YOUR HEALTH HISTORY QUESTIONNAIRE ONLINE — IN THE PRIVACY OF  
YOUR HOME OR OFFICE ON THE DAY OF YOUR DONATION AT [MBC.ORG/IDONATE](http://MBC.ORG/IDONATE).  
Bring ID • Eat before donating • No cold or flu symptoms for 3 days



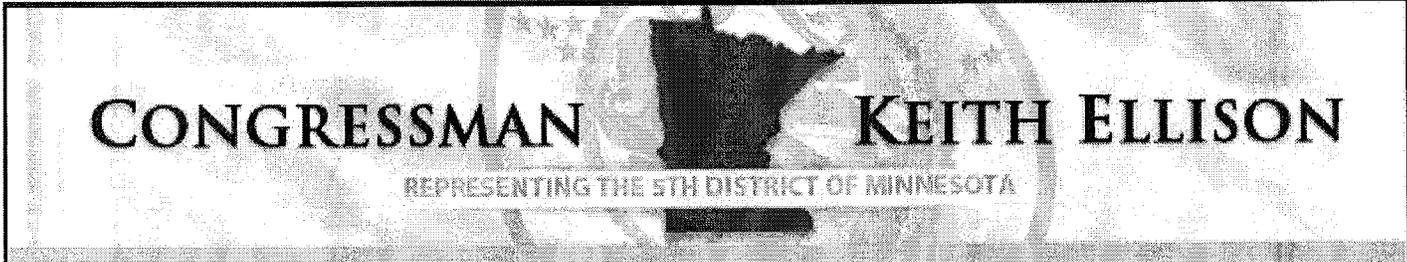
**Anne Norris**

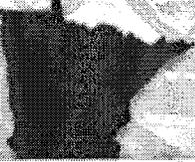
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**From:** Congressman Keith Ellison [mn05ima@mail.house.gov]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 11, 2013 1:08 PM  
**To:** Anne Norris  
**Subject:** Message from Keith Ellison

[Click here to open this e-mail in its own browser window](#) [Click here to open a plain text version of this email](#)

Message from Congressman Keith Ellison



**CONGRESSMAN**  **KEITH ELLISON**  
REPRESENTING THE 5TH DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

**FIFTH DISTRICT UPDATE**

**Dear Neighbor,**

I hope you're enjoying your summer. The Congress is on August break and it is good to be home. I look forward to talking with you about the issues you care about.

Several challenges have been at the forefront of my work in Washington this year--including stopping the spread of invasive carp into northern Minnesota, fighting for an increase in the minimum wage, fixing the Voting Rights Act, and keeping college affordable for students.

**Keep invasive carp out of our waterways**



*Silver head carp in the Illinois River*

Invasive carp are threatening Minnesota's economy and our way of life. The invasive carp population has exploded in the tributaries of the Mississippi River in Illinois and Missouri. Carp have been found in Minnesota and we need to stop their advance before they reach northern Minnesota's lakes and rivers. An increase in invasive carp would harm recreation, fishing and tourism in our state.

I've spent the last year discussing this issue with Minnesotans and worked with Representatives Nolan, Paulsen, Walz and Senators Klobuchar and Franken to introduce the Upper Mississippi CARP Act. The bill would close the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock if invasive carp are found near the Twin Cities. Closing the lock requires an act of Congress, which is why I've teamed up with the Minnesota delegation to stop these fish from ruining our waterways.

The House of Representatives should act now to protect Minnesota's waters. Closing the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam would be the most effective action to prevent the spread of invasive carp into northern Minnesota. Please read my statement in the Star Tribune [here](#).

### **It's time to raise the minimum wage**



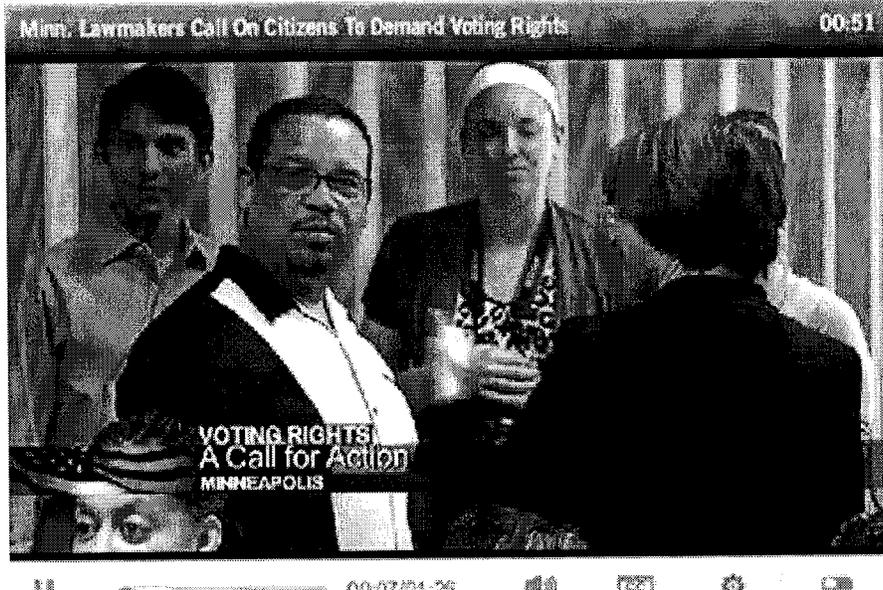
*Congressman Ellison and Congresswoman Schakowsky join fast-food workers in New York to call for a raise in the minimum wage*

A least 100,000 Minnesotans work at jobs where they earn the federal minimum wage of \$7.25/hour or less. I'm sure you know how tough it is to support a family on the minimum wage. It actually takes 86 hours a week working at the minimum wage to pay for a two-bedroom apartment in Minnesota—that's twelve hours a day, seven days a week just to have a roof over your head.

I have been meeting with minimum wage workers and they all tell me the same thing: they can't support their families on \$7.25 an hour. The minimum wage has not kept up with the cost of food, clothing and housing. Workers keep falling behind while the top managers earn a lot more.

Congress should raise the minimum wage. Parents who work hard every day should be able to feed their children and buy school supplies. Our economic recovery will be stronger when a full day's work brings a decent day's pay.

### **Guarantee Americans the right to vote**



*Senator Klobuchar and I holding a press conference on the Voting Rights Act decision*

Senator Klobuchar and I called on Congress to protect voting rights after the Supreme Court struck down Section 4 of the Voting Rights Act that protected voters in states with a history of voter suppression. The action of the Court was a step back for voting rights in the country.

In Minnesota, we know a thing or two about voter participation. Our state has the highest voter turnout in the nation election after election. We care deeply about the right to vote in our state, and last year we defeated a Voter ID law that would have made it harder for Minnesotans to vote.

The right to vote should be guaranteed and that's why I've introduced a constitutional amendment with Rep. Mark Pocan to do just that. The Pocan-Ellison Right to Vote Amendment would amend the Constitution to provide all Americans the affirmative right to vote and empower Congress to protect this right. Without a constitutional provision, courts have upheld laws that make it harder to vote, like voter identification laws, complicated registration requirements, and reduced early voting opportunities. We need a constitutional amendment to protect our democratic right. You can read about [here](#).

### **Make college affordable for Minnesota's students**



*Congressman Ellison speaking to current University of Minnesota students about the costs of higher*

*education.*

Students (on average) in Minnesota have college loans of \$30,000—the third highest college debt in the country. In Minnesota we know how important it is for our children to attend college, but too many kids can't go to college because of the high cost of tuition. Federal loans have helped students and their families pay for college and a recent compromise in Congress stopped the interest rate on these loans from doubling to 6.8%.

America's banks are able to borrow money from the government at an interest rate below 1%. Shouldn't Minnesota's students be able to pay the same low interest rate to get an education?

You can read my [statement](#) on the recent loan compromise and visit the college affordability section of my [website](#).

### **COMING SOON: MNsure health insurance events in the Fifth District**



*MNsure's homepage*

If you or your family does not have health insurance, you will be able to buy health insurance through [MNsure](#) this fall. MNsure is the health insurance exchange created by the Affordable Care Act.

Please join me at a health care meeting this fall to learn about how to participate in the insurance exchange. You can visit the health care section of my website by clicking [here](#) to find an event near you.

You can also visit MNsure's website [here](#).

I want to hear from you during this August recess, so follow me on [Twitter](#), like my [Facebook](#) page and tell me what's important to you.

I hope to see you at the Minnesota State Fair and around the 5<sup>th</sup> District.

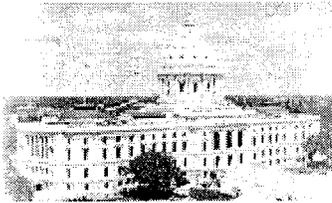
Thanks,

Anne Norris

**From:** rep.lyndon.carlson@house.mn  
**Sent:** Friday, August 09, 2013 10:38 AM  
**To:** Announcements from Representative Lyndon Carlson  
**Subject:** Legislative Update: Schools to receive \$463 million in school shift payback

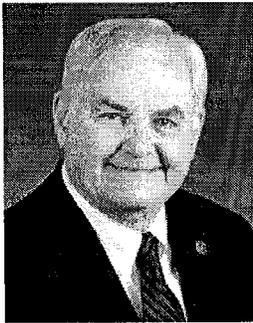
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## Minnesota House of Representatives

### Rep. Lyndon Carlson Sr. (45A) - Legislative Update



\* 479 State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King  
Jr. Blvd.  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155  
651-296-4255

**E-mail:**  
[rep.lyndon.carlson@house.mn](mailto:rep.lyndon.carlson@house.mn)

**Legislative Assistant:**  
Lill Pohlkamp 651-296-9552

**Committee Assignments:**  
**Chair:** [Ways and Means](#)  
[Capital Investment](#)  
[Property and Local Tax Division](#)  
[Rules and Legislative Administration](#)  
[Taxes](#)

**Biographical Information:**  
**Home:** Crystal 8216 - 35th Ave.  
N., 55427; 763-533-9779  
**Occupation:** Retired teacher  
**Education:** B.S., social studies,

Dear neighbor,

I am pleased to tell you that Minnesota schools will be receiving \$463 million due to our recently passed budget that accelerates the school shift payback. The previous legislature borrowed from our schools as a way to patch up the previous budget deficit.

For too long the state budget has been balanced through borrowing and shifts, often from the schools. Borrowing is not a responsible way to budget and is no way to provide a world-class education to our students. Minnesota Management and Budget recently announced that the state has \$463 million in unaccounted revenue collected during the past budget cycle. Due to the accelerated repayment plan, that money will go to Minnesota schools in an effort to repay them, and they should be fully repaid by 2014.

In addition to accelerating the school payback, our budget made historic investments in education for all learners. Along with settling our debts, the budget passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Dayton includes:

**More Funding for Every School in Minnesota: The**

### News Items

[2013 Session Update: E-12 Education Budget Details](#) - (Posted: May 19 2013 9:26PM)

[2013 Session Update: Higher Education bill](#) -(Posted: May 18 2013 5:06PM)

[Legislative Leaders and Governor Dayton Agree to Budget Targets: DFL budget balances deficit without gimmicks and invests in a stronger middle class](#) - (Posted: May 16 2013 3:57PM)

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graduate work, Minnesota State University, Mankato and University of St. Thomas

**Elected:** 1972

**Term:** 21st

**Family:** Married, spouse Carole, 3 children

\* Prefers interim mail at this address.

budget invests an additional \$238 million in the school funding formula, providing schools with an increase in per student funding in each of the next two years.

**All Day Kindergarten for Every Child:** The budget invests \$134 million to provide optional All-Day K to every Minnesota student, free of charge. Currently, only 54 percent of Minnesota's Kindergarten students have access to free all-day Kindergarten, and thousands of local families pay for kindergarten out of pocket.

**Reform to the Special Education Formula.** The budget invests \$40 million in special education reform, providing needed funding reform and greater funding equity for schools.

**Early Learning Scholarships for 8,000 Kids.** The budget invests \$40 million in scholarships that will help thousands more children attend high quality child care and preschool, which have proven to increase test scores and academic achievement. Families will be eligible for up to \$5,000 in scholarships.

Repaying our schools and providing stable funding moving forward is vital to the success of our schools and our students. In Minnesota, we have always been known for quality education, and our budget ensures that our students will continue to be the best and brightest.

Please contact me anytime with questions or comments. I can be reached by phone at (651) 296-4255 or by email at [rep.lyndon.carlson@house.mn](mailto:rep.lyndon.carlson@house.mn).

Sincerely,

Lyndon R. Carlson

State Representative

District 45A

Crystal, New Hope and Plymouth

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## Metro Cities News

### August 9, 2013

#### Links

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And follow us on Twitter



#### August Policy Committees Approaching

Metro Cities' staff is preparing for the next round of Metro Cities' policy committees which meet the week of August 19. The schedule and speakers for each committee are listed below. Each committee meets from 11:00 – 1:30. If you're interested but have not yet signed up, see contact information below. The policy committees provide an important opportunity to add your input and expertise on the policies that guide our work each year at the Capitol and Metropolitan Council.

**Transportation/General Government**, Monday, August 19th: James Strommen, Kennedy & Graven (electric utility practices)

**Municipal Revenues**, Tuesday, August 20th: Pat Dalton, House Research (new LGA program)

**Metropolitan Agencies**, Wednesday, August 21st, Keith Buttleman, Met Council (water supply planning activities)

**Housing and Economic Development**, Thursday, August 22nd, Diedre Schmidt, One Roof Global Consulting (presentation of report "Space Between" on affordable housing preservation)

To sign up for a committee, contact Laurie Jennings at 651-215-4000 or [Laurie@MetroCitiesMN.org](mailto:Laurie@MetroCitiesMN.org).

#### Special Session Planned for September

Governor Dayton and legislative leaders are negotiating the framework for a special session, tentatively being considered for September 9th, to appropriate funds for disaster relief from the late June metro storms and flooding in west-central and southeastern Minnesota. Preliminary assessments of the damage from the storms and floods are estimated to be \$17.8 million. Since 1997, the Legislature, through various direct appropriations and bonds, has provided nearly \$500 million for disaster relief in regular and special sessions. In large measure, these appropriations are required to comply with federal laws for receiving federal aid for disaster relief, for which a 25% local match is usually required.

Legislative leaders and the Governor are also discussing plans to take up elimination of the sales tax on farm equipment repair during the Special Session. The extension of sales tax to farm equipment repair was enacted in the 2013 legislative session along with other expansions to the state sales tax base. Concerns about the tax came to light in the remaining hours of the legislative session, but no agreement was reached between the legislative bodies on removing the farm equipment provision from the tax bill before the Legislature's final adjournment. The tax, unless repealed, is estimated to raise \$28 million for the 2014-15 biennium.

Typically, special sessions are restricted to pre-negotiated items to assure a swift

conclusion of the session, with sessions usually lasting no more than one day. Negotiations for the special session are currently underway. Based on letters exchanged between majority and minority legislative leadership and the Governor, there appears to be agreement on an agenda that includes disaster relief and a repeal of the farm equipment tax. Minority leadership has also expressed interest in repealing the newly enacted warehouse storage tax.

### **Sales Tax Exemption Reinstatement for Cities and Counties**

The reinstatement of the sales tax exemption for cities and counties, which was supported by Metro Cities, and is effective for purchases made on and after January 1, 2014, has generated several questions around the interpretation of the new law.

Questions around the exemption have largely pertained to purchases made under joint powers agreements and entities, and what constitutes a good or service provided by a private business (goods generally provided by a private business remain subject to state sales tax under the new law). Information provided by the Department of Revenue indicates that generally, purchases made under joint powers agreements will not be exempt. The Department of Revenue and the LMC are working to clarify the status of the new law around these issues.

Metro Cities' Municipal Revenue Committee hosted a discussion with Department staff last month, and city officials raised a number of questions on the new law. Department staff encouraged cities to contact them with additional questions and they can be reached as follows:

651-296-6181 or email: [salesuse.tax@state.mn.us](mailto:salesuse.tax@state.mn.us)

Please see links from the Department of Revenue for information on the new tax:  
<http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/businesses/sut/factsheets/FS176.pdf>

<http://www.revenue.state.mn.us/businesses/sut/Documents/Local%20Governments%20FAQ.pdf>

Questions? Contact Patricia Nauman at 651-215-4002 or [patricia@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:patricia@metrocitiesmn.org)

### **Survey Results Are Now Available!**

#### 2013 Municipal License & Permit Fee Survey

The 2013 License and Permit Fee Survey is also now open and available for access. Participating cities have received their user name and passwords for accessing the updated data via a letter mailed to the City Manager/Administrator. Cities unable to enter 2013 survey data prior to the deadline of July 12, 2013, can still enter their data. For additional information regarding user name and passwords, please call or email Laurie at [Laurie@MetroCitiesMN.org](mailto:Laurie@MetroCitiesMN.org) or (651) 215-4004.

#### 2013 Salary & Benefits Survey

The 2013 MN Local Government Salary & Benefits Survey is open and available for access. Participating cities have received their user name and passwords for accessing the updated data via a letter mailed to the top appointed official and/or HR manager on July 12, 2013.

Jurisdictions unable to enter 2013 salary data prior to the deadline of June 21, 2013, can still enter their jurisdiction's salary and benefit data. When an organization makes updates, please contact Rebecca Hardel ([rhardel@lmc.org](mailto:rhardel@lmc.org) or (651) 281-1217) or Joyce Hottinger ([jhottinger@lmc.org](mailto:jhottinger@lmc.org) or (651) 281-1216), so we can ensure the updated data gets posted as soon as possible. For additional information regarding access codes, please refer to the "Need a Data Entry Code" question at the link below. New data entered by jurisdictions takes approximately two weeks to post live to the survey. [Read more about the Salary & Benefits Survey for MN Local Governments, and access the 2013 results.](#)

### **Contamination Clean Up Grants Workshop**

The Metropolitan Council and MN Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) are offering an information session on programs that assist with cleaning up contaminated land. The workshop will be held on Tuesday, September 10, 2013 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Eden Prairie Library Meeting Room, 565 Prairie Center Drive, Eden Prairie. The event is free and no advance registration is required. For

more information, contact the Met Council at 651-602-1054 or DEED at 651-259-7449.

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Metro Cities News is emailed periodically to all Metro Cities member mayors, councilmembers, city manager/administrators and most department heads to keep officials abreast of important metro city issues. This information is intended to be shared with city staff, so ask if they're receiving it or not. If you or someone else would like to receive the Metro Cities News, please email [Laurie@metrocitiesmn.org](mailto:Laurie@metrocitiesmn.org) and provide the following: Name, Title, Employer and Email address. Thank you.

Metro Cities 145 University Ave W., St. Paul, MN 55103-2044 Phone 651-215-4000 Fax 651-281-1299  
Website [www.MetroCitiesMN.org](http://www.MetroCitiesMN.org)

[2012 Newly Elected Metro Legislators](#)

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# METRO CITIES

Association of Metropolitan Municipalities

## *Dear City Official:*

On behalf of the Metro Cities Board of Directors and staff, I would like to thank you for your membership and participation in Metro Cities.

Your membership assures strong and effective representation as Metro Cities advocates on behalf of metropolitan cities at the Legislature, Executive Branch and Metropolitan Council. Metro Cities serves a unique leadership role in the local government community in representing metro city interests at the Metropolitan Council. This representation is critical in making sure that the needs and interests of cities are accounted for in Council policymaking, and will be especially important as the new metropolitan development guide, Thrive MSP 2040, is developed.

Cities working together to foster collaboration, to problem solve and to share ideas and solutions are what help assure successful policy outcomes for all metro communities. We appreciate your membership and participation in Metro Cities, and look forward to working with you on the many issues, challenges and opportunities facing cities and the metropolitan region as a whole.

*Susan Arntz, Metro Cities President  
City Administrator, City of Waconia*



## Upcoming Events:

- **Policy Committees**
- **Policy Adoption Meeting**
- **Watch for Upcoming Regional Forums**

*Metro Cities provides an important perspective and voice on the work we do at the Metropolitan Council. They are the voice of cities to me and my colleagues. Metro Cities works collaboratively to represent local interests at the regional level on a wide variety of issues.*

*—Metropolitan Council member Lona Schreiber*



# Metro Cities Mission



# Objectives



The mission of Metro Cities, created as the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities in 1974, is to advance the shared interests of all metropolitan area cities at the Executive Branch, Legislature and Metropolitan Council. Metro Cities' vision is an economically strong and vibrant metropolitan region that promotes successful communities. We work to provide highly proactive legislative advocacy to influence state and regional policymakers on behalf of cities in the metropolitan area.

Metro Cities plays a unique role in the local government community as the only region-wide entity representing cities at the Metropolitan Council. As work around the new regional development guide (Thrive MSP 2040) is developed, Metro Cities will respond to the goals, policies and systems plans in the new guide in a manner consistent with the policies established by our membership. Cities in the metropolitan area are a key partner and constituency of the Metropolitan Council and municipal input will be crucial in assuring that the new guide accounts for the needs, interests and circumstances of metropolitan cities. We look forward to working with our member communities to provide input into the guide as it is developed.

Metro Cities continues to serve as a forum for cities to work together, problem solve, share ideas and to foster open lines of communication among local, regional and state levels of government.

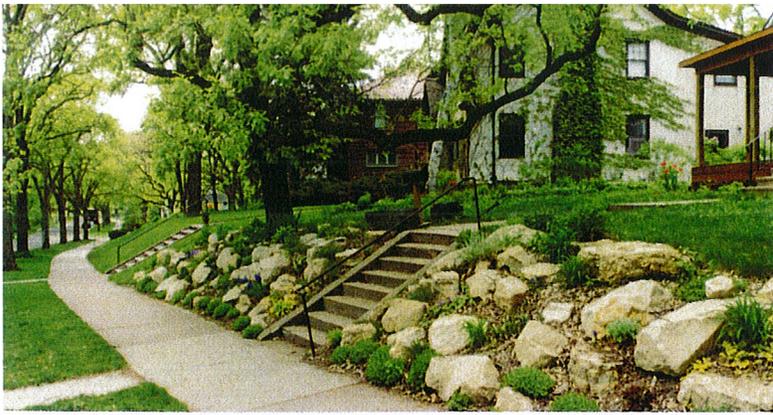
Metro Cities remains committed to the core values of our long term strategic plan around leadership, quality, integrity, partnership and stewardship.

*Metro Cities' advocacy at the Legislature and Met Council assures that metro city interests are represented in regional and state policymaking decisions that have impacts on local communities.*

*Mary Giuliani Stephens,  
Mayor-City of Woodbury*

*Metro Cities' staff collaborated on legislation that will streamline the process for cities to organize their waste collection. Our legislation will reduce damage to roads, reduce environmental harm, and save money for homeowners. They worked across the aisle and brought stakeholders together, and we succeeded in taking this historically controversial issue, and found a solution that benefits everyone."*

*State Senator John Marty, Roseville*



# 2013 *Legislature/Metropolitan Council*

- Metro Cities secured \$1 million for private inflow-infiltration mitigation under the Legacy Bill and will work with the Metropolitan Council to establish a grant program.
- Metro Cities worked with city organizations and legislators to develop reforms to the LGA (Local Government Aid) program. A key Metro Cities goal was to make sure the program better addresses the needs of metro communities. The new structure will increase the distribution of aid to metro cities, increase the number of metro cities receiving LGA, and provide more transparency and stability.
- Metro Cities supported legislation to reinstate the sales tax exemption for cities and counties, which became law.
- Metro Cities helped advance a new law that will streamline costly processes cities must follow to organize their waste collection.
- Metro Cities worked to secure an extension (to 2028) that allows cities to authorize Special Service Districts and Housing Improvement Areas, which became law.
- Metro Cities supported the \$30 million appropriation to the MN Investment Fund and \$6 million in general fund dollars for the Redevelopment Grant Program.
- Metro Cities' supports having Livable Communities Program criteria remain consistent with supporting a wide range of projects and recently opposed a proposal to weight one program goal over others, which would have constrained city eligibility and program participation. The proposal did not advance.
- Metro Cities is actively monitoring the work around Thrive MSP 2040, has hosted forums and will establish a structure for ongoing city input as the guide is developed.
- Metro Cities participated in work to recommend changes to the Sewer Availability Charge (SAC) program to allow more flexibility for SAC credits and streamline community review processes. These changes were adopted by the Metropolitan Council.
- Metro Cities continues to support funding for transportation and transit and to advance street improvement district authority for cities. This year, we also supported the new Transportation Economic Development and Corridors of Commerce programs.
- Metro Cities' policies support clarity in state, regional and local roles with respect to water supply planning, streamlined water permitting processes, and the need for statewide resources to address water related issues that have statewide and regional impacts.
- Metro Cities supported funding for an Office of Broadband Development, which will be managed under DEED, to expand broadband infrastructure in underserved areas.

# 2013 Membership



Andover	Edina	Marine on St. Croix	St. Francis
Anoka	Elko New Market	Medicine Lake	St. Louis Park
Apple Valley	Excelsior	Mendota Heights	St. Michael *
Arden Hills	Falcon Heights	Minneapolis	St. Paul
Bayport	Forest Lake	Minnetonka	St. Paul Park
Blaine	Fridley	Minnetonka Beach	St. Paul Port Authority*
Bloomington	Golden Valley	Minnetrissa	Savage
Brooklyn Center	Hanover *	New Brighton	Shakopee
Brooklyn Park	Hastings	Newport	Shoreview
Burnsville	Hopkins	North St. Paul	Shorewood
Carver	Hugo	Oak Park Heights	South St. Paul
Centerville	Independence	Oakdale	Spring Park
Champlin	Inver Grove Heights	Orono	Stillwater
Chanhausen	Jordan	Osseo	Sunfish Lake
Chaska	Lake Elmo	Plymouth	Victoria
Circle Pines	Lake St. Croix Beach	Prior Lake	Waconia
Coon Rapids	Lauderdale	Richfield	Wayzata
Corcoran	Lilydale	Robbinsdale	West St. Paul
Cottage Grove	Long Lake	Rogers	White Bear Lake
Crystal	Mahtomedi	Rosemount	Woodbury
Dayton	Maple Plain	Roseville	
Eagan	Maplewood	St. Anthony Village	*=Affiliated Member

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In addition to our core activity of lobbying on behalf of our members at the Legislature and the Metropolitan Council, Metro Cities provides the following services:

- **Metro Cities News**—Metro Cities News is the organization's primary newsletter.
- **Website**—Check us out at [www.MetroCitiesMN.org](http://www.MetroCitiesMN.org)
- **Legislative Bill Tracking**—During each legislative session, bills of interest are entered into our web-based tracker
- **Social Media**—For real time updates follow us on Twitter @MetroCitiesMN
- **Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Salary Survey**—Metro Cities works with the LMC and other partners to compile this on-line extensive survey of salary rates. Members receive access to the survey at no charge.
- **Biennial Municipal License and Permit Fee Survey**—It contains the dollar amount of a variety of different city licenses, permits and fees. Member cities receive access on-line at no charge.
- **Metropolitan Area Management Association (MAMA)**—MAMA provides metro-area city managers with an informal setting to discuss a variety of important local government issues. MAMA meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

*Minnesota cities have much in common, and much that makes them unique. In the metro area, the impact of the Met Council is certainly one of those unique factors. Metro Cities fills the needs of cities in that arena and on other issues affecting metro area cities. They're a great partner to the League in our lobbying efforts."*

*Jim Miller, Executive Director, League of Minnesota Cities*

# METRO CITIES

Association of Metropolitan Municipalities

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**Ady Wickstrom**

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**July 2013 –  
July 2014**

**From:** Robbinsdale Area Schools [tia\_clasen@rdale.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 13, 2013 5:02 PM  
**To:** Anne Norris  
**Subject:** Discover - August



*Tuesday, August 13*

## Partner with Marketing & Communications

### New Website, New Era for Robbinsdale Area Schools

On Tuesday, Aug.6, Robbinsdale Area Schools launched a new website. We appreciate everyone's patience as we continue to train our web administrators and transfer content from the old website. Parents and students do not need to log in to the new website. All class materials and information will be on Schoology.

### New Name for Parent Portal

With our new website, many people have been wondering where Parent Portal is located. It's still located under the "Parents" section, and many more places on district and school pages, but it's called Family Information Access. [Click here](#) to go to Family Information Access.

## District News

### Resource and Welcome Center Asking for School Supplies

Robbinsdale Area Schools [Resource and Welcome Center](#) is in need of all school supplies except for notebooks and crayons. The Resource and Welcome Center registers families who are new to the country and/or who speak a language other than English in the home. As part of the registration process, new students are given school supplies to welcome them and provide a good start in our schools. [Click here](#) for a list of supply needs.

## School News

### Reminder of School Start and End Times

## News Clips

### Sun Post

[Sayonara: Armstrong students make ready for trip to Japan](#)

[New principal at Robbinsdale Spanish Immersion School](#)

[Efficiency leads to recognition in district 281](#)

[Motivated Marine from New Hope earns specialized home](#)

### Patch.com

[Fourth-Grader Wins Crystal Frolics Button Contest](#)

Check out our new "Media Room" [page](#) on the website!

## Upcoming Events

### Parent Group and Booster Conference

Do you have students in Robbinsdale Area Schools? Are you involved in the PTO/PTA? Have you thought about getting involved at your school? If you answered "yes" to any of these

Starting with the 2013-2014 school year, some schools have different start and end times.

#### Elementary Schools:

- All elementary schools except Lakeview, Robbinsdale Spanish Immersion School (RSIS), and the School of Engineering and Arts (SEA) will begin and end five minutes later than the current year. Their start and end times will be 9:25 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.
- RSIS and SEA will continue their current start/end time. There will be no change.
- Lakeview Elementary School will alter their start/end time by thirty minutes. Their hours beginning next year will be 8:50 a.m. - 3:10 p.m.

#### Middle Schools:

- Plymouth Middle School will begin and end five minutes later than the current year. PMS' start and end time will be 8:10 a.m. - 2:55 p.m. This will include the Spanish Immersion magnet program housed at PMS.
- Robbinsdale Middle School will begin and end five minutes earlier than the current year. RMS' start and end time will be 8:00 a.m. - 2:45 p.m. This will include the STEM magnet program housed at RMS.

There will be no change for high schools and alternative schools/programs.

[Click here](#) for more information.

## Community News

### Miracles of Mitch Foundation Fundraiser Ending Soon

Last spring, we introduced our families and friends to Carter Zirbes, the RSI fourth grader who is helping raise money for the [Miracles of Mitch Foundation](#). Carter's first grade brother Axel has cancer and as of this week, Carter's team, the RSI Racers, has raised \$20,000 for the organization! Interested in donating? You can do so until Friday, Aug. 16 by [clicking here](#)



**Photo:** The RSI Racers raced at Lake Nokomis in July for the Miracle Kids Triathlon.

### Association Presents Award to Local Legislator

On Friday, Aug. 9, the [Association of Metropolitan School Districts](#) presented

questions, please join us for the first annual Parent Group and Booster Conference on Thursday, Aug. 15 from 6-9 p.m. at Sandburg Learning Center [Click here](#) to find more information and to register. Hope to see you there!

### Friends, Fun and Food

Come to Brunswick United Methodist Church, 6122 42nd Ave, Crystal, for friends, fun and food! Running until Aug. 16, kids ages 18 and younger can have lunch for no cost from 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

### Early Childhood Open House

Robbinsdale Area Schools invites all families with children from birth through 5 years of age to our Early Childhood Open House on Thursday, Aug. 22 at New Hope Learning Center, 8301 47th Ave., from 6-7:30 p.m. Join us and discover the many learning opportunities available for your family. [Click here](#) to learn more about [Early Childhood opportunities in Robbinsdale Area Schools](#).

## School Board News

### Robbinsdale Area School Board Meetings

The School Board met on August 5 for a business meeting and work session. Follow us on Twitter and Facebook to get important votes and other news live during the regular and business meetings. For more School Board news, click on Minutes, Podcast and Webcast below.

#### School Board Resources:

- [Agenda](#)
- [Calendar](#)
- [Minutes, Podcast and Webcast](#)

## Stay Connected

its Friend of Education Award to Sen. Ann Rest. The award is given to state policymakers or citizens who show exceptional leadership and support of public education and issues important to metropolitan school districts.



**Photo (from left to right):** School Board Director John Vento, Executive Director of Community Ed Al Ickler, School Board Clerk Tom Walsh, Sen. Ann Rest, School Board Treasurer Patsy Green, Superintendent Aldo Sicoli and Legislative Action Coalition member Kim Lewis attended the Friend of Education Award presentation at the TIES Building in St. Paul last Friday.

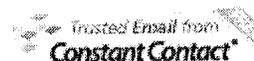


To find more social media links for the district, [click here](#).

[Robbinsdale Area Schools website](#)

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Robbinsdale Area Schools | 4148 Winnetka Ave N | New Hope | MN | 55427

# StarTribune

## Steer clear of fear over Met Council

Article by: JIM HOVLAND, SANDY MARTIN and ELIZABETH B. KAUTZ

August 12, 2013 - 6:14 AM

### Counterpoint

A recent column by Katherine Kersten ("Sticking it to the suburbs," Aug. 4) raised the specter of a Metropolitan Council on steroids, forcing outer-ring communities to live by "rules" of the urban core cities and inner-ring suburbs that focus on equity and sustainability. Kersten called this "regionalism" — and she didn't mean it in a good way.

We see regionalism differently. Among the three of us, we've served 44 years as mayors of very different Twin Cities-area suburbs. We are proud of our cities and are laser-focused on helping them to be successful communities in which to raise families, work, do business and enjoy life.

We know that in order to do that we need to be part of a successful metropolitan area.

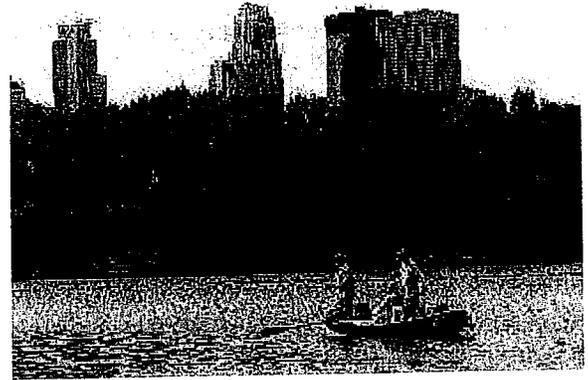
The dynamic engines of economic growth in the 21st century are metropolitan regions. Bruce Katz, vice president at the Brookings Institution and coauthor of "The Metropolitan Revolution," says that metro areas — not the federal or state governments — will build the foundation of the new economy. "Cities are starting to take control of their economic future," he said. "They aren't waiting for Washington."

Since 2004, we have been part of the Regional Council of Mayors, a unique organization in that it is nongovernmental and without any kind of rigid structure. Basically, we are a group of metro-area mayors who get together once a month to work on regional issues. We are committed to candid dialogue in a nonpartisan setting, and we find agreement on more than we ever would have expected.

Just a few years ago, the Metropolitan Council was looking at how to help manage expected burgeoning growth in the suburbs. That was where everyone thought growth would happen. Changing demographics, changing lifestyles and changing economics have made the future look different.

Important observations include:

- Our population is changing; we're getting older. In the next 20 years, we'll add as many people over the age of 65 as we did in the last 40 years. Much of our new growth over the next couple of decades is expected to come from new residents — and many of them are likely to be from different ethnic and racial groups.
- The region is going to grow, although less than we thought 10 years ago. It makes sense to provide for that growth, especially in communities that already have varied housing opportunities, public amenities and multimodal transportation.
- If we want to be attractive to entrepreneurs, established companies and international corporations — in short, almost any kind of future-oriented business — we must produce, attract and retain the educated, talented workforce businesses need to prosper.
- Our kids, or grandkids, those born between 1979 and 1996, are more interested in urban environments and multifamily housing than are their parents or grandparents.
- Seniors also want to live in areas that allow them to get out and about. They want transit and walkable communities, whether they live in a suburb or a core city.



Richard Sennott, Star Tribune

- Not everyone wants to buy a home. The American Dream has changed, at least for the foreseeable future, in part because of the housing crisis, in part because of new lifestyle choices. Nationally, homeownership rates have declined and rental housing has grown.
- Environmental concerns, from energy and water use to waste disposal, impact not only quality of life but costs for individuals, businesses and cities.
- The Minneapolis-St. Paul region already has many assets that have drawn major companies to it and that keep them here, but competition is increasing, and the area must step up as a region to remain globally competitive.

The Regional Council of Mayors and Urban Land Institute Minnesota are working on four core initiatives to help communities plan for a better future: housing, transportation and land use, environment, and jobs and workforce solutions. These initiatives have provided everything from an online guide to state and local housing policy, to the (Re)Development Ready Guide of policies and practices that local governments can use to attract investment and growth, to the Regional Indicators Initiative, which has measured five years of energy, water, waste and vehicle miles for 20 cities.

Recently, the two organizations also began the GreaterMSP Ahead Initiative, designed to determine regional priorities and ways to accomplish them.

We're not the only ones who see collaboration as essential to our future. The Itasca Project, an employer-led civic alliance, is working to build a thriving economy and improve quality of life in our region.

Greater MSP is a private/public nonprofit partnership dedicated to growing the economy of the region. We have worked with both, as well as with the Metropolitan Council, to help build a better future for all of our metropolitan residents.

Working together, learning together — and changing together — we can better meet the needs of all Minnesotans, of our cities and, yes, particularly our region.

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Jim Hovland is mayor of Edina. Sandy Martin is mayor of Shoreview. Elizabeth B. Kautz is mayor of Burnsville.

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# StarTribune

## Twin Cities suburbs should beware of the Met Council

Article by: Katherine Kersten  
August 3, 2013 - 4:48 PM

The Twin Cities of 2040 will likely be starkly different from the place you live now. People will increasingly live in dense, urban concentrations, even if they'd prefer a house with a yard outside the 494 beltway.

Government planners will have power to steer new jobs into central cities and first-ring suburbs, and to set what amounts to quotas for people of different incomes and races in neighborhoods and schools throughout the metro area. Outside the urban core, highway conditions will deteriorate and congestion — encouraged by government — will get worse.

As these changes unfold, you'll never be sure how the freedom and quality of life you once took for granted slipped away. Plenty of elected officials will be as frustrated as you are. But mysteriously, they too will stand powerless as choices constrict.

What will be the engine of this transformation? An out-of-the-limelight agency we generally think of as running the buses and occasionally approving a new runway at the airport: the Metropolitan Council.

In coming months, the council will release a draft of "Thrive MSP 2040" — its comprehensive plan to shape development in the seven-county region over the next 30 years. Powerful forces are coalescing to use the document as a tool for social planners to use to design their vision of the perfect society — and to impose it on the rest of us.

A huge, unchecked power grab is about to take place beneath our noses. But mayors and city councils will find it hard to push back. That's because the Met Council will increasingly wield the power to decide which municipalities thrive and which decline. It will both write the rules for development and hold the purse strings.

The Met Council was established in the mid-1960s at the behest of Republican-leaning policymakers, who believed regional planning of infrastructure could enhance efficiency. Its reach has grown dramatically, and today it allocates funds (state, federal and regional) among the region's 187 municipalities for projects ranging from highway improvement to bridges to sewer lines. In the process, the council's role has expanded well beyond its original mandate, as government so often does.

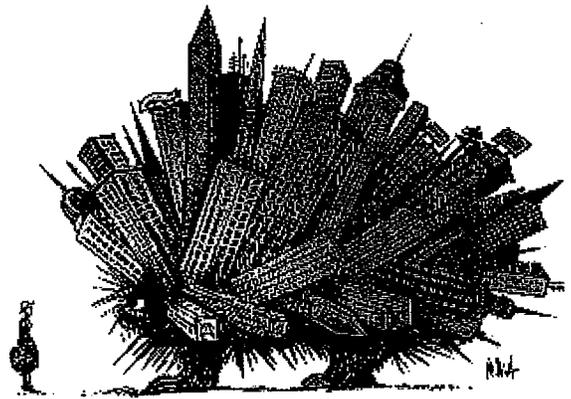
We can expect MSP 2040 to put this process on steroids, giving the agency a license, over time, to dramatically remake the entire region.

### 'Equity,' 'sustainability'

The forces shaping MSP 2040 — whose final vision the council will approve in 2014 — are part of a growing nationwide movement called "regionalism."

Regional planning of service delivery and infrastructure is important, of course. But "regionalism," as an ideology, is not, as its name suggests, about promoting the good of a region as a whole. It's about metro centers — the urban core and inner-ring suburbs — usurping control over outer-ring communities to advance their own interests and, in the process, effectively replacing local elected officials with a handful of regional governments.

In the case of the Twin Cities, the ramifications for democratic self-rule are profound. The Met Council's 17 members are not elected. Though they come from different parts of the seven-county area, they don't represent the needs and interests of



Pedro Molina , NewsArt

voters there. They are all appointed by Gov. Mark Dayton, and they owe their allegiance to him.

The press for regionalism is coming from the highest power in the land: the Obama White House. The Obama administration's campaign to build the regulatory framework to implement the movement's agenda is documented in political analyst Stanley Kurtz's 2012 book, "Spreading the Wealth: How Obama is Robbing the Suburbs to Pay for the Cities."

The Twin Cities may be a showcase for how far the regionalist crusade can go. Our Met Council is unique, and we already have regional tax-base sharing — one of the movement's most sought-after tools.

An army of academics, environmental organizations, foundations, and transit advocacy and left-wing religious groups is working to ensure that MSP 2040 greatly expands the Met Council's regulatory control. And there's a movement underway to organize politicians from inner-ring suburbs and Minneapolis and St. Paul, with the goal of taking on the outer-ring suburbs and forging a permanent legislative majority for the regionalist agenda.

Regionalism is driven by a core ideological conviction: The cause of the poverty and social dysfunction that bedevil America's cities is the greed and racial bigotry of suburbanites — especially those in prosperous, outer-ring suburbs, which are viewed as unjustly excluding the poor. Regionalists believe that financial aid for the inner ring won't remedy this injustice. A profound change in governance is required.

What sort of change? The title of a book by regionalist guru David Rusk puts it bluntly: "Cities without Suburbs." In regionalists' view, suburbs with their own tax bases are, by definition, a menace to cities, and the distinctions between the two must be wiped out as completely as possible.

Regionalists' strategy to effectively merge cities and suburbs turns on two ideologically freighted buzzwords: "equity" and "sustainability." "Equity" is code for using public policy to redistribute wealth and to engineer economic equality among demographic groups.

Regionalists view metrowide "economic integration" as one of government's primary responsibilities. Their plan to accomplish it is twofold: Disperse urban poverty throughout a metro area via low-income housing and make suburban life so inconvenient and expensive that suburbanites are pushed back into the city.

"Sustainability" means policies that would override market forces to ensure that in the future, the great majority of new jobs, economic development and public works projects are funneled into the metro area's urban core and inner ring — where, not coincidentally, regionalists' own political base is concentrated. "Sustainable" policies promote high-density, Manhattan-style living, and attempt to wean us away from our cars and push us to walk, bike or use public transit to get to work.

As one critic — speculating on MSP 2040's likely outcome — lamented: "Do we all have to live in a 1,500-square-foot condo above a coffee shop on a transit line?"

Suburbanites will disproportionately shoulder the costs of this socially engineered transformation, paying more in taxes and getting less back in infrastructure and public services.

### **Purse strings**

Regionalists' strategy for imposing their agenda hinges on giving regional bodies like the Met Council the ultimate trump: the power of the checkbook. The Obama administration's "Sustainable Communities Initiative" (SCI) provides a model. SCI channels federal funds for land use, transportation and housing projects through regional bodies. The catch is that, to participate, municipalities must embrace redistributive "equity" goals.

The Met Council already has announced that "equity" and "mitigating economic and social disparities through regional investments" will be top priorities of MSP 2040. This explicit embrace of social engineering goals appears to signal an intent to initiate what could be a virtually limitless remake of our metro area.

Special-interest groups are lining up to lobby for proposals to embed "equity" and "sustainability" criteria in Met Council plans and/or funding criteria. These proposals include creating one giant seven-county metro school district to facilitate

apportionment of students by race and income, and ensuring that “at least 70 percent of projected growth in population and households” in the next 30 years takes place through “infill and redevelopment of already urbanized land.”

In the future, if Prior Lake or Anoka want to get a grant to expand a major regional highway, officials there may need to demonstrate that their city meets the council’s “equity” criteria on low-income housing and doesn’t allow “exclusionary” zoning, instead of just showing that the project would improve safety or reduce congestion.

Over time, demands could escalate. Eventually, for example, a municipality may have to meet onerous “carbon footprint” or “clean energy” requirements to get approval for a new sewer line. Pressure will mount to make state and federal aid of all kinds contingent on meeting Met Council social planning dictates.

Most likely, the council will continue to operate under the fiction that cities have a choice. Yet a city council or a county board that declines to comply with “regionalist” criteria — citing its citizens’ needs and preferences — would ensure that funds and approval for improvement would stop, and so would remain frozen in time.

Advocates insist that the Twin Cities must embrace regionalist policies to remain “economically competitive.” In fact, top-down planning by unaccountable bureaucrats that distorts market forces is likely to constrict overall prosperity and stymie development. Ironically, it’s also likely to increase “sprawl,” as people flee to cities like Delano or Elk River to get beyond the Met Council’s iron grip.

Most importantly, the direction the Met Council is heading is inconsistent with our deepest beliefs as a people. The American dream is about striving for a better life through economic growth, not redistribution of wealth. Regionalists’ Orwellian appeals to “equity” and “sustainability” are hostile to our cherished traditions of individual liberty, personal responsibility and local self-government.

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Katherine Kersten is a senior fellow at the Center of the American Experiment. The views expressed here are her own. She is at [kakersten@gmail.com](mailto:kakersten@gmail.com).

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SUN Post  
8-15-13

## Opinion

### Column: Bottineau Light Rail entering next phase of public input

By Sun Post Editor  
August 13, 2013 at 2:29 pm

With much media attention given lately to the proposed Southwest Light Rail Train, residents have asked about the proposed route and its status.

The question is very timely as the City of Golden Valley and Hennepin County are launching public outreach efforts to prepare for the future project development stage of Bottineau.

Go to [goldenvalleymn.gov/planning/bottineau.php](http://goldenvalleymn.gov/planning/bottineau.php) and you will see that the proposed route – also known as the Metro Blue Line – is a continuation of the Hiawatha Light Rail Train Line from Target Field up to Brooklyn Park.

It passes on the far eastern side of Golden Valley within the existing Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad corridor, adjacent to Theodore Wirth Park and Mary Hills Nature Area.

The proposed line offers two possible station locations – one at Golden Valley Road and one at Plymouth Avenue.

To prepare a thorough evaluation of both train station options, the Golden Valley City Council and I invite you to participate in the upcoming “Station Area Planning” process.

This process will include creating conceptual plans for station locations as well as planning for parking, trail and pedestrian access, bicycle access and storage, pickup-drop-off accommodations, lighting, and other considerations.

It will also include planning for transit and pedestrian connections to stations and planning long-term land uses in the surrounding areas.

The first way to participate in the Station Area Planning process is to attend a public roundtable meeting which Hennepin County is hosting to discuss developments

surrounding the Bottineau transitway project and to kick-off Station Area Planning activities. Information for the meeting is as follows:

Roundtable meeting

6:15-8 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 15

Unity Church Fellowship Hall, 4000 Golden Valley Road

The second option for participation in the Station Area planning process is through the City of Golden Valley's soon-to-be created Bottineau transitway Planning Advisory Committee.

The purpose of this city committee is to assist in the planning process and any further Bottineau transitway planning-related activities that have yet to be identified.

The committee will be comprised of residents from the community at-large; residents from the Planning, Environmental, and Open Space and Recreation Commissions; a representative from the business community; and a representative from a nonprofit organization in Golden Valley.

It is anticipated that this committee will hold multiple meetings over the next six months (possibly longer) where stakeholders and community members can gather to share ideas and give feedback to station and land use planning proposals.

Planning for the Bottineau Transitway will be a lengthy process.

The Station Area Planning portion will last for approximately one year.

Other studies, including further environmental analyses, will be conducted over the next several years.

Once all studies are complete, the Metropolitan Council will again ask the cities along the train's route to endorse the project.

Assuming that studies are concluded on schedule, there is support from Golden Valley and other communities along the proposed transitway, and adequate funding has been approved, construction could occur in several years.

If you have questions about the Bottineau Light Rail Train and the Station Area Planning process, please contact the City's Community Development Department at 763-593-8095, click on the City's website link mentioned above or visit the County's project website at [bottineautransitway.org](http://bottineautransitway.org).

*Shep Harris is the mayor of Golden Valley*

SUN Post  
8-15-13

## Community

### Chickens survive the first hurdle in Crystal

By Sue Webber

August 13, 2013 at 2:45 pm

Up to four chickens will be allowed in single- and two-family homes in Crystal, if a proposed ordinance amendment is approved on second reading.

The ordinance was approved 5-2 on first reading Aug. 5. Councilmembers Mark Hoffmann and Joe Selton cast the dissenting votes. It is scheduled for a second reading Aug. 20.

City Manager Anne Norris said the council has conducted numerous work session discussion regarding whether to allow chickens in the city.

As proposed, the ordinance has six stipulations:

- Up to four chickens would be allowed at single- and two-family homes.
- No butchering would be allowed.
- Chickens must be kept in coops and runs.
- Coops may be no larger than 120 square feet.
- Coops and runs must be located at least 10 feet from the lot line.
- No roosters will be allowed.
- No breeding of chickens will be allowed.

The amended ordinance also pertains to private kennel license requirements. It specifies that residents may have up to three dogs or three cats, or two dogs and two cats, without securing a private kennel license. A private kennel license is needed for a maximum of five dogs.

Hoffmann and Selton both supported requiring residents who want to raise chickens to pay a \$50 annual permit fee.

“We talk about protecting the tax dollars of citizens,” Selton said. “If you want to play, you pay.”

Hoffmann pointed out that the city has to be concerned about protecting chickens, as well. He requested that the council receive information at the second reading on what other communities do about permits for chicken-raising and the process for treating violations.

“This is a good amendment,” he said of the proposal to add a permit fee. “It doesn’t hurt anyone who is serious about raising chickens.”

But Mayor Jim Adams disagreed, saying he “didn’t want to create bureaucracy and additional duties for our city employees. This creates an additional workload and attempts to pay for it.”

Councilmember Laura Libby also pointed out that surrounding suburbs that allow chickens haven’t had a lot of problems.

“For now, I would like to see no permit,” Councilmember Julie Deshler said. “We could revisit this in a couple of years. Minneapolis has said the permit process is so cumbersome. I would like to see it not so cumbersome for everyone involved.”

Councilmember John Budziszewski said, “We’ve worked long and hard to make this right. People have sense and sensibility to raise them right. We’ve talked about this a lot. We’ve done our homework well. The rest of it stands on its own.”

He noted that the council “put in place measures to prevent chaos or out of control chicken production.”

Councilmember Casey Peak added that “people are respectful if you give them a chance.”

In the end, the council voted 5-2 against requiring a permit. Hoffmann and Selton cast the dissenting votes.

A dozen residents offered comments about the proposed ordinance amendment.

Paulette Magnuson, a 37-year resident and former chair of the Planning Commission, said she supports the ordinance change, but also would support licensing that would allow the city to “control what’s going on.”

She advised council members to become informed about hazards created by chicken droppings.

According to Don Crawford, a lifelong resident of the city, not requiring a permit “is like taking speed signs down. There’s no recourse.”

“With the permit system, you have something in place,” Crawford said. “You need to take time to do it right. I don’t really want chickens in the city. You need to take time and go over it again.”

Resident Marge Lane also urged the council to reconsider.

“You people need to investigate this,” she said. “I grew up on a farm, and I know about chickens. You pass ordinance after ordinance and you don’t follow through on enforcement.”

Grace Lawson, a 56-year resident, agreed that current ordinances need to be enforced.

“I don’t like the idea of chickens,” Jan Scofield said. “It seems like cats and dogs are enough.”

“I am definitely in support of chickens,” Tyler Marsh said. “I plan on getting chickens, and I anticipate composting the waste.”

Marsh said he believes requiring a permit would deter people from raising chickens. “A permit is the wrong way to go,” he said. “Golden Valley has a permit procedure and no one wants to go through it.”

Angela Mueller urged the council to support chickens. "People who want chickens are responsible," she said, noting that being able to raise organic eggs and "chemical-free everything" is a health issue for her.

Bridgette Bethke, who said she grew up on a farm and recently moved to Crystal, said, "I have a neighbor with chickens. All the neighbors are really, really excited about chickens."

Chuck Tostenson, who also grew up on a farm prior to moving to Crystal in 1966, said, "I don't mind chickens but they belong on the farm."

Yvette Hewitt said she does not agree with the ordinance and said "no one knows about the ordinance."

"We have an animal hoarder in my neighborhood right now, and it's a mess," Hewitt said. "There will be a mess without enforcement. Make sure your constituents are informed before you make a decision."

Councilmember Casey Peak said he believes the issue of responsibility rests with the individual.

"If you keep giving it all to government, you have no rights left," Peak said. "People are good. That's why we have government. We have a good government that works. If people are not following the rules, they can bring it to our attention. We have to stop giving away our rights or we won't have any."

Adams said he believes property rights are a fundamental key to freedom.

"I look at this as allowing some freedom," Adams said. "We're not gumming it up with [stipulations on] noise and smells. We're simplifying things. We're giving people their rights back."

Hoffmann still maintained that some rules are needed. "Chickens are great within reason," Hoffmann said.

Sun Post  
8-15-13

Community

## Hundreds rally to support two Crystal police officers

By Sue Webber

August 15, 2013 at 10:00 am

An estimated 200 people turned out at 6 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 5, for a rally in support of Crystal Police officers Alan Watt and Robin Erkenbrack.

The rally, conducted outside the Crystal City Hall, was organized by Communities United Against Police Brutality (CUAPB) in response to complaints the two officers filed against the city of Crystal and with the Minnesota POST Board for what they allege is a "campaign of retaliation."

The organization cites the unusually long time it has taken to resolve the matter, while the officers are being paid to stay at home.

Because of a gag order imposed by city officials, neither Watt nor Erkenbrack was able to comment on the case.

Prior to the rally, Crystal City Manager Anne Norris also declined to comment on the police officers' charges, saying, "The issues are following the process specified in the union contracts."

### The case

Communities United on Sept. 6, 2012, filed 12 complaints with the city of Crystal regarding an incident in which they say Crystal Police failed to investigate the dispossession, without legal authority, of the Ramirez family from their home by Brooklyn Park Police Officer Greg Burstad and the subsequent theft of their household property while the home was under Burstad's control.

"The Ramirez family reported these crimes to the Crystal Police Department, yet no investigation was performed beyond what was on the original offense report," CUAPB said in a statement.

The two Crystal police officers, Watt and Erkenbrack, stepped forward to express their concerns about the lack of an investigation into the Ramirez incident and what CUAPB terms "other police management corruption."

Regarding the Ramirez case, City Manager Anne Norris said the Crystal City Council has not and will not be discussing it because an outside investigator has been retained to review whether the Crystal police responded appropriately in 2008 to the call from members of the Ramirez family.

“It was determined the officers responded appropriately, in that it was a civil matter (landlord-tenant),” Norris said in an email to the Sun Post. “Additionally, the Ramirez family was awarded compensation through district and federal court regarding the Gang Strike Task Force issues. The Hennepin County District Attorney and the Attorney General’s office did not pursue any action regarding this matter.”

But the two police officers contend that after they registered their complaints, Stephanie Fealy Revering (who later was appointed police chief) began “a campaign of retaliation” against them. Watt, a 17-year veteran, was placed on administrative leave for eight months, suspended without pay for six weeks and remains on leave. Sgt. Erkenbrack, a 27-year veteran, has been on administrative leave for three months, was demoted, and “threatened with further retaliation if he didn’t accept a forced retirement,” according to the Communities United statement.

“Crystal is a great community, but corruption within police administration is harming the residents and the officers who want to serve them,” said Michelle Gross, president of CUAPB. “Ofc. Alan Watt and Sgt. Rob Erkenbrack should not face retaliation for being whistle-blowers and doing the right thing. We are proud to stand up for officers Watt and Erkenbrack and we demand that the Crystal City Council investigate these matters and Revering’s retaliation against these honest officers.”

Both police officers are represented by Law Enforcement Labor Services. Adam Burnside, who represents Watt, said, “We don’t talk with the press about issues.”

Mark Schneider, an attorney with Chestnut Cambronne, who is representing the two officers, did not return calls from the Sun Post seeking comment.

CUAPB President Michelle Gross said the last time the issue was brought before the city council, they were told to “let the process work.”

“It takes up to a year to get arbitration,” Gross said. “This is nonsensical.”

She said her group distributed 10,000 flyers door-to-door in Crystal prior to Monday night’s rally at the city hall. It apparently sparked considerable community interest, she said, judging by “jillions of calls we got on our hotline.”

### **The rally**

The rally, complete with stickers bearing the photos of the two police officers, and large signs supporting the officers and decrying alleged corruption in Crystal, drew family members, friends and many Crystal residents who know Officer Alan Watt and Robin Erkenbrack, and others who support the Police Department.

Kari Erkenbrack Miller, Erkenbrack's niece, said she started a Facebook page on the case. She also had T-shirts made for the Erkenbrack family, which turned out en masse for the rally. They included Erkenbrack's wife, Linda; son Avery, 18; and daughter Lydia, 10.

"We want both officers back to work," Miller said. "[The city needs to] explain why they have been demoted and are not allowed to work. Why are they sitting at home?"

Adrian Ramirez, whose family's incident was the beginning of the police issue, said he continues to live in Crystal, in spite of the earlier incident.

"They took everything from a [Ramirez] mother and her family," Geri Monroe said. "These are beautiful young people with a 6-month-old baby who are just starting up. It's absolutely heart-breaking."

Darryl Robinson, vice president of Communities United said, "There are good police out here in Crystal, but the system is bad."

Michelle Gross, organizer of the rally, spoke to the crowd through a bullhorn. She claimed that her group has repeatedly requested meetings with Crystal City Manager Norris about the police issue and have been turned down.

"That's part of the cover-up," Gross said. "We're saying we won't tolerate that anymore."

Gross said documentation on the issue submitted to city officials was promptly returned because officials said the issue was a personnel matter.

The crowd chanted in unison, "Anne's gotta go!"

Gross claims "other things are happening in Crystal," and spoke about the decision to promote the present police chief despite allegations of her misconduct in the past.

"They decided she would be their next chief, and they wouldn't let anything get in the way," Gross said.

As she spoke about the current police chief, the crowd shouted in unison, "Get her out!"

### **City council open forum**

Rally attendees continued their testimony indoors at the 7 p.m. City Council meeting, and filled the chambers to overflowing. People without chairs sat on the floor, stood around the perimeter of the room or spilled out into the hallway.

Mayor Jim Adams extended the usual 10-minute time limit on any one Open Forum discussion topic to accommodate a succession of 18 people who spoke for a total of 40 minutes on the police issue.

Prior to the citizen testimony, Adams told the audience he met with Crystal's senior staff July 15 to try to get more information on the police issue and was told the same thing residents have been told: that the data is private and cannot be released.

"The council was not very satisfied with that answer, even if it's true," Adams said.

He said he discussed the matter further with the city attorney and was told that personnel issues are subject to the data privacy laws. Since then, however, Adams said, "We have acknowledged we do need a closed session so the council has a better idea of what's going on. There is a process, and we are doing everything we can for you. We've gotten a lot of phone calls and emails."

The City Council was scheduled to meet in a closed session immediately after the Aug. 5 regular meeting to discuss pending personnel litigation regarding Alan Watt and Rob Erkenbrack.

Daisy Gunn, a 35-year Crystal resident, called the prolonged process "nonsense."

According to Crystal resident Michael Barlow, what has happened in the Police Department is wrong, and he suggested that the city appoint a special committee "away from the good old boys" to investigate.

"You've turned over some really ugly stones," Barlow said. "There has to be accountability to the citizens of this beautiful city, and there is no accountability. The situation has been stonewalled and covered over. This is not going to go away."

George Peterson, who identified himself as a former union steward, complained that "this has taken an extensively long time."

"I have known both [police] officers on and off the job," Peterson said. "Put them back to work before the citizens become unruly."

Karen Lincoln said, "There is a bullying thing going on in the Police Department," and added that Watt and Erkenbrack were "singled out for doing the right thing."

"As a taxpayer, I'm sick and tired of it," Lincoln said. "This needs to be expedited. If it's not expedited soon, I'm not voting for any of you again. Those officers have rights. We have rights. This is not right."

Noting that her own son is a police officer elsewhere, Judi Kieper talked of the Crystal officers' response to her home the night her husband fell.

"You need to get these guys back on the street," she said.

Kim Peterson, Officer Alan Watts' girlfriend, said, "My understanding is that these officers have already been disciplined. Why all the secrecy? They haven't been told why they can't work. What's the secret? There's no reason for them to be at home. They want to be here. The community misses them."

Peterson said an apparent breakdown in communication needs to be found and fixed.

"You guys are out of the loop; aren't you supposed to be in the loop?" said Peterson, who supports an external investigation.

"They won't get a fair shake with anyone internally," Peterson said. "Look into it and look deep."

Michelle Gross said her organization now has signed affidavits from the two officers saying that their personnel data may be examined by the council.

"You have no choice but to investigate this," Gross said. "This mess wasn't your mess, but you need to fix it. It's squarely on your shoulders."

She said she believes the lack of communication is "quite deliberate."

"We are calling for [City Manager] Anne Norris and [Police Chief] Stephanie Revering to step down or be asked to leave," Gross said.

Mary Sand, a resident of Crystal who said her father was a police officer for 28 years in New Hope, said "We have evidence proving cover-ups and corruption, and it's got to stop."

Pat Ritzinger, a 40-year Crystal resident, claimed that the two officers saved her life when she was seriously ill and had fallen.

"It took me nine hours to crawl up the steps and call 911," Ritzinger said.

Jan Scofield, a 50-year Crystal resident, urged caution in proceeding.

“There are always two sides,” Scofield said. “I wish you would wait for the investigation. People rile up the crowd, but they need to wait for the investigation. There are things in the newspaper; maybe some is true, and maybe it isn’t true. People need to calm down.”

Darryl Robinson, vice president of CUAPB , said his organization had warned the council the last time they appeared at open forum that they would be returning and would be much louder.

“Now the community is here, and we’re speaking louder,” Robinson said. “Now all types of corruption are coming out. If this is going to be swept under the rug, we’re going to get louder. We’re not asking for much. There’s a lot going on in Crystal that needs to be investigated or we will be back again. It needs to be fixed. I hope you are listening to all the voices. I hope you’re hearing the community.”

### **Next steps**

On Tuesday, Aug. 6, City Manager Anne Norris released a summary of the Crystal City Council’s discussion of personnel matters during its closed session Aug. 5.

According to her summary:

- The city council has full confidence in city and police management and in Chief Revering.
- The council has been briefed on officers Watt and Erkenbrack. The council understands the seriousness of personnel issues.
- The council has faith in the process currently underway, but acknowledges that they are time-consuming, expensive and necessary.
- The council’s goal is to have the process completed and issues resolved as expeditiously as possible.
- Once the process is complete, the council will provide further information to the public, to the extent the law allows.

In answer to some issues raised by speakers during the Open Forum on Aug. 5, Norris offered the following.

### **Q. Is the police department retaliating against these officers?**

“While we are unable to comment on private personnel matters, the city has policies that prohibit retaliation and other inappropriate behaviors. We take any allegation brought forward by any

person or organization very seriously. All allegations of misconduct are properly investigated. The city council has full confidence in city and police management and in Chief Revering.”

**Q. Did the department ignore the Ramirez family or cover-up wrong-doing?**

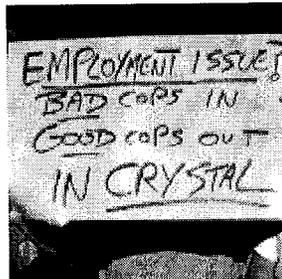
“The unfortunate circumstances of the Ramirez family in 2008 have been exhaustively reviewed and investigations found that Crystal Police Department handled the matter appropriately. The Ramirez family has been compensated for the conduct of their former landlord and the Metro Gang Strike Force. These issues are factually unrelated to recent claims relating to our police department. These claims are disturbing to hear, but there are no facts to support them.”

**Q. What are these allegations about corruption? Did the chief and the officer really do the things mentioned in the flier?**

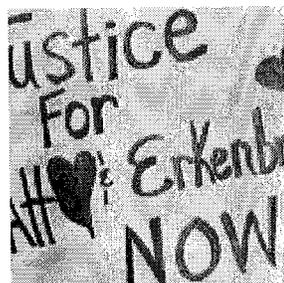
“Each of the allegations arise from matters some time ago and were investigated and concluded. Due to state law, the city cannot release details of those investigations. No final disposition of disciplinary action exists related to the investigations.”

**Q. Why isn't the police department or the city responding to these allegations?**

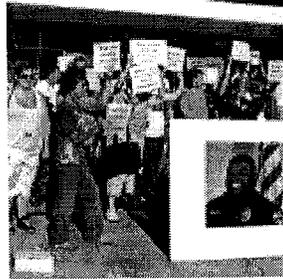
“In order to protect employees' privacy, the city does not typically talk about personnel issues, both based on city policy and state privacy laws. We will be providing more information to the public, to the extent the law allows, as this process moves forward.”



Crystal residents made signs in support of Crystal police officers Alan Watt and Rob Erkenbrack at Aug. 5 city council meeting. (Photo by Sue Webber)



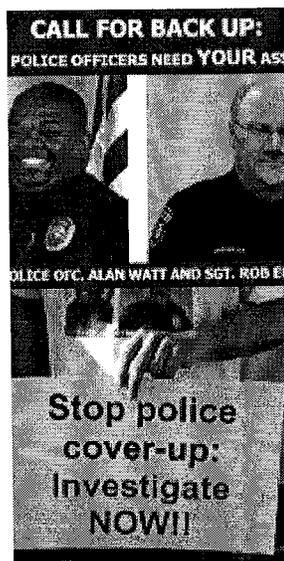
Crystal residents made signs in support of Crystal police officers Alan Watt and Rob Erkenbrack at Aug. 5 city council meeting. (Photo by Sue Webber)



Hundreds rally outside Crystal City Hall prior to Aug. 5 city council meeting in support of Crystal Police Officer Alan Watt and Sergeant Rob Erkenbrack. (Photo by Sue Webber)



Rob Erkenbrack's family wears shirts in support of the two officers who stood up to Crystal Police Department corruption. The family joined hundreds outside City Hall Aug. 5 to rally before the city council meeting. (Photo by Sue Webber)



Crystal residents made signs in support of Crystal police officers Alan Watt and Rob Erkenbrack at Aug. 5 city council meeting. (Photo by Sue Webber)

Sun Post  
8-15-13

# Community

## Neighbors unite for crime prevention in quad cities

By Gina Purcell

August 14, 2013 at 1:00 pm

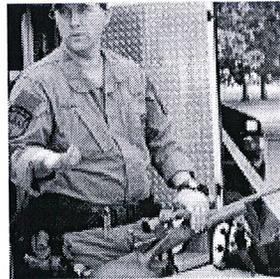
Every year people across the country gather in neighborhoods to meet one another and enjoy a night out.

The quad cities are just a few of the participating communities in this annual event.

Its purpose is for residents to get acquainted with not only one another but with their local police and fire.

The better an individual knows and feels comfortable with neighbors and emergency personnel the more easily crime can be detected and reported.

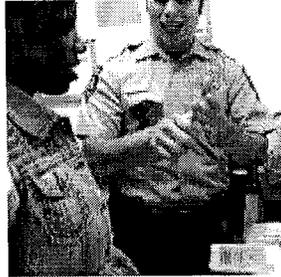
It is a night to join forces in preventing local crimes.



Jason Nolan, detective with the Crystal Police Department, talks with residents about his duties and equipment. (Sun Post staff photo by Gina Purcell)



Lindsey Josephs, 2, tries on a firefighter's helmet at Crystal Police Department's open house Aug. 6. (Sun Post staff photo by Gina Purcell)



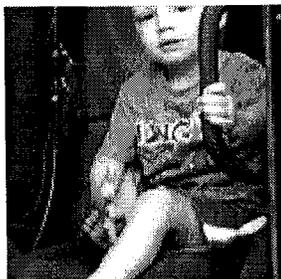
Greg Nordby takes fingerprints of Alexis Radford while explaining how the machine and its process works. (Sun Post staff photo by Gina Purcell)



Vicky Dalman fingerprints Sadie Knaus, 7, at Crystal Police Department's open house Aug. 6. (Sun Post staff photo by Gina Purcell)



Callie Knaus, 4, gets her fingers printed at the Crystal Police Department Aug. 6 for its open house. (Sun Post staff photo by Gina Purcell)



Adryan Felt, 2, explores the interior of a West Metro fire truck at his New Hope block party Aug. 6. (Sun Post staff photo by Gina Purcell)



New Hope residents celebrate national crime prevention night with food, drinks, local emergency personnel and neighbors Aug. 6. (Sun Post staff photo by Gina Purcell)

SUN Post  
8-15-13

# 'Personnel issue' should not be a cop-out

I sympathize with the folks who are part of Communities United Against Police Brutality and the two Crystal Police officers involved in the situation explained in depth elsewhere in this edition.

I don't necessarily agree with all of their conclusions, but as Bill Clinton once famously said, "I feel their pain."

Hardly a day goes by in our newsroom that some city, police department, school district, city official, superintendent or other individual in charge doesn't tell one of our community editors, "Sorry, I can't tell you that. State law, you know. Data Privacy Act. We must follow the rules."

**PAUL WAHL**  
SUN  
NEWSPAPERS



It's as frustrating for us as it is for the general public to be told that a significant investigation that's obviously taking way longer than it should: MYOB (mind your own business).

The problem as I see it is a pervasive culture of secrecy that is endemic in just about any public body to some extent. It's just easier to say "no comment" or "personnel matter" and leave it at that than to explain spe-

cifically which Data Practice Act statutes, which state laws, which personnel rules, which union contract rules and so forth specifically apply in any particular case.

"Trust us" hardly ever works.

Actually, the real answer in many situations is the governmental entity and its leaders actually don't know exactly what the law says. We've even found city attorneys and attorneys advising school districts to be woefully under-informed when it comes to data privacy issues.

So when you don't know, you simply say ... nothing. Which

**WAHL - TO PAGE 5**

WUHH

FROM PAGE 4

instantly sends up red flags everywhere.

In the newspaper's situation, we are ably represented by one of the best First Amendment attorneys in the country. Often when he inquires with a governmental body as to which law specifically they are invoking to keep a topic secret, the answer is "well it's always been the law that we can't..."

Many times once the statutes are explained thoroughly and precedence is included, the information gap can be cleared up rather quickly.

Fact: Nowhere in any law, statute or ruling in Minnesota are "personnel issues" as a broad category referenced as being private, closed or unavailable to the public.

"Personnel issues" is a broad category of statutes, some of which call for privacy, some of which call for release of specific parts of the information and some are entirely open to the public.

Dates of hearings and formal actions are almost always available to the public. The details of the actual discussions, not so much.

My gut instinct is that the leadership in Crystal is not so much purposely withholding information as they are being overly cautious so as not to violate any of the myriad of statutes, some of which are contradictory.

Were we to sack every public official who was intimidated by the laws regarding "personnel issues," my guess is we would be replacing most of the elected and appointed officials in the majority of the cities we cover.

The situation in Crystal will be concluded at some point. It will probably take longer than any of us would like.

Hopefully Crystal's experience can be a lesson to other public entities that today's average resident and taxpayer isn't going to take "personnel issues" as a blanket excuse to stonewall on issues that might be embarrassing or unpleasant.

Contact Paul Wahl at paul.wahl@ecm-inc.com



**CRYSTAL CITY COUNCIL**  
**COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA**  
**Tuesday, August 20, 2013**

**To immediately follow the Regular City Council Meeting**  
**Conference Room A**

Pursuant to due call and notice given in the manner prescribed by Section 3.01 of the City Charter, the work session of the Crystal City Council was held at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. on Tuesday, August 20, 2013 in Conference Room A located at 4141 Douglas Drive, Crystal, Minnesota.

**I. Attendance**

Council members

Staff

\_\_\_\_ Budziszewski

\_\_\_\_ Norris

\_\_\_\_ Deshler

\_\_\_\_ Therres

\_\_\_\_ Hoffmann

\_\_\_\_ Norton

\_\_\_\_ Libby

\_\_\_\_ Revering

\_\_\_\_ Peak

\_\_\_\_ Serres

\_\_\_\_ Selton

\_\_\_\_ Adams

**II. Agenda**

The purpose of the work session is to discuss the following agenda items:

- Closed session to discuss pending litigation [REDACTED]\*
- Closed session to consider preliminary charges arising out of CUABP allegations\*
- West Metro Fire-Rescue District citizen representative recruitment process
- Code amendments regarding guns and the use of firearms
- Intro to Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Program

*\* Denotes no supporting information included in the packet.*

**III. Adjournment**

The work session adjourned at \_\_\_\_\_ p.m.



## Memorandum

DATE: August 13, 2013  
TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Anne Norris, City Manager *ala*  
SUBJECT: West Metro Fire District Board – Citizen Representative

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The West Metro Fire District is a joint powers organization between the cities of Crystal and New Hope. Article IV of the Joint Powers Agreement creating the West Metro Fire District provides for a governing board of seven members. The seven board members include:

- Two members representing the city of Crystal appointed by Council resolution and at least one of the two members shall be a current member of the Crystal City Council;
- Two members representing the city of New Hope appointed by Council resolution and at least one of the two members shall be a current member of the Crystal City Council;
- The two city managers; and
- One member appointed by joint resolution of both city councils that does not need to be a resident of either city.

In the past the City Council has appointed two of its members to serve, and has also appointed a non-elected official to serve in the capacity of a “citizen representative” on the Board. The City Attorney has advised previously that the Council may, but is not required to, appoint a “citizen representative”, since the Joint Powers Agreement is silent on the city’s options and there is no city ordinance or statute which directs whether the second appointee should be a citizen or an elected official.

The current Board members appointed by the Crystal Council are:

- Council representative Mark Hoffmann appointed by Resolution #2013-03 to a term expiring December 31, 2014;
- Council representative John Budziszewski filling in the citizen representative position, appointed by Resolution #2013-22 to a term expiring December 31, 2013; and
- 7<sup>th</sup> member Gary Laurant appointed by Resolution #2013-02 to a term expiring December 31, 2014.

When Councilmember Budziszewski was appointed to fill the citizen representative term earlier this year, the Council requested discussion of the future filling of this position and how to provide for both City Council and citizen applicants simultaneously.

If the Council wishes to seek applicants from both councilmembers and residents, the residents would go through the normal application process, including completing the attached application form. If the Council determines to have a "citizen representative", it is recommended that the Council reserve the second appointment to be one from among qualified citizens but not have elected officials competing against citizens for the second appointment. This would not be appropriate for councilmembers as they are elected. However, it may be appropriate for councilmembers to submit their name and interest in serving on the WMFD as the mandatory councilmember appointment (draft attached).

I am assuming all candidates would be interviewed by the entire Council at a work session, prior to the Council acting on an appointment.

As Councilmember Budziszewski's term expires at the end of the this year, the Council should discuss how to proceed with filling this Board position.

Attach:



# APPLICATION FOR CITY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Return application to: 4141 Douglas Drive N, Crystal MN 55422

Fax: (763) 531-1188; Email: [trudy.tassoni@crystalmn.gov](mailto:trudy.tassoni@crystalmn.gov).

Please check one:  New Applicant  Reappointment

Thank you for your interest in serving your community as a volunteer. Please indicate below the board or commission which you would like to be appointed to. *(Note eligibility requirements - a member of a board or commission must be a lawful resident of Crystal and, if required, a resident of the Council ward from which they are appointed.)* Your application will be kept on file for one year.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Charter Commission                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation Commission (Ward____)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Employee Review Board              | <input type="checkbox"/> Planning Commission (Ward____)             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Quality Commission   | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Mgt Organization – Bassett Creek |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights Commission            | <input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Mgt Organization – Shingle Creek |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NW Hennepin Human Services Council | <input type="checkbox"/> West Metro Fire Board                      |

## PERSONAL INFORMATION *(please print)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Length of residence in Crystal \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Employer \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

## STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Why are you interested in serving on this City board or commission? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## IMPORTANT ISSUES FACING OUR COMMUNITY

What do you think are the most important issues facing our community over the next several years? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Describe what issues and ideas you would like to see addressed by the board or commission you would like to serve on. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**COMMUNITY, CIVIC, OR VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE**

Please list your volunteer experience. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**ATTENDANCE AND CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

Are you aware of the meeting schedule for this board or commission and are you able to attend meetings regularly? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

(For reappointments only: If you have not been able to attend meetings regularly, please explain:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ )

A conflict of interest may arise by your participation in an activity, action, or decision from which you receive or could potentially receive direct or indirect personal financial gain. Do you have any legal or equitable interest in any business which, in the course of your participation on this board or commission, could give rise to a conflict of interest? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_  
(If yes, please provide details on a separate sheet of paper.)

As a board or commission member, what issue(s) might cause conflict between your civic responsibility and personal or professional interests? How would you manage these conflicts?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**NEW APPLICANTS ONLY:**

Have you attended and observed a commission meeting for which you've made application?

Yes, on \_\_\_\_\_ (date of meeting) Not yet, but I will attend a meeting on \_\_\_\_\_ (date of meeting)

**EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Describe your education and/or professional experience. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**REAPPOINTMENTS ONLY:**

**COMMISSION OR BOARD HIGHLIGHTS**

Describe a highlight(s) or accomplishment(s) of the board or commission during your last term.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING YOUR APPLICATION**

**DATA PRIVACY NOTICE:** Minnesota law requires that you be informed of the purposes and intended use of the information you are providing on this application. Pursuant to Minn. Stat. §13.601, your name, address, length of residence, occupation, education, training, civic affiliations, qualifications, and experience are public data and is available to anyone who requests the information.

The information you provide will be used to identify you as an applicant, enable us to contact you when additional information is required, send you notices, and assess your qualifications for appointment. This data is not legally required, but refusal to supply the information requested may affect the City Council's ability to accurately evaluate your application.

**Should you be appointed to a board or commission, pursuant to Minn. Stat. §13.601, your residential address will become public information. In addition, either a telephone number or email address where you can be reached will become public. The purpose is to list contact information for commission members on a public roster.**

Please select which of the following you will allow listed on a public roster (*you must select either email or one phone number*):

EMAIL OR PHONE (*may choose more than one*):     home     work     cell

ALL OF THE ABOVE

*I have read the data privacy notice given above and authorize investigation into all statements contained in this application. Furthermore, I authorize the City of Crystal to conduct a criminal history background check, pursuant to Crystal City Code Section 311.01, Subd. 2, for purposes of determining my eligibility for a volunteer position with the City.*

MN Driver's License or MN State ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

If known by previous name, provide: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

- Process**
- Step 1 Complete an application
  - Step 2 Return the completed application to the administrative services coordinator
  - Step 3 Participate in a 15-minute interview with the mayor or mayor pro tem, commission chair, and council liaison of the commission
  - Step 4 New applicants only: attend a council meeting to be formally appointed to the commission



# APPLICATION FOR WEST METRO FIRE-RESCUE DISTRICT BOARD

Return application to: 4141 Douglas Drive N, Crystal MN 55422  
Fax: (763) 531-1188; Email: [trudy.tassoni@crystalmn.gov](mailto:trudy.tassoni@crystalmn.gov).

Please check one:  New Applicant  Reappointment

Thank you for your interest in serving as the Citizen Representative on the West Metro Fire Board.

## PERSONAL INFORMATION *(please print)*

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
First Last

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

## STATEMENT OF INTEREST

Why are you interested in serving on the West Metro Fire-Rescue District Board? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Memorandum

DATE: August 12, 2013  
TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Anne Norris, City Manager *alan*  
SUBJECT: Draft Ordinance – Gun Control

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Several councilmembers have asked about the city's policies and regulations regarding gun control. Section 935 of the City Code addresses gun control by defining the types of weapons that are prohibited in Crystal and when firearms may be carried and Section 945 of the City Code addresses the use of firearms. Because the state statutes provide the regulatory framework for gun control, the City Attorney believes these provisions of the City Code are likely not enforceable.

Attached is a draft ordinance deleting Section 935 from the City Code and amending Section 945.01 to be consistent with State law.

City Attorney Mike Norton will be at the August 20 work session to answer questions on the proposed ordinance.

Attach:

**ORDINANCE NO. 2013-**

**AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO CHAPTER IX PUBLIC SAFETY:  
REVISING LIMITS ON GUN CONTROL AND THE USE OF FIREARMS IN  
THE CITY**

The City of Crystal Does Ordain:

Section 1. Section 935 - Gun control of the Crystal City Code is amended by deleting Section 935 in its entirety.

Section 2. Section 945-Use of Firearms of the Crystal City Code is amended by revising subsection 945.01 to read as follows:

945.01. Firearms. Subdivision 1. Permit. It is unlawful to shoot, discharge or explode any firearm, cartridge or shell containing an explosive or air rifle within the corporate limits of the city without first obtaining a written permit ~~from the city~~ as required by Minnesota Statutes sections 624.71- 624.719, as amended, and as provided in this section 945.

Sec. 3. This ordinance is effective in accordance with Crystal City code, subsection 110.11.

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Jim Adams, Mayor

ATTEST:

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Christina Serres, City Clerk

First Reading: \_\_\_\_\_, 2013  
Second Reading: \_\_\_\_\_, 2013  
Summary Publication: \_\_\_\_\_, 2013  
Effective Date: \_\_\_\_\_, 2013



## Memorandum

DATE: August 13, 2013  
TO: Mayor and City Council  
FROM: Anne Norris, City Manager *aln*  
SUBJECT: Quad-City Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Initiative

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As you are probably aware, the cities of Crystal, Golden Valley, New Hope and Robbinsdale are working together on the Quad-City Beyond the Yellow Ribbon initiative. The Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program is an effort to create a network of support for returning military service members and their families with resources, services and training. There are requirements for communities to meet to become Beyond the Yellow Ribbon cities. There is currently a steering committee of representatives across the four cities working on planning for how best to meet these requirements.

Attached is general information on the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program.

Attach:



## What is Beyond the Yellow Ribbon?

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is a comprehensive program that creates awareness for the purpose of connecting Servicemembers and their families with community support, training, services and resources.

**We do this by:**

1. Creating awareness through the Yellow Ribbon Community Campaign and synchronizing sustainable community support networks.
2. Connecting and coordinating organizations, agencies and companies to provide resources and support to Servicemembers and their families.
3. Delivering a series of formal Yellow Ribbon Training events to Servicemembers and their families before, during and after deployment.
4. Providing an opportunity for Minnesotans to support Servicemembers and their families.

**Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is united to bring Servicemembers all the way home.**



**Beyond the  
Yellow Ribbon**

# Yellow Ribbon Recognition Program

## **What is a Yellow Ribbon Community?**

*A Yellow Ribbon Community unites key areas within a community to create a comprehensive network that connects and coordinates agencies, organizations, resources and employers for the purpose of creating access to resources that meet the needs at the local level of Servicemembers, Veterans and Military Families across the state of Minnesota.*

## **Why Become a Yellow Ribbon Community?**

*Since 9/11, thousands of Minnesotans have served our country. By developing a Yellow Ribbon Steering Committee and partnering with local military leaders a commitment is made to taking action. Communities unite to honor, support and embrace those affected by military deployments. The outward showing of support enables successful transition all the way home and strengthens the partnership with local military entities. The community's effort transcends the military to any group in need and builds a stronger, more compassionate community.*

## **How to become a Yellow Ribbon Community?**

*In partnership with a Yellow Ribbon Steering Committee, each community will develop a sustainable Action Plan demonstrating their commitment to Servicemembers, Veterans and Military Families. The community will identify and connect leaders in key areas across the community, leverage existing support activities, meet specific needs of Servicemembers, Veterans and Military Families and build awareness and commitment throughout the community and take action.*

## **\*Yellow Ribbon Community Key Areas:**

- City Leadership/Veterans Organizations/Civic Organizations/Local Military Entities
  - Mayor and City Council
  - Local military leaders/recruiters/unit representation
  - City Administrator and Staff
  - State Legislators
  - VFW and Ladies Auxiliary
  - Legion and Ladies Auxiliary
  - County Veteran Service Officer
  - Vietnam Vets/Paralyzed Veterans of America/Disabled American Vets/Purple Heart/Blue Star Mothers
  - Local VA Programs/Organizations
  - Rotary/Jaycees/Knights of Columbus/Kiwanis/Lions/Masons
  - City Royalty
- K-12 Education/Youth Programs/Community Ed
  - Superintendent and School Board (Public, Private and Charter Schools)
  - Youth Sports Programs/Community Youth Programs
  - Community Ed Leaders and Staff
  - Boy/Girls Scouts
  - County Library Leaders and Staff
  - 4H Clubs
  - YMCA/Boys and Girls Club
- Public Safety/Judicial
  - Police Chief and Staff/Fire Chief and Staff/Emergency Services
  - EMT Leaders
  - Prosecutors/Defenders/Judges/Lawyers
- Businesses/Employers
  - Local Business Associations
  - Chamber of Commerce/Rotary Clubs
- Faith Based/Medical/Social Services/Volunteer Groups
  - Church/Synagogue Representatives/Ministerial Associations
  - Military Chaplains
  - American Red Cross/United Way Associations
  - Community Action Council/Community Support Organizations
  - Medical and Mental Health Providers/Associations

*\*Yellow Ribbon Steering Committee represented in all areas.*

February 2013

## Minimum Services and Best Practices for Yellow Ribbon Recognition Program

### *CITY LEADERSHIP*

Minimum Service	Best Practices/Suggestions
Full support of Yellow Ribbon Community Program efforts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Updated on all aspects of support activities</li> <li>• Communicate and recognize support activities at city meetings/events</li> <li>• Prominent presence of support efforts on city website</li> <li>• Connect military families to the Yellow Ribbon Steering Committee</li> <li>• Volunteer at support events</li> <li>• Participate on YellowRibbon Steering Committee as city representative</li> <li>• Provide admin support from staff to Yellow Ribbon Steering Committee</li> <li>• Provide city benefits (waiving fees for activities, providing print services, waiving fees or providing discounts to military families for city services, etc.)</li> <li>• Create volunteer opportunities for city staff to support Servicemembers, Veterans and military families</li> <li>• Create military-friendly employee support and recruiting policies for city employees</li> <li>• Ensure all city leaders and staff are informed about Yellow Ribbon Community effort</li> <li>• Create plan of support to local businesses impacted by deployed employees</li> <li>• Hold regular meetings with local military leaders to identify partnership opportunities</li> <li>• Create process for new residents to learn about military support efforts</li> </ul>
Annual city leadership update of Yellow Ribbon Steering Committee goals and objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special council meeting to receive annual update of Steering Committee progress</li> <li>• Request annual report on committee initiatives</li> <li>• Input into annual goals and objectives based on community needs</li> </ul>
Leader participation and awareness of military-specific Crisis Intervention and Wellness Processes with minimum partnership from local Public Safety and Behavioral Health representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create military-specific Crisis Intervention process for all first responders and leaders</li> <li>• Add military resources/support processes to existing community crisis plans</li> <li>• Create an accessible resource data base for local veteran and military family support</li> <li>• Host an educational seminar for the community, city staff and leaders on crisis intervention and wellness processes</li> <li>• Host resource speakers to educate on needs of Servicemembers, Veterans and military families</li> <li>• Engage all key areas to partner on developing a crisis intervention process</li> <li>• Provide access to local counseling resources</li> <li>• Create crisis resource cards for all city leaders</li> </ul>

## Minimum Services and Best Practices for Yellow Ribbon Recognition Program

### *YELLOW RIBBON STEERING COMMITTEE*

Minimum Service	Best Practices/Suggestions
<p>Creation of Steering Committee with representation from all key community areas</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure representation from all key areas responsible for communication and input of support activities/events</li> <li>• Professional organization of meetings; consistent meeting time and location, meeting agenda, meeting minutes, effective time management</li> <li>• Communicate meeting minutes and agenda to key city leaders and the public</li> <li>• Full partnership with local military leaders, Family Readiness Group Leaders, Family Assistance Center Specialists, County Veteran Service Officers and local Employment Reps</li> </ul>
<p>Regular meetings with annual goals and objectives to meet community needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set standard day, time and location for meeting</li> <li>• Develop process to meet specific needs of servicemembers, veterans, military families</li> <li>• Create sustainability of coordination of support efforts throughout community</li> <li>• Create ongoing communication processes with local military leaders</li> <li>• Set annual goals and objectives to meet needs in the community</li> <li>• Invite community partners to meetings to hear about needs in the community</li> </ul>
<p>Continuous commitment to identify, support and meet the needs of servicemembers, veterans, military families in local area</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host booth at all community events</li> <li>• Develop a communication/marketing plan specific to reaching military families</li> <li>• Provide volunteers to work community events</li> <li>• Synchronize volunteer groups within the community to activate support</li> <li>• Create community events for military families/veterans to come together</li> <li>• Create data base of all military in community</li> <li>• Create call lists to check in with identified families-be proactive in support offers (call before the snow falls to get snow shoveling set up, arrange raking before the leaves fall)</li> <li>• Partner with all areas within community to provide support activities/events</li> <li>• Create support groups for military families</li> <li>• Establish partnership with local media</li> <li>• Regular baseline needs review with local military leader</li> <li>• Ongoing plan to assess needs of local employers impacted by military deployments</li> <li>• Partner with local licensed childcare providers to offer assistance/back up care to military families</li> <li>• Host monthly veteran dinners</li> </ul>

Annual review of Yellow Ribbon Community Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review with city leaders or at town hall meeting</li> <li>• Create written annual report to track progress and measure success</li> <li>• Publish successes to military families to highlight commitment and demonstrate sustainability</li> <li>• Use to create annual focus areas and objectives based on military service member and family needs.</li> <li>• Create annual goals and objectives based on the needs determined within local community</li> </ul>
Continuous commitment to create community awareness and to increase community acceptance and involvement with servicemembers, veterans and military families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host veteran or military family member speakers to educate on reintegration/military family issues</li> <li>• Host local military leader speakers to update on military service member and family needs, status of military deployments, identified military needs/challenges</li> <li>• Host social service professionals to educate on identified military needs/challenges</li> <li>• Group viewings of applicable media (IE: To Iraq and Back, Military specific movies)</li> <li>• Host Town Hall discussion forums /expert panels</li> <li>• Invite local Family Assistance Center Specialists or County Veteran Service Officer to educate on military family needs and ways to assist</li> <li>• Ensure library has print resources available on military family and reintegration issues</li> <li>• Establish visible signs of support throughout the community (Flags/Shop window clings,etc)</li> <li>• Communicate resource needs of local military</li> <li>• Regular info articles in local newspaper</li> <li>• Steering committee float or booth at city celebrations</li> </ul>
A "Welcome Home" for all Servicemembers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan a community Welcome Home ceremony</li> <li>• Sponsor picnic/party for families</li> <li>• Incorporate servicemembers in City Celebrations (IE:Grand Marshall)</li> <li>• Community representation at Welcome Home ceremony or airport</li> <li>• Welcome home card from City Leaders, the public and Yellow Ribbon Steering Committee</li> <li>• Host community picnic to recognize those who have come home</li> <li>• Host Welcome Home event for Vietnam Veterans</li> </ul>
Entry of Yellow Ribbon Community on Family Care Initiative website	<p>Create or connect local volunteer groups and businesses and register on the Military Family Care Initiative Website:  <a href="https://www.militaryfamilies.state.mn.us/">https://www.militaryfamilies.state.mn.us/</a></p>

Minimum Services and Best Practices for Yellow Ribbon Recognition Program  
***PUBLIC SAFETY/JUDICIAL***

<b>Minimum Service</b>	<b>Best Practices/Suggestions</b>
Representation of public safety on Yellow Ribbon Steering Committee	Representatives committed to Yellow Ribbon Community responsible to engage all public safety personnel within the community either by representation or communicating Steering Committee activities.
Continuous commitment to identify and support servicemembers, veterans and military families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold public safety Open House for military families</li> <li>• Incorporate military family identification and support plan in National Night Out activities</li> <li>• Create a Yellow Ribbon House Check Program for families with a deployed servicemember</li> <li>• Develop public safety mentors for military children</li> <li>• Attend military support groups in the schools to develop relationships with military children</li> <li>• Mentor veterans interested in public safety careers</li> <li>• Participate in Welcome Home ceremonies</li> <li>• Support our Troops decal or license plates on all public safety vehicles.</li> <li>• Provide public safety volunteers for support events/military family assistance</li> <li>• Provide drug/alcohol education to military families</li> <li>• Offer free birthday parties for children of deployed Servicemembers at fire or police station</li> <li>• Develop plan for School Resource Officer support to military children in schools</li> <li>• Offer “safety checks” of houses prior to a deployment to ensure family safety</li> </ul>
Defined, sustainable and ongoing training/awareness program for all public safety personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual formal, POST board certified training on reintegration issues</li> <li>• Maintain local military referral resource list</li> <li>• Maintain relationship with local County Veteran Service Officer-invite to meet public safety team and educate on issues/trend across the state</li> <li>• Maintain relationship with local armory leader to be educated on issues/trends</li> <li>• Participation in Yellow Ribbon Steering Committee events</li> <li>• Educate all employees on veterans court program in county</li> </ul>
Ongoing process to respond to servicemember, veterans and military family issues within the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate public safety personnel on issues unique within the community</li> <li>• Train personnel on crisis intervention techniques unique to veterans</li> <li>• Develop or become aware of specialized Veteran Court programs</li> <li>• Become involved in Veterans Courts-mentor through court process</li> <li>• Create a condolence care plan to assist a military family with the loss of a loved one</li> </ul>

## Minimum Services and Best Practices for Yellow Ribbon Recognition Program

### *FAITH BASED ORGANIZATIONS*

<b>Minimum Service</b>	<b>Best Practices/Suggestions</b>
Representation of faith based organizations on Yellow Ribbon Steering Committee	Representatives committed to Yellow Ribbon Network responsible to engage all faith based organizations within the community either by representation or communicating Steering Committee activities.
Continuous, ongoing partnership and participation with Yellow Ribbon Community Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create volunteer corps in individual faith based organizations that can be called upon for support</li> <li>• Create data base of specialized skills that can be made available to military families for “chore support” (handymen, professionals to help with job prep, plumbers, electricians, etc)</li> <li>• Host veteran or military family events/meals</li> <li>• Host childcare events for military families or create access to licensed child care</li> <li>• Provide marriage and family counseling to military families</li> <li>• Provide proactive financial planning classes to military families</li> <li>• Provide free transportation to military children for youth events, bible studies, vacation bible schools</li> <li>• Provide marriage and family retreats for military families</li> <li>• Waive church fees for events, classes, activities for military families</li> <li>• Host Family Readiness Group meetings and provide childcare</li> <li>• Use faith based networks to provide meals to military families</li> <li>• Hold military appreciation and recognition services. Create visible signs of support internally and externally</li> <li>• Adopt a local unit and support them and their families</li> <li>• Host military family speakers to share stories</li> <li>• Create a condolence care plan for families impacted by a military loss</li> <li>• Market local military support efforts in all church communication methods</li> <li>• Form prayer groups for military families</li> <li>• Host bible studies for military families and provide childcare</li> <li>• Create mentor program for military kids</li> <li>• Create military appreciation bulletin boards or space in church communications</li> <li>• Provide employment counseling and resources and/or proactive career planning/job seeking skill classes to Veterans and military families</li> <li>• Provide opportunities for free legal support/advice</li> </ul>

## Minimum Services and Best Practices for Yellow Ribbon Recognition Program

### *VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS/CIVIC ORGANIZATIONS*

<b>Minimum Service</b>	<b>Best Practices/Suggestions</b>
Representation of veteran organizations on Yellow Ribbon Steering Committee	Representatives committed to the Yellow Ribbon Community Program responsible to engage all veteran organizations within the community either by representation or communicating Steering Committee activities.
Recognition and honor events in partnership with Yellow Ribbon Steering Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incorporate local Yellow Ribbon efforts in veteran recognition events</li> <li>• Offer educational opportunities to honor and recognize</li> <li>• Invite steering committee to planning meetings</li> </ul>
Full support and participation in Yellow Ribbon Recognition Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Host fundraisers to support military family events</li> <li>• Communicate any veteran issues/trends to Yellow Ribbon Steering Committee to address</li> <li>• Incorporate Steering Committee updates at regular meetings and publications</li> <li>• Offer food/beverage discounts to military families</li> <li>• Build ongoing relationships with local armory full time staff and drill units</li> <li>• Communicate veterans benefits and services to local veterans and YR Steering Committee</li> <li>• Provide financial assistance to support military support network events</li> <li>• Create network of volunteers to assist military families</li> <li>• Host Family Readiness Groups and provide child care</li> <li>• Educate and engage all post members on support efforts</li> <li>• Create community volunteer opportunities to help Veterans/Military Families</li> <li>• Host a BBQ or breakfast at local armory during drill weekend</li> <li>• Partner with local recruiters to recognize citizens who enter military service</li> <li>• Keep local military leader updated on issues/trends within the community</li> </ul>
Process for identification of servicemembers, veterans and military families within the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop mentor program between older and younger veterans</li> <li>• Create plan for identifying all local military</li> <li>• Host ongoing military couple date night or veteran dinner with free food and drink</li> <li>• Partner with local armory for events/gather ideas to support</li> <li>• Work with state veteran organization local military leaders to gather identification information</li> <li>• Create self-identification option on registration form for new members</li> </ul>

## Minimum Services and Best Practices for Yellow Ribbon Recognition Program

### *BUSINESSES/EMPLOYERS*

<b>Minimum Service</b>	<b>Best Practice/Suggestions</b>
Representation of businesses/employers on Yellow Ribbon Steering Committee	Representatives committed to the Yellow Ribbon Community responsible to engage all businesses/employers within the community either by representation or communicating Steering Committee activities.
Full support of servicemembers, veterans and military families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer discounts, space or free services to military families or support events</li> <li>• Partner with local community leaders to support businesses impacted by a deployment</li> <li>• Provide quality employment opportunities</li> <li>• Ensure all HR staff and leaders are updated on USERRA laws and regulations</li> <li>• Create corps of volunteers who can be called upon to aide service members, veterans and their families</li> <li>• Offer networking, proactive career planning and job seeking skills training</li> <li>• Create strong veteran recruiting programs</li> <li>• Train HR personnel on military issues/hiring</li> <li>• Provide Job Coach Mentors to returning veterans</li> <li>• Create military appreciation events and partner with others in the business community to do the same</li> <li>• Create military appreciation displays</li> <li>• Partner with local colleges or career centers to support military job seekers</li> <li>• Offer volunteers to local workforce centers</li> </ul>
Full support of servicemembers, veterans and military family employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create military-friendly policies and procedures for employees impacted by a military deployment</li> <li>• Create support groups for military families</li> <li>• Extend bereavement leave policy for Gold Star Families</li> <li>• Create military-friendly community outreach opportunities for employees</li> <li>• Create vacation donation program for employees or spouses impacted by a military leave or injury</li> <li>• Develop support plans for employees impacted by a military deployment</li> <li>• Educate managers on best practices for full support of an employee impacted by a military deployment and awareness of USERRA laws</li> <li>• Create Veteran hiring and recruiting programs</li> <li>• Design a company Wall of Heroes</li> <li>• Create military appreciation events throughout the organization</li> <li>• Partner with other businesses and local colleges to host a job fair for returning veterans</li> </ul>

## Minimum Services and Best Practices for Yellow Ribbon Recognition Program

### *SOCIAL SERVICE/MEDICAL PROVIDERS*

<b>Minimum Service</b>	<b>Best Practice/Suggestions</b>
Representation of social service/medical providers on Yellow Ribbon Steering Committee	Representatives committed to the Yellow Ribbon Community Program responsible to engage all Social Service/Medical providers within the community either by representation or communicating Steering Committee activities.
Engage participation in Tricare coverage for medical and mental health providers to meet the needs of the Tricare community and provide access to local counseling resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify Primary Care Clinics and mental health professionals enrolled in Tricare</li> <li>• Provide training to potential Tricare providers</li> <li>• Community recognition and marketing of participating providers to military families</li> <li>• Partnership with local counseling resources to be made available to veterans/military families</li> <li>• Medical provider represented on committee</li> </ul>
Full support of servicemembers, veterans and military families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide ongoing training to medical staff on unique challenges of military families</li> <li>• Offer free or reduce services to military families</li> <li>• Offer counseling services to employers impacted by a military crisis</li> <li>• Improve access to counseling for drug or alcohol abuse, marriage counseling, parenting and relationship issues</li> <li>• Create corps of volunteer employees who can be called upon to assist military families</li> <li>• Provide free psychological and social service support services</li> <li>• Provide proactive education to military families prior to deployment</li> <li>• Train local public safety and city leaders on crisis intervention techniques</li> <li>• Create local resource directory for public safety personnel and city leaders</li> <li>• Create military-friendly policies and procedures for employees impacted by a military deployment</li> <li>• Create military-friendly community outreach opportunities for employees</li> <li>• Create veteran recruiting programs</li> <li>• Provide resource list to city leaders</li> <li>• Partner with community leaders to create crisis plan</li> <li>• Donate counseling services to families dealing with a military injury or death</li> <li>• Partner with local armory leader to hold education or counseling sessions during drill weekends</li> <li>• Create resource list for public safety or network to access of mental health providers within the area with specialized skills to provide crisis services</li> <li>• Post Yellow Ribbon Network info at site</li> </ul>

## Minimum Services and Best Practices for Yellow Ribbon Recognition Program

### *EDUCATION/YOUTH*

<b>Minimum Service</b>	<b>Best Practice/Suggestions</b>
Representation of school district on Yellow Ribbon Steering Committee	Representatives committed to the Yellow Ribbon Community Program responsible to engage all schools and school leaders within the community by communicating Steering Committee activities.
Plan to identify military families within the school district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite YR Network to host informational booth at all school events</li> <li>• Host military family events</li> <li>• Hold military appreciation at sports events</li> <li>• Create check box in registration materials for military families to voluntarily identify themselves</li> <li>• Advertise local Yellow Ribbon support efforts within school communications</li> </ul>
Full support of servicemembers, veterans and military families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold annual recognition ceremony for graduates entering the Armed Forces</li> <li>• Offer Community Education classes on financial planning, career planning or parenting</li> <li>• Provide communication opportunities for families to connect with deployed family members (ie; video conferencing, Skype)</li> <li>• Engage school groups to provide volunteers for support opportunities</li> <li>• Participate in patriotic youth programs through local veteran organizations</li> <li>• Enhance curriculum to include military deployment impact on families</li> <li>• Student groups participating in local community recognition events</li> <li>• Waive or reduce fees for military families</li> <li>• Provide transportation to military children for free library programs/military support camps/local sports camps</li> <li>• Develop military teen support group with focus on community service and leadership</li> </ul>
Full support of servicemember, veterans and military family employees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create military-friendly policies and procedures for employees impacted by a military deployment</li> <li>• Create military-friendly community outreach opportunities for employees</li> <li>• Create veteran recruiting programs</li> <li>• Train HR on military specific issues</li> </ul>
Defined, sustainable and ongoing training/awareness program for all school personnel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Offer formal CEU credit training on military family issues</li> <li>• Speakers or organization booths at staff events</li> <li>• Educate staff on military support resources available to military families</li> <li>• Increase awareness of school staff on military family support issues</li> <li>• Create a condolence care plan for dealing with a military loss</li> </ul>



## Yellow Ribbon Communities

### What is a Yellow Ribbon Community?

A Yellow Ribbon Community unites all areas within a community to create a comprehensive network that connects and coordinates agencies, organizations, resources and employers for the purpose of proactively supporting Servicemembers and military families.

Since the first community was proclaimed Yellow Ribbon in 2008, several have been operating as 501(c)(3) charitable organizations. Additionally, many others are in the process of becoming 501(c)(3).

### Why become a Yellow Ribbon Community?

Since 9/11, thousands of Minnesotans have served the country. By developing a Yellow Ribbon Network, communities unite to honor and embrace those affected by military deployments. The outward showing of support enables successful transition all the way home. The community's effort transcends the military to any group in need and builds a stronger, more compassionate community.



### How to become a Yellow Ribbon City?

Each community will develop a sustainable action plan demonstrating their commitment to Servicemembers and military families. The community will identify and connect leaders in key areas across the community, leverage existing support activities, build awareness throughout the community and take action.

### How to find your local Yellow Ribbon contact?

Below you will see a list of proclaimed Yellow Ribbon Cities. If your city is not listed, that doesn't mean work hasn't begun. Check the [Yellow Ribbon Cities/Counties Contact Sheet](#) to see if a committee has been formed in your community.

Find out how to connect with a Yellow Ribbon Network in your area by contacting the [Family Assistance Center](#) nearest you.

## Yellow Ribbon Toolkit:

- [Logo Usage Guide](#)
- [Yellow Ribbon Community Requirements & Best Practices](#)
- [Yellow Ribbon Recognition Program 16-Step Process](#)
- [Yellow Ribbon Community Campaign Video](#)
- [Yellow Ribbon Community Campaign Brochure](#)
- [Yellow Ribbon Action Plan Template](#)
- [Yellow Ribbon Network Checklist](#)
- [How to Social Media Marketing Guide](#)

click [here](#) to download the logo and view photos.

### Proclaimed Yellow Ribbon Cities

If your city is not listed below, that doesn't mean work hasn't begun. Find out how you can connect with a Yellow Ribbon Network near you by contacting your local Family Assistance Center.

Some cities have joined together to form one network.

- Afton
- Alexandria
- Appleton
- Amboy
- Austin
- Baxter
- Baytown Township
- Bemidji
- Bird Island
- Brooklyn Park
- Buckman
- Buffalo
- Buffalo Lake
- Butterfield
- Chaska
- Chisholm
- Cold Spring
- Courtland
- Danube
- Darfur
- Dawson
- Detroit Lakes
- Dunnel
- Eagle lake
- Elk River
- Fairmont
- Farmington
- Forest Lake
- Good Thunder
- Grand Rapids
- Hector
- Heidelberg
- Hibbing
- Inver Grove Heights
- Jordan
- Kilkenney
- Lake Crystal
- Lakefield
- Lakeland Shores
- Lake St. Croix Beach
- La Salle
- Lastrup
- Lewiston
- Louisburg
- Madison
- Mahtomedi
- Maple Grove
- Mapleton
- Minnesota City
- Montevideo
- Moorhead
- Motley
- Albert Lea
- Alpha
- Apple Valley
- Bayport
- Belle Plaine
- Blaine
- Bowlus
- Burnsville
- Brainerd
- Ceylon
- Chanhassen
- Cleveland
- Cobden
- Cottage Grove
- Comfrey
- Crookston
- Dassel
- Duluth
- Eagan
- Eden Valley
- Elmdale
- Elysian
- Evan
- Fairfax
- Faribault
- Fergus Falls
- Franklin
- Goodview
- Granada
- Hanska
- Harding
- Hastings
- Heron Lake
- Hugo
- Jackson
- Kasota
- Lafayette
- Lake Elmo
- Lakeland
- Lakeville
- La Center
- La Sueur
- Lewisville
- Long Prairie
- Little Falls
- Litchfield
- Madelia
- Madison Lake
- Mankato
- Marshall
- Minnesota Lake
- Monticello

- Nassau
- New Ulm
- Nicollet
- Northrop
- Oak Park Heights
- Okabena
- Owatonna
- Pierz
- Pine City
- Plymouth
- Renville
- Richfield
- Rockville
- Rollingstone
- Sartell
- Sauk Centre
- Savage
- Sherburn
- Skyline
- Sleepy Eye
- Sobieski
- Springfield
- Spring Lake Park
- St. Charles
- St. Cloud
- St. James
- St. Paul
- Stillwater
- Trimont
- Upsala
- Utica
- Wadena
- Waterville
- Welcome
- West St. Paul
- Willmar
- Woodbury
- Montgomery
- Morris
- Morton
- New Prague
- North Mankato
- Oakdale
- Odin
- Olivia
- Ormsby
- Pemberton
- Prior Lake
- Randall
- Red Wing
- Richmond
- Rochester
- Rosemount
- Royalton
- Sacred Heart
- Sauk Rapids
- Shakopee
- Sioux Valley
- South St. Paul
- St. Augusta
- St. Claire
- St. Mary's Point
- St. Joseph
- St. Peter
- Swanville
- Thief River Falls
- Truman
- Vernon Center
- Waite Park
- Watkins
- West Lakeland Township
- Wilder
- Winona
- 

Nearly 200 cities, counties and businesses have been proclaimed Beyond the Yellow Ribbon, recognizing their support of Servicemembers and their families.

#### Yellow Ribbon Products:

While we can't endorse one specific vendor, we'd like to share with you some Minnesota companies that have produced Yellow Ribbon products in mass to help networks in our state-wide awareness campaign.

#### Car Magnets, Table Cloths, Pens and T-Shirts

- [Specialty Promotions](#) - 651-653-9530
- [Spartan Promotional Group](#) - 651-769-1313
- [Heritage Embroidery & Design](#) - 651-430-9220

For information on how to get your city population sign, find instructions [here](#).

For more information on becoming a Yellow Ribbon City, contact **Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Community Outreach Support**.

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