

CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS

13TH WARD NEWS

Winter 2016

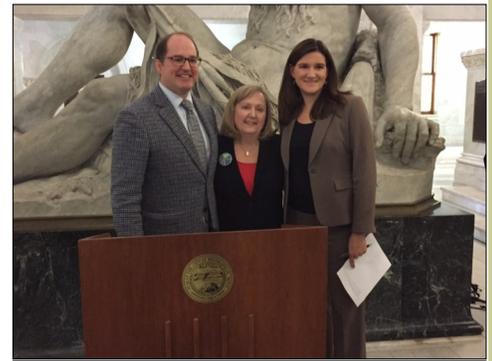
**LINEA PALMISANO,
COUNCIL MEMBER**

- West Calhoun
- Linden Hills
- Fulton
- Armatage
- Kenny
- Lynnhurst
- East Harriet

Happy New Year! 2015 was quite a year at City Hall, and I am more humbled than ever to represent you every day. We've made real progress this year on issues ranging from waste reduction to public and environmental health. We began some important and robust conversations about sick pay and police bias that will continue into 2016. The City also adopted a 2016 budget that invests in core city services, as well as development and equity programs that could have a measurable impact on the economic disparities prevalent in our city. This is all being accomplished while over half of residents (including 13th Ward residents) are seeing no property tax increase this year.

In this newsletter, I want to share some of the work we did last year, as well as outline my office's priorities for 2016.

All my best,



Palmisano at a Nov. 20 press conference following approval of the rail safety resolution, along with Council Member Kevin Reich and Gayle Bonneville of Citizens Acting for Rail Safety.

2015: The Year in Review

Here are a few of the high points from 2015 at City Council, specific to the 13th Ward:

West Calhoun:

The intersection at Lake St. and Excelsior Blvd. is one of the highest-traffic (auto, bike and pedestrian) corridors in the city. This area, however, can be a challenge to all who traverse it. The potential to have a Southwest LRT stop located here has brought some much needed attention to this area.

In March, Public Works—in conjunction with my office and other government agencies—began an area-wide multimodal transportation study for the West Lake Station area to assess opportunities for improving safety, access, connectivity, and mobility for all modes of travel surrounding the West Lake Station area. The goal of the study is to identify opportunities to address travel within the

West Lake Station area with projects that can be implemented as a part of the construction of the Southwest LRT or as part of other capital initiatives. The study's results will be released in early 2016.

Airplane Noise:

Despite what may have felt like yet another typical year of constant arrivals over Lake Harriet and departures over Kenny and Armatage, quite a bit happened in terms of talks on the ground.

Due to the complexities around these issues, my office has put together a 2015 summary that we emailed to our airplane noise subscriber list. If you'd like to subscribe to this list and/or have a copy of the 2015 summary mailed to you, please contact Emily Ziring in my office (contact info on pg. 4).

Organics Recycling Roll-out:

Many Solid Waste & Recycling customers are now able to compost fruits, vegetables, bones, meat, breads, eggshells and other food scraps. The new organics recycling program is an easy way for residents to reduce waste and help us to reach city-established goals to recycle and compost 50% of our waste by 2020, and 80% by 2030.

The first organics carts were delivered in August. This first phase included blocks in West Calhoun, Armatage, Kenny and Lynnhurst. The second (and final) phase will begin this spring.

Rail Safety Resolution:

Oil trains travel through our backyards (including through the West Calhoun neighborhood), under our baseball (continued on pg. 2)

Our 2016 Priorities

My 2016 priorities remain consistent: ensuring we deliver quality core services, holding property taxes in check, moving further toward being a green city, and improving transit. Here are a few specific projects I'll be working on in 2016:

Better Policing:

- Examining ways to improve policing and police conduct review based on recommendations from the U.S. Department of Justice. I've worked with the head of the Internal Affairs Division on the communications subcommittee that was formed because of these recommendations and I am eager to see the results that emerge from this effort.
- Showing progress on the complex problem of domestic violence. A recent domestic violence pilot has shown positive results and I am working on directions to take this program so that the City can provide even more results.
- Rolling out police body cameras citywide after considerations from last year's pilot. This program could make real strides in holding police officers and criminals accountable and help to increase trust between the community and the police. As Chair of the Audit Committee and a member of the Public Safety committee, I have been deeply involved in the policy that guides this program, working on protocol, video storage and sharing of sensitive data.

A Greener City:

- Rolling out organics recycling citywide successfully. I will work toward educating residents and encouraging them to participate while striving to make this amenity available to multi-family housing and businesses.
- Continuing to examine what can be done with construction and demolition waste.

A Connected City:

- Designing complete streets and improving amenities to increase the share of walking, biking, and transit.
- Establishing laws around car-sharing programs and ensuring everyone can access those programs.
- Planning for the Southwest LRT expansion in ways that best meet the needs of residents.



A large group (in a coordinated effort of the 13th Ward office, City staff and Hennepin County staff) dove into pedestrian challenges in West Calhoun on an April day that offered snow, rain and extreme cold to illustrate transit issues.

2015: The Year in Review (cont'd from page 1)

stadium, next to our passenger trains, our bike paths, and across our water. Because of this risk, railroads must be forthright with information.

In November, City Council passed a resolution urging our legislative partners at the state and federal levels to enhance rail safety and reduce risk of oil train accidents by demanding railroad transparency, accountability and improved communications. I co-authored the resolution, which was inspired by the advancements Rep. Frank Hornstein has made at the state level. The resolution—the first of its kind in the state—is a call to action for cities around the country to demand improvements, funding, and information from freight railroad operators and the lawmakers who regulate them.

Tobacco Laws:

In July, the City Council changed the way tobacco is sold, restricting the sale of all flavored, non-cigarette tobacco products to tobacco product shops and requiring a minimum price for all cigar packages. These changes were proposed by the Minneapolis Youth Congress to address the issue of tobacco use among youth. I wholeheartedly supported both of these changes.

Funding for Public Art:

One of the items residents contacted me most frequently about during the process for 2015's City budget was consistent and substantive funding for public art. Last fall, the City Council approved a long-term solution.

The new ordinance funds public art in a

predictable way while allowing for flexibility in the source of funds used from year to year. The new rule uses mechanisms that have worked in other places to ensure consistency around public art and maintenance. St. Paul and Duluth have similar ordinances.

Before this ordinance, the Art in Public Places budget would fluctuate from year to year. This made it difficult to plan and maintain projects since budgets are adopted annually while developing, fabricating and installing pieces of public art can take several years.

On the City's 2016 Budget

It remains a top priority of mine to ensure that 13th Ward residents (as well as residents all across the City) are given quality services for the property taxes that continue to rise in many parts of southwest Minneapolis. This is exactly why I fought in 2014 to reduce the Mayor's proposed levy increase for 2015 from 2.4% to 2.1%. It is so important that our neighborhoods remain diverse in age, but too often, seniors on a fixed income are faced with the reality that they simply can't afford to stay in their homes. I remain engaged in conversations with my colleagues and City staff about some longer-term prospects that could provide relief to those folks.

With her 2016 budget proposal, Mayor Hodges began her work by right-sizing revenue and spending, resulting in \$750,000 in strategic, ongoing cuts. As a result of this right-sizing, the 3.4% increase in the overall property-tax levy is approximately 1% lower than it would have otherwise been. These cuts put departments in better alignment with money actually spent.

In terms of budget specifics, I am especially pleased with a couple items I have been advocating for:

- \$87,500 to the City Attorney's budget (an amendment I co-authored) for an expansion of the Hot Spots Pilot. The initiative pairs an MPD officer with a family therapist to do follow up visits in violent crime "hot spots" where 911 calls for domestic violence are made, but either no police report was written or no criminal case resulted. The initiative aims to provide support and referral information for the family, while also building trust with the police by offering an opportunity for officers to interact with families in a positive, proactive way. The results of the pilot (in North Minneapolis) have been very good (and measurable), and this expansion can help to make further progress.
- \$75,000 to the Auditor's office to improve capacity for understanding technology risks. As Chair of the Audit Committee, I know the role this department plays in monitoring the City's spending and minimizing risk throughout the organization. This funding will help provide the department with more state-of-the-art tools and safeguard resident information.

A few other items in the budget worth highlighting:

- \$13 million in affordable housing, including investments in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and \$1 million to help create affordable housing options for large families.
- \$1 million for the rollout of officer-worn body camera technology.
- \$200,000 in funding for the Fire Department to implement new programs to get youth and high school students of diverse background into pipelines that transition to jobs in the EMT and firefighter fields.
- Ongoing funding for the first-in-the-nation Clean Energy Partnership that will expand its ability to execute the 2016 work plan and meet goals to decrease greenhouse gas emissions in Minneapolis.
- \$305,000 for additional and accelerated implicit bias, procedural justice, and crisis-intervention training for Minneapolis Police officers.
- Funding for 4 new construction and 6 new housing inspectors.
- \$330,000 for BUILD Leaders, a jobs program for men of color 18-24 employed to do mentoring work for boys of color.
- \$350,000 for 30 TechHire Initiative scholarships that will provide women and people of color with job training to meet employers' growing demand for a workforce educated in technology skills.
- \$200,000 in supplemental funding for the presidential election to prevent long lines and voter confusion, ensuring everyone is afforded the right to vote.
- \$140,000 for municipal criminal-justice reform including funding for a pilot program to change the way misdemeanors are charged and tripling the City's investment in restorative justice.



Minneapolis residents that receive garbage and recycling pick-up will be eligible to receive carts for organics recycling this year. 13th Ward neighborhoods are currently participating at a rate higher than the city average.



City Council, 13th Ward
350 S. 5th St., Room 307
Minneapolis, MN 55415

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 2140
Twin Cities, MN

Contact Info:

Phone: (612) 673-2213

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ward13>

E-mail My Staff:

Emily Ziring, Senior Policy Aide:

Emily.Ziring@minneapolismn.gov

Ken Dahler, Policy Aide:

Ken.Dahler@minneapolismn.gov

Upcoming Forums

The 13th Ward office will host several forums this year to share some of the great work the City is doing and gather feedback from you. A couple that have already been scheduled are listed below. We're thinking of hosting future conversations about bicycle & pedestrian issues and combating homelessness. Let us know what you'd like future topics to be!

Implicit Bias in the Minneapolis Police Department

What: The City Council recently approved funding to train the MPD on implicit bias. MPD Deputy Chief of Staff Medaria Arradondo will discuss the MPD's partnership with the National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice, as well as what Procedural Justice/Implicit Bias training will cover.

When: Wednesday, February 17, 7-8 PM

Where: Studio 2 Café, 818 W. 46th St.

Minneapolis' Environmental Services Department

What: The Health Department's Environmental Services Unit is responsible for addressing pollution in Minneapolis, and Patrick Hanlon, the department's Environmental Initiatives Manager, will lead a discussion about what is being done to protect environmental and human health.

When: Wednesday, February 24, 7-8 PM

Where: Bakken Museum, 3537 Zenith Ave. S.