

Friday, July 1, 2016

Dear Neighborhood Leader,

I am writing to let you know that NCR is changing neighborhood assignments for our Neighborhood Support Specialists. We recently hired Aria Fine to fill the vacant Neighborhood Support Specialist position. We are also responding to your feedback provided for the Neighborhood Program Evaluation that showed you want us to be more strategic and provide a higher level of support for neighborhood organizations.

To download a list of the new neighborhood assignments, please follow this link:
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@ncr/documents/webcontent/wcmsp-182717.pdf>.

Many of you indicated that you would like to have a single Neighborhood Support Specialists assigned to all the neighborhoods in your region. We have assigned Neighborhood Support Specialists by region. We believe the new neighborhood assignments will lead to the following outcomes:

1. **Supporting collaborations between neighborhoods.** We heard from many of you through the Evaluation of Neighborhood Program Support that you wanted neighborhood specialists to work with groups of adjoining neighborhoods. By assigning staff regionally, adjoining neighborhoods will share the same NCR staff person, thus helping us with providing better communication and connections between neighborhoods.
2. **Supporting alignment between neighborhood support staff and regional boundaries used by other City departments.** We also heard through the feedback in the Evaluation of Neighborhood Program Support that many neighborhood organizations want us to better support connections with City departments. Many City departments, such as Police precincts and CPED, organize their work by sectors. By assigning Neighborhood Support Specialist regionally will help us align your work with City departments.
3. **Increasing collaboration between our neighborhood support staff and our Access and Outreach staff.** We believe these new assignments will help support relationships between neighborhood organization and our A&O staff who are skilled in reaching their cultural communities.

We also want to respect as much as possible existing relationships while matching neighborhood organizations as much as possible to the skills and experience of the individual neighborhood support specialist.

These new neighborhood assignments will officially begin on Tuesday, July 5. However, our staff will be working to make this transition as smooth as possible, and will be passing along responsibilities gradually

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department at 612-673-3737. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

Para asistencia 612-673-2700 - Rau kev pab 612-673-2800 - Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay 612-673-3500.

over July and August. It is our goal to have all of the responsibilities for each Neighborhood Support Specialist passed off by August 31, 2016. Your current Neighborhood Support Specialist will contact each of you as needed to introduce your new Neighborhood Support Specialist, and talk about the process for handing off responsibilities to your new specialist.

Finally, as stated above, I am pleased to announce that NCR has hired Aria Fine, the former Executive Director of Cleveland Neighborhood Association. Aria also recently served as one of the City's place-making artists. Aria started working with NCR on May 16, and is more than ready to take on neighborhood assignments. He joins a team of experienced neighborhood support staff with more than 60 years combined experience working with and supporting Minneapolis neighborhood organizations. This means we will again have five staff at NCR dedicated to working with neighborhood organizations.

As mentioned, your current Neighborhood Support Specialist will contact you soon to answer any questions you may have and to introduce you to your new Neighborhood Support Specialist. In the meantime, feel free to contact either your current or new neighborhood support specialist with any questions, and we encourage you to invite them to your meetings as soon as possible. You can reach them here:

Aria Fine	(612) 673-2243	Aria.Fine@minneapolismn.gov
Michelle Chavez	(612) 673-3564	michelle.chavez@minneapolismn.gov
Stacy Sorenson	(612) 673-2241	stacy.sorenson@minneapolismn.gov
Robert Thompson	(612) 673-2523	robert.thompson@minneapolismn.gov
Jack Whitehurst	(612) 673-5143	jack.whitehurst@minneapolismn.gov

Please let us know if you have any questions. We look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,



David Rubedor, Director
Neighborhood and Community Relations Department

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