

**Minneapolis**  
*City of Lakes*

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# CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS, MN

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RESIDENT SURVEY

REPORT OF RESULTS  
REGULATORY, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

*February 2013*

Prepared by:



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS<sup>1</sup>

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### RESIDENT SURVEY TEAM

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<sup>1</sup> If you need this material in an alternative format please contact Neighborhood and Community Relations Department at 612-673-3737.

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## SURVEY PURPOSE AND METHODS

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The City of Minneapolis contracted with National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) to conduct a citywide resident survey. The Minneapolis Resident Survey gives residents the opportunity to rate the quality of life in the city, service delivery and their satisfaction with local government. The survey also permits residents to provide feedback to government on what is working well and what is not, and to share their priorities for community planning and resource allocation.

Resident perspectives provide context that will be used by the City of Minneapolis to assess trends in its performance. To this end, the 2012 Minneapolis Resident Survey is the sixth iteration, including the baseline study conducted in 2001. This is the fourth iteration conducted by NRC. This report describes results pertaining to regulatory, energy and environmental services; the comprehensive report of results is available under separate cover.

The Minneapolis Resident Survey was administered by phone to a representative sample of Minneapolis residents from October 11, 2012 to November 28, 2012. A total of 1,378 surveys were completed. About one-quarter of the interviews was completed with people of color, one-quarter was with cell phone users<sup>2</sup> and at least 94 interviews were completed in each of the 11 community planning districts. Nineteen interviews were completed in a language other than English. The overall response rate was 20%.

Survey results were weighted so that respondent age, gender, ethnicity, race, home ownership versus renting status and home location (community planning district) represented as closely as possible the proportions of the entire city. The margin of error is plus or minus three percentage points around any given percent for all respondents. For comparisons by survey year, the margin of error is plus or minus four percentage points around any given percentage point.

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## UNDERSTANDING THE RESULTS

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For the most part, the “percent positive” is reported in the report body tables and charts. The percent positive is the combination of the top two most positive response options (i.e., “very good” and “good,” “strongly agree” and “agree,” “very safe” and “somewhat safe”). Additionally, on many of the questions in the survey, respondents could answer “don’t know” or “refused.” The full set of responses for each question, including “don’t know,” can be found in *Appendix II: Complete Set of Frequencies*.

For some questions, respondents were permitted to select multiple responses. When the total exceeds 100% in a table for a multiple response question, it is because the answers from some respondents are counted in multiple categories. When a table for a question that only permitted a single response does not total to exactly 100%, it is due to the customary practice of rounding percentages to the nearest whole number.

In this report, comparisons are made to both the entire database (“national database”) and a portion of the database (“select cities”)<sup>3</sup>, featuring communities identified by Minneapolis, when available.

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<sup>2</sup> A cell phone user represents a respondent who either only has a cell phone which was their primary phone or those who had a cell phone and a landline but their cell phone was their primary phone.

<sup>3</sup> Austin, TX; Boulder, CO; Charlotte, NC; Denver, CO (City and County); Durham, NC; Oklahoma City, OK; Portland, OR.

## SURVEY FINDINGS

### CHALLENGES FACING THE CITY

Survey respondents were asked to identify the three biggest challenges facing Minneapolis over the next five years. These responses were unprompted and respondents were able to give any answer. Many potential categories of response were available to interviewers; interviewers selected the one category that best fit each respondent's stated issue. Many respondents mentioned "other" items that could not be coded into a specific category.

The challenge mentioned most frequently by residents was public safety (32%), a ranking similar to previous years and a rating that was similar compared to ratings given in 2011 (32% versus 28%). Only 6% of respondents felt that the City government was one of the three biggest challenges facing the City in the next five years, which was similar to the proportion giving this response in 2011 (8% in 2011).

FIGURE 1: BIGGEST CHALLENGES MINNEAPOLIS WILL FACE COMPARED OVER TIME

In your opinion, what are the three biggest challenges Minneapolis will face in the next five years?	2012	2011	2008	2005	2003	2001
Public safety	32%	28%	44%	44%	42%	36%
Education	30%	35%	29%	38%	29%	30%
Transportation-related issues – includes traffic, transit and parking	28%	21%	37%	35%	32%	30%
Housing	21%	14%	26%	30%	24%	47%
Property taxes	20%	21%	NA	NA	NA	NA
Maintain public infrastructure – including bridge and road maintenance	19%	23%	16%	NA	NA	NA
Job opportunities	17%	21%	17%	17%	NA	NA
Economic development	15%	19%	26%	21%	24%	22%
Growth	8%	7%	11%	10%	9%	8%
City government	6%	8%	9%	10%	38%	NA
Foreclosure	1%	2%	7%	NA	NA	NA
Other	37%	40%	29%	43%	15%	29%

NOTE: Grey shading was not applied to this table as a number of items in this question could pertain to the topic area presented in this report.

Total may exceed 100% as respondents were able to choose more than one response.

## DOWNTOWN USAGE AND IMAGE

Respondents who did not live or work Downtown and who reported going Downtown only once or twice in the last year were asked what kept them from spending more time Downtown. This was an open-ended question where respondents were able to give more than one answer. Many potential categories of response were available to interviewers and they selected the ones that best fit each respondent's stated response. Many residents mentioned "other" items that could not be coded into a specific category.

The most commonly mentioned reason was not wanting to go Downtown (26%), followed by a lack of parking (17%), preferring other shopping areas (14%), cost of parking (13%) and feelings that there is nowhere to go (12%). Fewer cited getting lost, the expense of going Downtown and the cleanliness as reasons for not visiting.

Overall, the proportion of respondents selecting each reason in 2012 was similar to 2011. More residents in 2012 than in 2011 indicated preferences for other shopping areas (14% versus 7%) as deterrents for visiting Downtown.

FIGURE 2: REASONS FOR NOT SPENDING MORE TIME DOWNTOWN COMPARED OVER TIME

What are the major reasons that keep you from spending more time Downtown?	2012	2011	2008	2005	2003	2001
Don't want to go downtown	26%	25%	26%	14%	0%	0%
Lack of parking	17%	17%	13%	20%	36%	33%
Prefer other shopping areas	14%	7%	8%	10%	17%	23%
Cost of parking	13%	11%	13%	16%	0%	0%
Nowhere to go	12%	15%	15%	7%	16%	30%
Traffic (congestion/construction, etc.)	10%	12%	8%	7%	13%	18%
Safety	10%	4%	13%	10%	7%	0%
General dislike	8%	6%	2%	3%	2%	0%
Get lost/hard to find way around/one-way streets are confusing, etc.	4%	4%	4%	2%	0%	0%
Expensive	2%	3%	2%	5%	11%	7%
Dirty	0%	0%	1%	0%	1%	0%
Other	32%	37%	28%	30%	30%	26%

NOTE: Grey shading was not applied to this table as a number of items in this question could pertain to the topic area presented in this report.

This question was asked only of those who did not live or work Downtown and who reported going Downtown only once or twice in the last year. Totals may exceed 100% as respondents were able to choose more than one response. "Other" responses were not recorded and not available for analysis.

## SATISFACTION WITH AND PRIORITIZATION OF CITY SERVICES

Overall, about 7 in 10 respondents said they were “satisfied” or “very satisfied” with regulatory services, energy and environmental services (Figure 3). Most residents were pleased with animal control services (92% “satisfied” or “very satisfied”) protecting the environment including air, water and land (87%), and cleaning up graffiti (80%). The service respondents voiced less satisfaction with was dealing with problem businesses and unkept properties (71%).

More than 20% of respondents selected “don’t know” when rating the City at dealing with problem businesses and unkept properties. For a full set of responses to these questions, including “don’t know,” please refer to *Appendix II: Complete Set of Frequencies*.

When compared to 2011, satisfaction with City services related to regulatory services, energy and the environment remained stable.

One of the four services related to regulatory services, energy and the environment could be compared to the national benchmark. Animal control services were rated similar to other communities across the nation.

FIGURE 3: CITY SERVICES QUALITY RATINGS COMPARED OVER TIME

Please tell me how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the way the City provides the service. (Percent reporting "satisfied" or "very satisfied.")	2012	2011	2008	2005	2003	2001
Animal control services	92%	91%	88%	92%	NA	92%
Protecting the environment, including air, water and land	87%	83%	81%	77%	79%	77%
Cleaning up graffiti	80%	80%	77%	74%	NA	79%
Dealing with problem businesses and unkept properties	71%	71%	68%	73%	67%	69%

Question wording differed between survey years. In 2003 and 2001, residents were asked how satisfied they were with the City's efforts at providing the service.

FIGURE 4: CITY SERVICES BENCHMARKS

	National comparison	Selected cities comparison
Animal control services	Similar	Not available
Cleaning up graffiti	Not available	Not available

Residents were asked to rate the importance of each City service using a five-point scale with 5 representing “extremely important” and 1 representing “not at all important.” Between 44% and 81% of respondents rated services related to regulatory, energy and environmental services as “4” or “5-extremely important.” Importance ratings for protecting the environment and dealing with problem businesses and unkept properties remained stable compared to 2011 ratings, while importance ratings increased for cleaning up graffiti and animal control services.

FIGURE 5: CITY SERVICES IMPORTANCE RATINGS COMPARED OVER TIME

Please rate the importance of the following services on a 5-point scale, with 5 being "extremely important" and 1 being "not at all important." (Percent reporting "4" or "extremely important.")	2012	2011	2008	2005	2003	2001
Protecting the environment, including air, water and land	81%	81%	85%	84%	90%	62%
Dealing with problem businesses and unkept properties	59%	56%	62%	61%	70%	57%
Cleaning up graffiti	46%	40%	56%	52%	NA	40%
Animal control services	44%	39%	49%	46%	NA	21%

Question wording differed between survey years. In 2003, residents were asked how to rate the importance of each service on a 1-10 scale. In 2001, residents were asked how much attention each service should get.

## APPENDIX I: RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Characteristics of the survey respondents are displayed in the tables and charts on the following pages of the appendix.

TABLE 1: RESPONDENT HOUSING TENURE

Do you currently own or rent your current residence?	Percent of respondents
Own	53%
Rent	47%
Total	100%

TABLE 2: HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

Please tell me if each of the following statements is true of your household/members of your household? What about...	Yes	No	Total
There are children under the age of 18	38%	62%	100%
There are adults age 70 or older	12%	88%	100%

TABLE 3: MODES OF TRANSPORTATION

For each of the following types of transportation, please tell me if you always, often, sometimes or never use each to get around the city. What about ...	Always	Frequently	Occasionally	Never	Total
Bus	13%	20%	32%	34%	100%
Bike	5%	17%	33%	45%	100%
Car	42%	32%	12%	14%	100%
Taxi	1%	8%	38%	53%	100%
Walk	19%	41%	33%	7%	100%
Train/light rail	4%	15%	46%	35%	100%

TABLE 4: HOUSEHOLD PRIMARY LANGUAGE

Is English the primary language spoken in the house?	Percent of respondents
Yes	91%
No	9%
Total	100%

TABLE 5: HOUSEHOLD PRIMARY LANGUAGE

[If English is not primary language] What is the primary language spoken at home?	Percent of respondents
Spanish	41%
Somali	10%
Hmong	10%
Oromo	4%
Lao	2%
Vietnamese	3%
Other	30%
Total	100%

TABLE 6: RESPONDENT AGE

Please stop me when I reach the category that includes your age.	Percent of respondents
18 to 24 years	10%
25 to 34 years	32%
35 to 44 years	12%
45 to 54 years	22%
55 to 64 years	12%
65 years and over	13%
Total	100%

TABLE 7: HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Please stop me when I reach the category that includes your household annual income for 2011.	Percent of respondents
Less than \$10,000	10%
\$10,000 to less than \$15,000	9%
\$15,000 to less than \$25,000	15%
\$25,000 to less than \$35,000	13%
\$35,000 to less than \$50,000	14%
\$50,000 to less than \$75,000	14%
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	9%
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	9%
\$150,000 to less than \$200,000	4%
\$200,000 or more	4%
Total	100%

TABLE 8: RESPONDENT ETHNICITY

For statistical purposes only, could you please tell me if you are of Latino or Hispanic origin?	Percent of respondents
Latino/Hispanic	7%
Not Latino/Hispanic	93%
Total	100%

TABLE 9: RESPONDENT RACE

Now, can you tell me what best describes your racial origin?	Percent of respondents
White	70%
Black, African American or African	11%
American Indian/Native American or Alaskan Native	3%
Asian, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	4%
Hmong	1%
Somali	1%
Vietnamese	1%
Lao	0%
Ethiopian/Oromo	1%
Hispanic/Spanish	6%
Two or more races	5%
Total	100%

TABLE 10: RESPONDENT COMMUNITY DISTRICT

	Percent of respondents
Calhoun-Isles	8%
Camden	6%
Central	9%
Longfellow	7%
Near North	6%
Nokomis	9%
Northeast	9%
Phillips	5%
Powderhorn	13%
Southwest	12%
University	11%
Unknown	4%
Total	100%

TABLE 11: RESPONDENT GENDER

Record gender	Percent of respondents
Male	50%
Female	50%
Total	100%

TABLE 12: CELL PHONE USE

Which of the following applies to your phone usage?	Percent of respondents
Cell only or cell primary	40%
Landline only or landline primary	60%
Total	100%

## APPENDIX II: COMPLETE SET OF FREQUENCIES

### RESPONSES EXCLUDING "DON'T KNOW"

The following pages contain a complete set of responses to questions on the survey related to regulatory, energy and environmental services, excluding the "don't know" responses.

TABLE 13: QUESTION 4

In your opinion, what are the three biggest challenges Minneapolis will face in the next five years?	Percent
Public safety	32%
City government	6%
Transportation-related issues – includes traffic, transit and parking	28%
Education	30%
Economic development	15%
Housing	21%
Growth	8%
Job opportunities	17%
Maintain public infrastructure – including bridge and road maintenance	19%
Foreclosure	1%
Property taxes	20%
Other	37%

NOTE: Grey shading was not applied to this table as a number of items in this question could pertain to the topic area presented in this report.

Total may exceed 100% as respondents were able to choose more than one response.

TABLE 14: QUESTION 10

What are the major reasons that keep you from spending more time Downtown?	Percent
Lack of parking	17%
Cost of parking	13%
Traffic (congestion/construction, etc.)	10%
Safety	10%
Prefer other shopping areas	14%
Nowhere to go	12%
Expensive	2%
General dislike	8%
Dirty	0%
Get lost/hard to find way around/one-way streets are confusing, etc.	4%
Don't want to go downtown	26%

NOTE: Grey shading was not applied to this table as a number of items in this question could pertain to the topic area presented in this report.

This question was asked only of those who reported going downtown one or twice in the last year

Total may exceed 100% as respondents were able to choose more than one response.

TABLE 15: QUESTION 18

I will now read a list of services provided by the City of Minneapolis government. For each please tell me how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the way the City provides the service.	Very satisfied	Satisfied	Dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied	Total
Protecting the environment, including air, water and land	17%	70%	11%	1%	100%
Cleaning up graffiti	15%	65%	17%	3%	100%
Animal control services	18%	74%	6%	2%	100%
Dealing with problem businesses and unkept properties	9%	62%	25%	4%	100%

TABLE 16: QUESTION 19

Minneapolis is facing increasing financial challenges in providing City services. Please rate the importance of the following services on a 5-point scale, with 5 being "extremely important" and 1 being "not at all important."	1-Not at all important	2	3	4	5-Extremely important	Total
Protecting the environment, including air, water and land	2%	4%	13%	27%	55%	100%
Cleaning up graffiti	7%	17%	29%	22%	24%	100%
Animal control services	4%	17%	35%	22%	22%	100%
Dealing with problem businesses and unkept properties	3%	9%	29%	32%	27%	100%

## RESPONSES INCLUDING "DON'T KNOW"

The following pages contain a complete set of responses to questions on the survey related to regulatory, energy and environmental services, including the "don't know" responses. The percent of respondents and the number of respondents for each response option for each question are included in each table.

TABLE 17: QUESTION 4

In your opinion, what are the three biggest challenges Minneapolis will face in the next five years?	Percent	Number
Public safety	27%	370
City government	5%	70
Transportation-related issues – includes traffic, transit and parking	23%	318
Education	25%	340
Economic development	12%	168
Housing	18%	242
Growth	6%	89
Job opportunities	14%	190
Maintain public infrastructure – including bridge and road maintenance	16%	222
Foreclosure	1%	16
Property taxes	16%	226
Other	31%	424
Don't know	17%	232
Refused	0%	1

NOTE: Grey shading was not applied to this table as a number of items in this question could pertain to the topic area presented in this report. Total may exceed 100% as respondents were able to choose more than one response.

TABLE 18: QUESTION 10

What are the major reasons that keep you from spending more time Downtown?	Percent	Number
Lack of parking	17%	29
Cost of parking	13%	22
Traffic (congestion/construction, etc.)	10%	17
Safety	10%	17
Prefer other shopping areas	14%	25
Nowhere to go	11%	20
Expensive	2%	4
General dislike	8%	14
Dirty	0%	1
Get lost/hard to find way around/one-way streets are confusing, etc.	4%	8
Don't want to go downtown	25%	44
Other	32%	55
Don't know	2%	3
Refused	0%	1

NOTE: Grey shading was not applied to this table as a number of items in this question could pertain to the topic area presented in this report.  
 Total may exceed 100% as respondents were able to choose more than one response.  
 This question was asked only of those who reported going downtown one or twice in the last year.

TABLE 19: QUESTION 18

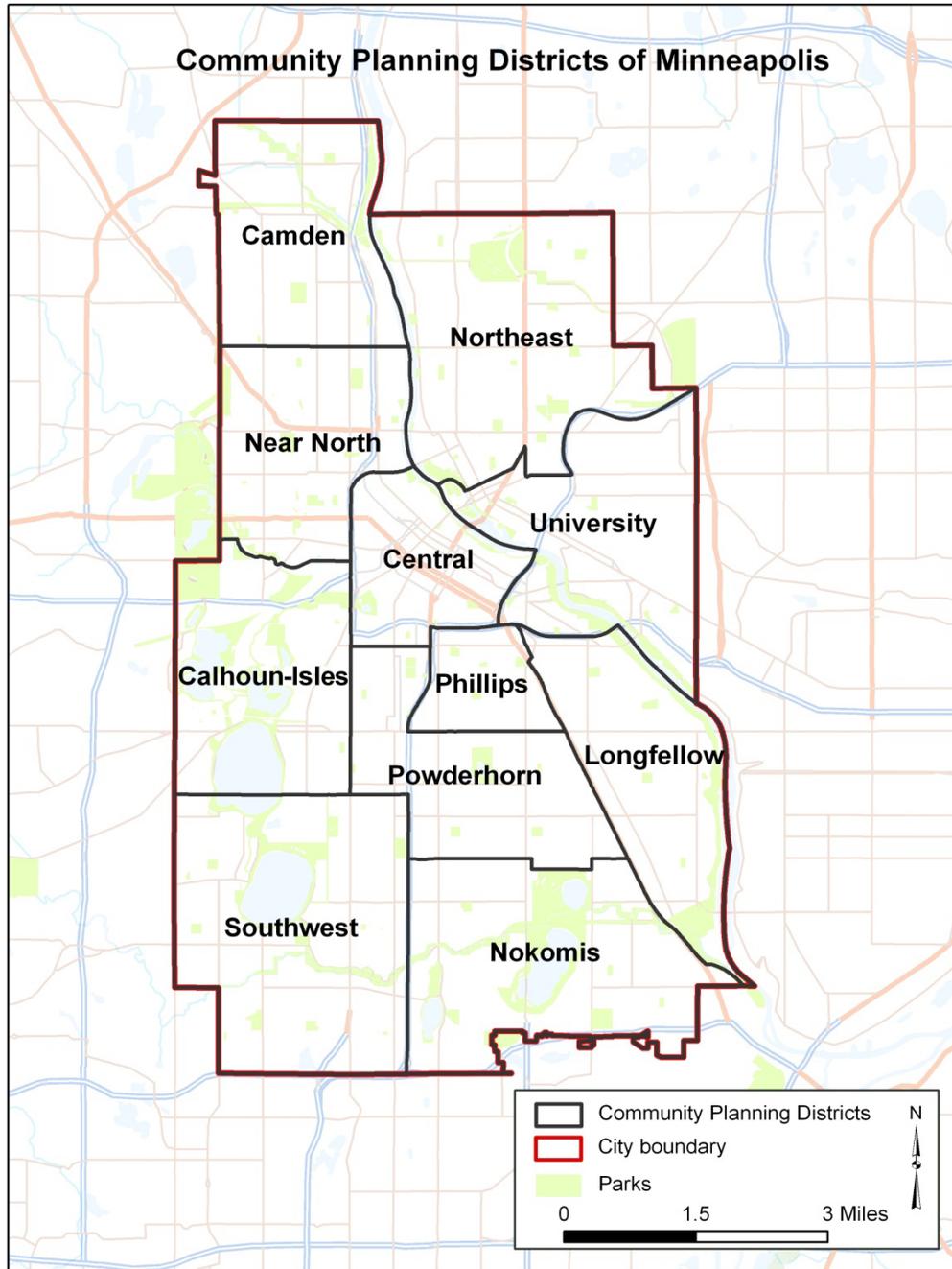
I will now read a list of services provided by the City of Minneapolis government. For each please tell me how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the way the City provides the service.	Very satisfied		Satisfied		Dissatisfied		Very dissatisfied		Don't know		Refused		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
	Protecting the environment, including air, water and land	16%	224	65%	895	10%	143	1%	19	7%	96	0%	1	100%
Cleaning up graffiti	13%	179	58%	793	15%	212	2%	33	12%	160	0%	1	100%	1,378
Animal control services	14%	194	60%	822	5%	70	1%	19	20%	271	0%	1	100%	1,378
Dealing with problem businesses and unkept properties	7%	96	48%	659	20%	269	3%	40	23%	312	0%	2	100%	1,378

TABLE 20: QUESTION 19

Minneapolis is facing increasing financial challenges in providing City services. Please rate the importance of the following services on a 5-point scale, with 5 being "extremely important" and 1 being "not at all important."	1-Not at all important		2		3		4		5-Extremely important		Don't know		Refused		Total	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Protecting the environment, including air, water and land	2%	27	4%	49	13%	179	26%	363	54%	745	1%	13	0%	1	100%	1,378
Cleaning up graffiti	7%	102	17%	236	29%	400	22%	298	24%	327	1%	13	0%	1	100%	1,378
Animal control services	4%	50	17%	233	35%	476	21%	294	22%	304	1%	19	0%	1	100%	1,378
Dealing with problem businesses and unkept properties	3%	37	9%	120	28%	384	31%	426	26%	356	4%	54	0%	1	100%	1,378

## APPENDIX III: CROSTABULATION OF SELECT SURVEY QUESTIONS

Crosstabulation of the select survey questions are shown in this appendix. Responses that are statistically significantly different ( $P < 0.05$ ) by subgroup are marked with grey shading. Below is the map that illustrates the 11 community planning districts.



## COMMUNITY PLANNING DISTRICT COMPARISONS

TABLE 21: QUESTION 18 BY COMMUNITY PLANNING DISTRICT

For each, please tell me how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the way the City provides the service?	Community District											
	Calhoun-Isles	Camden	Central	Longfellow	Near North	Nokomis	Northeast	Phillips	Powderhorn	Southwest	University	Overall
Protecting the environment, including air, water and land	93%	84%	91%	84%	80%	91%	94%	79%	86%	90%	85%	88%
Cleaning up graffiti	85%	69%	84%	79%	82%	82%	87%	74%	76%	83%	75%	80%
Animal control services	93%	87%	90%	95%	80%	93%	97%	90%	88%	95%	99%	92%
Dealing with problem businesses and unkept properties	80%	53%	62%	72%	55%	65%	67%	76%	72%	85%	82%	71%

Percent reporting "satisfied" or "very satisfied"

## SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC COMPARISONS

TABLE 22: QUESTION 18 BY GENDER, AGE, RACE AND ETHNICITY

For each, please tell me how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the way the City provides the service?	Respondent Gender and Age							Respondent Racial Origin			Respondent Ethnicity		
	Male 18-34	Male 35-54	Male 55+	Female 18-34	Female 35-54	Female 55+	Overall	White	People of Color	Overall	Latino/Hispanic	Not Latino/Hispanic	Overall
Protecting the environment, including air, water and land	87%	88%	89%	89%	82%	90%	87%	87%	89%	88%	94%	87%	87%
Cleaning up graffiti	78%	76%	86%	77%	81%	86%	80%	81%	76%	80%	85%	79%	80%
Animal control services	93%	89%	93%	95%	91%	91%	92%	92%	92%	92%	97%	91%	92%
Dealing with problem businesses and unkept properties	75%	71%	78%	67%	66%	72%	71%	72%	70%	71%	78%	70%	71%

Percent reporting "satisfied" or "very satisfied"

TABLE 23: QUESTION 18 BY LENGTH OF RESIDENCY, HOUSING TENURE, INCOME

For each, please tell me how satisfied or dissatisfied you are with the way the City provides the service?	Length of Residency					Tenure			Household Income			
	Less than 5 years	5 to 9 years	10 to 19 years	20 or more years	Overall	Own	Rent	Overall	Less than \$25,000	\$25,000 to \$99,999	\$100,000 or more	Overall
Protecting the environment, including air, water and land	90%	89%	83%	87%	87%	87%	87%	87%	90%	85%	88%	87%
Cleaning up graffiti	85%	86%	71%	78%	80%	79%	81%	80%	79%	82%	80%	80%
Animal control services	93%	92%	91%	92%	92%	93%	91%	92%	89%	93%	94%	92%
Dealing with problem businesses and unkept properties	71%	81%	72%	67%	71%	69%	73%	71%	74%	68%	76%	71%

Percent reporting "satisfied" or "very satisfied"