

2013 Voter's Guide For District 7 Neighborhoods

Bancroft
Bryant
Central
Corcoran
East Phillips
Midtown Phillips
Phillips West
Powderhorn Park
Ventura Village

[See the NCEC District Map](#) (pdf)

**For Neighborhood Representative Members on
the City's Neighborhood and Community
Engagement Commission**

Candidate information and questionnaire responses

Compiled by the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department

Voter's Guides are available online at the City's Web site:
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/WCMS1P-106113>.

The City of Minneapolis invites and encourages participation by every resident to each program, service and event within our city. Should you require an accommodation in order for you to fully participate, or should you require this document in a different format, please let us know by contacting 612-673-3737, TTY: 612-673-2157, at least 5 days prior to the meeting.

English: Attention. If you want help understanding this information, call 612-673-3129. **Spanish:** Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame al 612-673-2700 **Somali:** Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500 **Hmong:** Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab dawb txhais cov xov no, hu 612-673-2800

Voter's Guide District 7

As part of the neighborhood election process to elect 4 neighborhood representatives on to the City's Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC), applicants interested in serving were asked to respond to the following statements on their applications to be used in the Voter's Guide:

- ❖ How have your life/work/cultural experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative on the NCEC?
- ❖ How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?
- ❖ Describe why you want to serve on the NCEC.
- ❖ How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent, if elected?
- ❖ How do you plan to engage with under-represented groups within your district?
- ❖ Please list any community-based organization(s) with which you are currently involved.
- ❖ Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

Candidates for District 7:

(To quickly navigate to a candidate's information, hold Ctrl and left click on candidate's name)

[Carol Pass](#)

The City-wide meeting to elect five neighborhood Commissioners will be held on Thursday, June 13, 2013:

City-Wide Election for Districts 1, 3, 5 & 7

Thursday, June 13, 2013

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Eastside Neighborhood Services

1700 2nd Street NE

Minneapolis, MN 55413

[\(Click here for a MAP and DIRECTIONS\)](#)

The building is ADA accessible. If any special accommodations are needed, please contact 612-673-3136.

All votes must be cast on June 13, 2013.

If you have any questions about the elections for Districts 1, 3, 5, and 7 or the Voter's Guide, please feel free to call Cheyenne Erickson at (612) 673-2052 or Howard Blin at (612) 673-3136. You can also find more information on our website at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/WCMS1P-106113>.

1. How have your life/work/cultural experiences prepared you to be a neighborhood representative on the NCEC?

I have been on the NCEC Commission for 2 years and I think this has helped position me to understand the commission's governing model and consider many issues regarding that, which would be of help to neighborhoods. I worked on the Bylaws, and several other projects that have been developed by the commission. I believe this has allowed me to better consider ways the work of the commission could offer greater help to neighborhoods and to improve advocacy for our fellow citizens doing neighborhood work.

My answer to question 2 contains much of the answer to this question. To not repeat what is stated there, I will add that I am a retired professor, raised my two sons here, as well as a foster son from the neighborhood. One of my sons teaches at North High and lives in Phillips, the other teaches at Mpls. Transitions on Lake. I learned and shared with neighbors from everywhere on the globe profound lessons about the difficulties and values associated with being a family here in the neighborhoods in District 7. They are not all replicas of Phillips, but all have many of the same issues. I have assisted in the formation and funding of the Hispanic Baseball League and Little League, the Somali American Community, the Somali American Autism Project as well as worked with other various ethnic groups on multiple projects. We have one of the most diverse boards in Mpls. with African Americans, Somali, Mexican, and Muslim representation on the EPIC board, as well as a seat for ex-offenders, bringing us their hard earned wisdom, probably a first in the history of the Neighborhoods. Though Phillips is not the easiest place to live, and can be a very labor-intensive experience, I retain my love for it and its people. That is essentially why I chose to run for this position.

To quote from our 14th anniversary report: "In Phillips, we often must deal with the frustrations of poverty, neglect and misunderstanding. People from elsewhere sometimes come not to wonder at our marvelous diversity and wonderful people, but to dump their tires in our yards, which we have to clean up during "Clean Sweep". There are reasons for discouragement.

But the people and possibilities here are more interesting and more wonderful than almost any place in the City. Looked at through the eyes of hope and appreciation, Phillips (and the other District 7 Neighborhoods) glows with charm and each day turns up remarkable people and amazing and amusing occurrences."

The NCEC needs to share that perspective and build on these wonderful people and that purposeful hope. The 7th District Neighborhoods need to continue to move toward being affordable, safe, beautiful, strong, productive, uplifting, kind and appreciative of all those here. I believe I bring that perspective and agenda to the NCEC and wish to continue doing so.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization

My participation has been fairly lengthy and multifaceted. I was initially on the Greater Phillips Housing Board in its last year and witnessed how NOT to run a neighborhood organization. Though I had many courses in Political Science at the University, this experience was a far more thorough piece of education. We tried but could not resolve the problems. I believe that ultimately they were structural and only a new

Carol Pass

Page 2 of 5

organization would solve them. Part of the issue was the attempt to run too large and complex an area from the center, a "command economy" as it were.

When we began anew in East Phillips, we studied that and other previous examples of poor governance. We designed East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC) to both avoid and/or withstand as much as possible the worst a struggling neighborhood could encounter (or self generate). I believe we did an excellent job, so that when we encountered some similar turmoil, we were able, because of good, though unusual, Bylaws, to come through stronger. I say this regarding the future because things learned should not be lost, forgotten or ignored as we move ahead. We should not reinvent the wheel, but also, those who do not learn from the past are condemned to repeat it'(I have no idea who first said that.) I believe we should be looking in both directions, past and future. Having said this, I served as the treasurer of EPIC at our new beginning in 1999, became the President in 2005 and have served in that position since. We just had EPIC's 14th Annual Meeting this year with approximately 120 people in attendance. At this meeting, the community gave final approval to our last major building project, Greenway Heights Apartments, one of the only affordable family housing projects on the Greenway.

I served on the Housing/Redevelopment Task Force, helped design our Home Rehab Loan Program, which served 79% minority homeowners, helped design our First Time Home Buyers Loans, also serving an large majority persons of color. I chaired the East Phillips Commons Project, which built an affordable apartment building at 2909 Bloomington Ave., removing crime and blighted buildings, and co-chaired Village In Phillips, which built the 28 town home project on 24th St. and Bloomington Ave. I also helped raise finances to assist the filling of most of our vacant lots, moving home ownership levels from only 10% to nearly 30%. In May of '97 to Dec. of '98 East Phillips went from 86 vacant lots to 154. We were disappearing as a neighborhood. EPIC, under our housing programs, turned that completely around. I helped found and run the Bloomington Patrol, which dramatically reduced crime on Bloomington Ave., receiving recognition from the Governor and worked with Court Watch and the Block Club Network to this end. This group successfully pressed for cameras on Bloom, which also helped change the culture of the street. I assisted EPIC in carrying considerable major weight in the recent work to stop the Midtown Burner, to organize resistance and to lobby the Clark/Berglin Environmental Protection Bill through the legislature, a first in the nation, permanently protecting the many diverse families and residents here.

With infrastructure on the mend, EPIC turned from housing to youth and services to people. However we discovered that we had no place to put programs for kids, elders, etc. We committed to building a space for this and organized with other organizations to raise the money for a community center. I am the EPIC rep. on the East Phillips Park Community Center Design Team and helped raise the 4.7 million to build the Center. I helped EPIC begin and fund the East/Midtown Youth Sports and Rec Program, one of the few free soccer programs in town.

Now the Center is built, the burner is not coming, crime is down here, many new families have come, I would have time and would like to continue to serve the Southside neighborhoods as the District 7 Representative to the NCEC and use the skill set and relationships I have acquired.

3. Describe why you want to serve on the NCEC.

As previously stated, "Regarding the future ... things learned should not be lost, forgotten or ignored as we move ahead. We should not reinvent the wheel, but also, "those who do not learn from the past are condemned to repeat it"(I have no idea who first said that,) So we should be looking in both directions, forward toward new conditions and back, retaining things learned. I believe I can and wish to bring needed continuity and experience to NCEC. NRP tried some stuff and determined some things that could be done better. But they also engendered wisdom from roads thankfully not taken or turned back from. I believe building on those insights makes sense. I believe there should be people with long experience working in neighborhoods among the City's volunteers on the Commission. Some of us who possess that history should be on this board. On the other hand, I am willing to do some new stuff and look at this all afresh.

The point is,"the baby should not go out with the bath water*" I wish to help that not happen. Stability is consistently undervalued. We have strong, experienced neighborhoods. These should not be lost or weakened. We have strong and valuable relationships. These should be maintained and strengthened. Many have developed strong skill sets for use in neighborhoods. These people should be tapped. I know many of these people and ask them to help. EPIC has managed to have one of the most diverse boards in the City. We have worked hard to really balance the interests of all the ethnicities. I have tried to bring those skills and these relationships into the NCEC political arena to address the issues and would be willing to continue to do so.

4. How do you plan to maintain a relationship with the neighborhoods you would represent, if elected?

I need to acknowledge that the workload in my neighborhood was huge last year as was to some extent the NCEC Board. This made it really hard for me to keep up with effective communication with the District 7 neighborhoods. I am comfortable that I represented the neighborhoods interests well, but communication was limited. I hope to provide a more steady stream of information regarding important issues being discussed and decided by the NCEC. This has not been a strong suit with the neighborhoods in general. People often don't know what is

really happening that has import for them. Information is there on the website, but finding it, appropriating it has been Byzantine. Somehow this needs to change. I hope to have emails going directly to the neighborhoods. To do a good job with this, a commissioner almost needs a staff person, but I hope I can fulfill this vision and need, using email, perhaps other forms.

Also, I already have a strong relationship with most of the neighborhoods in District 7, through working on issues of mutual concern, such as the Swimming Pool project, Midtown EcoBurner, the Xcel Energy power lines and substations, our connections through the Greenway, mutually beneficial legislation, shared projects and development issues. Also Midtown and East Phillips have been hosting youth sports projects which included youth from our two neighborhoods plus the other Phillips group, Central, Powderhorn and Corcoran. These events became important through several CURA grants, which have involved using these gatherings for problem solving times as well and have connected us with many of the under-represented residents from these neighborhoods. We have followed

up on concerns all the residents from these neighborhoods shared, such as finding and generating more sports facilities for youth and young adults.

I would hope to continue and enhance these cross-neighborhood efforts and projects and seek support for these and other neighborhood efforts from the other NCEC members. Though I frequently see many of the people from the District 7 neighborhoods, I think it is important to attend some of their board meetings and neighborhood events as well and intend to do that more systematically than I do now. I would be especially concerned to attend meetings where issues of concern to the particular neighborhood(s) are being discussed and worked on and which should come before the NCEC for support. Some of these are foreclosure issues, crime issues, youth concerns and development projects. I would hope to be the 'go-to' person to listen to the individual neighborhoods, seek consensus where needed, and bring these concerns before the NCEC. I believe I have been doing this effectively on the NRP Policy Board for some years and am not shy about doing so.

5. How do you plan to engage with under-represented groups within your district?

Most of the organizations of under-represented groups EPIC has helped to start and has assisted to grow have a much broader spread than our neighborhood boundaries. The fact of broadly extended families and ethnically based connections make that the case. These relationships have helped us tap into the larger southside diverse communities. I count on these relationships to access information regarding the needs and hopes of the under-represented groups. Also their members are now organizing and communicating for us in a chain of links that allow me deep connections already. EPIC and myself will continue this regardless of whether I serve on the commission. It is a fundamental and successful approach to the effort to connect, serve and empower diverse people and can just expand further.

I would hope to enhance these relationships and keep people informed through email, but need to face the fact that many do not have that access and so much must be done face-to-face. I can count on many relationships to help me do this when coming before many groups becomes logistically too big a job..So I would hope to connect the needs of the various ethnic groups to the assets of NCEC, assuming their continued availability, and lengthen and deepen these connections, through the horizontal relationships we already have, through direct face-to-face meetings, continued direct meetings and assistance to their concerns.

6. Please list any community-based organization(s) with which you are currently involved.

East Phillips Improvement Coalition (EPIC), President,

Village In Phillips Redevelopment Project, Neighborhood Collaborative

East Phillips Commons Redevelopment Project. Neighborhood Collaborative

East Phillips Park Community Center Design Team, Neighborhood & Org. Collaborative

Hispanic Baseball League, Consultant

Somali American Community, Consultant

NRP Delegate for the NCEC Board

7. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

No paid Affiliations, Unpaid are listed above plus

University of Minnesota Alumni Association

League of Women Voters