

District 8 Voter Guide



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.

District 8 Neighborhoods: Cedar Riverside, Como, Cooper, Hiawatha, Howe, Longfellow, Prospect Park/East River Road and Seward.

Candidates for District 8

- [Marcea Mariani](#)
- [Khadra Figi](#)

The City-wide meeting to elect four neighborhood Commissioners will be held on Thursday, June 14, 2018 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 pm at the Crown Roller Mill Building:

City-Wide Election for Districts 2, 4, 6, 8

Thursday, June 14, 2018

6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Crown Roller Mill

105 5th Avenue South

Minneapolis, MN 55401

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

All votes must be cast on June 14, 2018

If you have any questions about the elections for Districts 2, 4, 6 and 8 or the Voter's Guides, please feel free to call Cheyenne Brodeen, 612-673-2052. You can also find more information on our website at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/boards/ncec/WCMSP-209652>.

The building is ADA accessible. If any special accommodations are needed, please contact 612-673-3163.

Marcea Mariani

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

Currently, the City of Minneapolis has a concerted effort to include under represented groups into the City's programs, projects, boards and communications efforts.

Included in my family, are members of the Ojibway (Chippewa) [Boise Forte Band]. I understand first hand the meaning of discrimination and racism as I can cite instances of personal discrimination that my family has experienced.

Twenty-six of my family members come from FIVE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES and speak ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE. In addition, my deceased first husband, his two brothers, my parents and their 13 siblings are all first generation American born individuals.

It is my opinion that neighborhood diversity is a given. Acceptance of diversity is not.

I am fortunate that my officially recognized neighborhood organization is actively engaged with non-English speaking populations. I attend a church with African and South American pastors and consider myself fortunate to have these every day experiences that many individuals living in certain Minneapolis sectors do not experience.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

I have volunteered with my neighborhood and have maintained an active commitment by helping promote recognition of the organizations goals throughout the community. I have worked with the Minnesota legislature to insure continuity of neighborhood issues, and involved City Council members with the neighborhood.

In addition, I have actively participated as a board member, was the Treasurer and President of the Longfellow Community Council and termed out. As term limits permit, I continue to be an active neighborhood organization member. I invited another NCEC Commissioner to join me to present to neighborhood boards, current activities of the Commission.

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

I have been a member of the NCEC since its first meeting on June 23, 2009. I want to continue to serve on the NCEC, understanding it is imperative that the goals of the NCEC, through the NCR and the City, are best maintained with consistently cooperative relationships among all three entities and that those relationships remain strong and unencumbered. My membership on this body includes the understanding that membership is defined with an acknowledgement that work and tough decisions occur in order that the basic concept of the body is to negotiate with an underlying goal to do no harm, and more importantly, to do that which is best for the city AND its residents.

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

(1) Various lists whether by address, telephone or e-mail have been maintained over a number of years according to the member's preference. In addition I am regularly contacted and make myself (2) available to address community groups, committees and boards for updates and general discussions.

I continue to (3) work with Council Member Gordon who calls upon me to co-sponsor neighborhood meetings that draws excellent resident response. Depending upon the issues, oftentimes both (4) print and electronic media are involved, thus granting additional coverage in addition to reach at the neighborhood level.

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

THERE IS A "CURRENT PLAN" and I am an active member of the NCEC 2020 Committee which is central to this issue. I have worked closely with the executive director of my neighborhood board to discuss and inform of current activity. I also work with an active church that has reached out to several under-represented groups.

In addition, the officially recognized neighborhood organization has defined strategic plans and reaches out to under-represented groups. I continue my work with these groups. This is not a new concept and has been on going as an established and routine method of work in my neighborhood for some time.

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

Church of the Epiphany; Coon Rapids
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church; Minneapolis
Longfellow Community Council
NCR and NCEC

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

Please list all current and unpaid affiliations.

Business and Professional Women of America
American Board of Opticianry
National Board of Optician Business Owners
Friends of the Boundary Waters
Future Homemakers of America

Khadra Figi

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

I have been a resident in this neighborhood for 12 years, and have worked with various community organizations such as the WBCC, NRP, and Pillsbury United Communities. Working as a Pillsbury United Communities youth worker, I have founded the Sisterhood Boutique program, which is a young women's entrepreneurial venture focusing on employment training, professional development, career exploration. I have also worked with youth workers in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood, around youth development and community building, raising awareness, and creating dialogue around key community issues.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

I was a youth Training and Outreach specialist at Pillsbury United Communities. I have also volunteered with other organizations including the West Bank Community Coalition, Augsburg University's Cedar Commons, Mix Blood, and the African Development Center. I have volunteered at caucuses, cohosted community events, participated in leadership boards, and helped develop youth engagement curriculum.

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

I am deeply passionate about youth and family empowerment and community advocacy. As a young Somali Muslim immigrant there are countless issues impacting my neighborhood and greater community. I want to be part of the conversations around, education, youth enrichment, criminal justice reform, and building resources to strengthen families.

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

I am already connected with my neighborhood, and neighborhood organizations, however, since I am not as connected with the other neighborhoods I would get involved through community engagement events, volunteering and networking.

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

I think it's important to create spaces that welcome and encourage conversations around serious issues. These spaces emerge through investment in community building such as community circles, youth hubs, and community art making. I also think the listening should be happening all the time, and not just at a single "event". Because I am already part of this neighborhood, my plan is to be more intentional about listening, both to issues and the creative solutions

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

Pillsbury United Communities, Mix Blood, Augsburg University-Cedar Commons

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

Please list all current and unpaid affiliations.

Metropolitan State University

Hennepin County Medical Center