



District 6 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 6 Neighborhoods: CARAG, East Calhoun, East Isles, Kenwood, King Field, Lowry Hill, Lowry Hill East, Lyndale, Stevens Square, or Whittier.

The District 6 meeting to elect a neighborhood commissioner will be held on Thursday, August 9, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the Project for Pride and Living: **All votes must be cast on August 9, 2018**

If you have any questions about the elections for District 6 or the Voter Guide, 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.

Election for District 6

Thursday, August 9, 2018

6:00 PM

Project for Pride and Living

1925 Nicollet Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55403. ([Click here for a MAP and DIRECTIONS](#))

Candidates for District 6

- [Corwin Howard Morton](#)
- [Erica C. Christ](#)
- [Katherine Glover](#)
- [Kenya Weathers](#)
- [Michael Malone](#)
- [Saralyn Romanishan](#)

Corwin Howard Morton

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

I do a lot of volunteer work; I am pretty much in touch with The City, county, federal assepts as well as neighborhood concerns.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

Yes.

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

Simply put, I love helping people out and, if I can, taking on challenges.

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

I listen, evaluate and do what is necessary.

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

Do what I can with what I'm able or I find things and others but I get the job done on time.

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

Ask me, too many to list!

7. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

See above

Erica C. Christ

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

In addition to my work with my neighborhood organization, see below, I have operated a small theatre Company for 22 years and worked in my family's business, the Black Forest inn, for most of my life. Working in theatre is nothing if not an exercise in seeing things from other points of view and trying to Communicate clearly and authentically. I have produced plays about serial killers, world leaders and amoebic life forms. I have hosted a monthly storytelling and spoken word show where I have invited hundreds of diverse people to perform uncensored over the last 22 years. Working as a bartender requires a particular set of skills including diplomacy, firm boundaries, compassion and courage, all while maintaining a hospitable demeanor of service. Working as a manager of people I have learned that I must speak to people in a way that makes

sense to them, not necessarily just me, and I have learned how to tease out things that people are reluctant to share, in order to resolve issues and hopefully create a better work environment.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

I was on the Whittier Alliance board of directors for twelve years and chair of the board for nine and a half years. I also chaired the Business Association on and off for about five years of that time. I worked on several strategic plans, the Nicollet pedestrian overlay guidelines and the commercial design guidelines. I worked on fundraising events, social events and community outreach events. I served on the finance committee and oversaw the budget including the NRP plan and the CPP plan for each fiscal year. I was on an executive director search committee and oversaw one executive director transition.

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

I have been off the Whittier board for a little over a year so I feel I have adequate distance from the day-to-day concerns of the organization to take on a different role that includes a wider population and geographical area. I am concerned about the future of neighborhood organizations and I know that the next two years will be critical to determining the fate of neighborhood funding in Minneapolis. I wholeheartedly support the work that neighborhood organizations do and want to contribute to the effort to secure stable funding for them.

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

I have a good working relationship with the current staff and board of my neighborhood, Whittier and am acquainted with staff and/or board from several of the other neighborhoods including LEHNA and Lyndale. I grew up in the East Isles neighborhood and my parents still live there so I have some familiarity with that area in general. I will be available to attend regularly scheduled public meetings in any of the neighborhoods that I represent and I will be available to meet with board and staff to address specific concerns as necessary. In the meantime, I will do some research on the organizations with whose work I am less familiar.

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

First of all, each of the neighborhood organizations in the district should have a plan for engaging under-represented groups which would give me a starting point for engagement. Also, working in a bar and restaurant, I do regularly see a different cross-section of the neighborhood than the population who typically show up at meetings. I know that in Whittier there are a number of ad hoc groups that meet and would be a resource, like Faith Leaders and Somali Elders. The other neighborhoods are likely to have similar groups. I look forward to discovering them.

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

I am currently working on a task force with the Whittier Alliance to launch the inaugural Eat Street Food, Music and Art Festival this year. My Mom serves on the Nicollet Avenue Special Services District committee and I often join her at those meetings.

7. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

I work for the Black Forest Inn as a manager (paid). I am the Artistic Director for Cheap Theatre (unpaid). As above, I am a volunteer task force member of the Whittier Alliance (unpaid).

Katherine Glover

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

I'm a community-focused playwright and artist, and before that I spent more than a decade as a journalist, with a focus on immigration, economic inequality, and LGBT issues. I'm good at asking questions until I understand everyone's perspective, and it's important to me to make sure multiple perspectives are considered and given equitable representation. I've also taught English as a Foreign Language off and on since 2005, mostly within the East African community, and I'm fluent in Spanish.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

I am new to neighborhood group dynamics and funding, and I'll be the first to admit I have some things to learn, but I also think having an outside perspective can be an incredible asset. Sometimes organizations' ways of doing things can be confusing and inaccessible in ways that those familiar with the systems don't recognize because "the way we've always done it" always feels natural and intuitive to anyone part of that "we."

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

I understand that the NCEC makes incredibly important policy and funding recommendations to the City Council -- but from the website, it was difficult to find clear information on the specifics. I think this is a problem, and this is actually one of the reasons I want to be involved. I believe an organization that has this kind of significant influence over neighborhood funding should be transparent and clear, and information about it should be easy to find and written in a way that is inviting and easy to understand. The NCEC has a stated commitment to "broaden participation" and yet the opaque language on its website can only have the opposite effect, and reinforce the status quo in which neighborhood bodies tend to amplify the voices of middle-class, white homeowners while minimizing the voices of other communities. This needs to change.

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

In preparation for serving on the NCEC, I've spoken with staff at my neighborhood organization (Lyndale). If elected, I will write a quarterly report on the NCEC's doings which the LNA will publish on its website and in its newsletter. They've also offered to make translators available, and to help facilitate similar relationships with other neighborhoods in the district.

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

I don't have the answer to this question yet. I could throw out a bunch of key phrases buzz words, as people have been doing for decades in all kinds of organizations while making very little progress, but I don't think that's useful. I need to start by learning about how things are currently being done, asking questions, looking for barriers to participation, and talking to different people about what would make participation easier for them. Lyndale staff have also talked to me about convening periodic districtwide neighborhood meetings

where we can bring NCEC and neighborhood staff and community members together to update folks on the work we're doing on the board and how to get people involved.

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

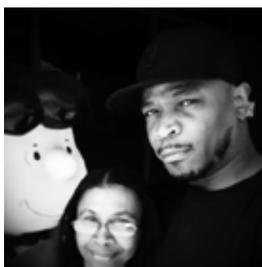
- Riverside Plaza
- American Civil Forum
- Minnesota Tonight
- The Playwright Cabal
- WordSprout
- The Encyclopedia Show
- Strike Theater
- Minnesota Fringe Festival

7. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

- Riverside Plaza
- American Civil Forum
- Minnesota Tonight
- The Playwright Cabal
- WordSprout
- The Encyclopedia Show
- Strike Theater
- Minnesota Fringe Festival

Kenya Weathers

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



I believe as the current Commissioner for district 6 and 15 plus years working as a community activist along, privilege to work for a city council member and state senator gives me great insight into the nuts and bolts of what it takes to create policy that makes sense to the residents and other neighborhood stakeholders. I believe also that my experience as a member of Minneapolis Police Dept. Chief Citizens Advisory Council, Chair of NCEC Crime/Safety Committee and Whittier Neighborhood Association Board of Directors Crime/Safety liaison has given me a broader picture of how crime is having a major impact on community health and prosperity over all. I believe my network of community partners and experience will allow me to continue pushing forward the agenda of transparency, accountability, integrity and a healthy safe city.

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

I have had the privilege and experience to contribute as a board member, created the organization crime/safety taskforce and was appointed as the board of directors Crime and Safety Liaison.

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

It has taken all of my 2 years as the current Commissioner to untangle the city department’s web of deception and build alliances with other Commissioners. I believe to be re-elected will allow me continue to nurture these alliances along with consensus building that is critical moving issues forward for our district and city.

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

If re-elected I would first advocate for NCEC to have their own staff and to request that at least one member from the neighborhood association board of directors join a monthly meeting with district Commissioner, I believe this will be the juncture where information can be exchanged between Commissioner and neighborhood constituents.

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

I plan on being honest and encourage residents in my district to become more active and take more ownership of their neighborhood. I think more neighborhood target canvassing and listening sessions is a great starter for reaching under-represented groups.

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

Communities United for Public Safety.

7. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

Current elected Commissioner for NCEC 6th District, member of M.P.D. Chief Citizen Advisory Council and Communities United for Public Safety.

Michael Malone

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

My work as a Community Organizer and Neighborhood Director has furthered pursuit of social justice in Minneapolis and expanded my perspective of needed change. This is also what brought me to my first (and successive!) NCEC meetings and what will keep me coming back, driven to contribute and determined to lift our collaboration to what we know it can be. Work in Racial Equity Outreach has also contributed to an understanding that often the most important thing is often and mustn’t be left unsaid.

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

I moved to Whittier in June ’14. After volunteering and being active with WA for 2 years, I joined the board in May ’16. Falling in love with the first neighborhood I lived in was a blessing. Being able to use my professional experience as an organizer to benefit it and my community is a privilege, one that I have committed to passing forward in my work at Heritage Park.

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

The same reason I started attending meeting in the first place, the same reason I started this work years ago – because this work makes a direct difference and it's worth doing and I will continue it regardless of affiliated title. The main reason why I'm seeking the serve on the NCEC is because I believe I can help the group make a collective larger change as a member.

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

Periodic updates to WA board meetings; email and communication with leadership at the other 9 neighborhoods; maintenance of 'open door' transparency policy – wide distribution of my personal email and cell phone and an obligation to always be open for conversations, questions, or concerns from any community stakeholder.

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

I believe improving representation and engagement within our communities and building community in our neighborhoods- is the most essential step to improving the overall quality of life in Minneapolis and eliminating disparities in the metro at-large. Form the first time starting my involvement with communities in Minneapolis, it has been the ultimate goal: We all do better when we all do better!

I will continue to focus and work on realizing this mission; the only different will be working with neighborhood colleagues, collaborating with city resources and connecting community support systems as an official member of the NCEC, instead of as a volunteer. The mission, impetus and commitment will forever remain unchanged.

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

- Whittier Alliance
- Heritage Park Neighborhood Association.
- NCEC/Neighborhoods 2020

7. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

- Whittier Alliance
- Heritage Park Neighborhood Association.
- NCEC/Neighborhoods 2020

Saralyn Romanishan

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

I grew up in the Uptown area when it contained a much more diverse population, ethnically and financially. Many of us were working class lower income families. I attended public schools in Minneapolis at a time when students were bused throughout the city, going to school with classmates from many different areas and neighborhoods, south and north. My father was a teacher. When I was in elementary school, I would

often accompany my father to his daytime and evening teaching jobs at Bridgeview School (CDC) in St Paul. I formed relationships with the special education program children at the day school, and especially, the children/adults at night school.

I attained a BA in Anthropology and Art History at the University of Minnesota and a Travel Program Certificate at Dakota County Technical College. I began traveling internationally in college and then throughout my career. Through my chosen career in the Travel and Transportation industries I have come in contact and worked closely with many languages and cultures. I currently work with one of our most vital services in this city, mass transit.

Participating in my neighborhood organization (see the answer to question 2) led to organizing outside the neighborhood, forming a coalition, testifying at public hearings, and running for public office. In dealing with city departments I realized they (like neighborhood associations) were having difficulties with inclusivity and in communicating with residents. And in working with the city and becoming immersed in the red tape, contracts, and oversight surrounding neighborhood funding, I realized that we need to create a strong resident-city communication system and a simpler, flexible, and less time-consuming neighborhood funding and oversight system. This system would be more welcoming and less overwhelming to volunteers which would then increase public participation. I believe engagement and participation result in more neighbor contact, empathy, and leads toward equity.

I regularly attend and participate in NCEC meetings and am familiar with Neighborhoods 2020. I have been appointed to the Neighborhoods 2020 Workgroup: Governance Advisory Structure for Neighborhood and Community Engagement. I also maintain a regular dialogue with several neighborhood associations. I believe neighborhood elections are an important part of fair and equitable representation within neighborhood associations and have recently taken on the volunteer role of facilitating neighborhood elections with the League of Women Voters Minneapolis.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

My first experience was going to a LHENA Zoning and Planning Committee meeting as a resident. This led to my attendance at the Annual Meeting and joining the NRP Committee, which then led to my running for the LHENA Board where I quickly realized we needed to increase engagement and communication within the neighborhood, so I advocated for a newsletter (paper and e-news) and joined the Social Committee to help plan and carry out the larger engagement events in the neighborhood. I served as a LHENA Board Member and Treasurer, working with NCR on outreach, inclusivity, audits, NRP and CPP funding, creating Priority Plans, policy, by-laws, newsletters, and Best Practices. I also actively recruited renters and business owners to run for the Board seats to increase diverse representation.

I chaired the LHENA Zoning & Planning Committee, working with city departments, residents, businesses, and developers. I was Chair and Secretary/ Treasurer of the LHENA NRP Committee, working with NCR to analyze remaining NRP funds and auditing and correcting City and LHENA NRP accounts. I served on the LHENA Crime & Safety Committee and am a Block Leader, working with the 5th Precinct, residents, and local businesses. I am current Chair of the LHENA Social Committee where we fundraise for neighborhood outreach initiatives and plan and run various events for different neighborhood demographics. I also volunteer at other committees' events and assist in planning when asked.

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

I feel that neighborhood associations hold a unique place in our city structure. They provide social engagement, relationship building, information clarification and sharing, leadership opportunities, wealth and knowledge building programs, and pathways to bring grassroots ideas to fruition. They provide an

opportunity to be a part of something bigger. They deserve the chance to thrive. But there are problems in some associations, NCR, and NCEC that I feel need to be addressed. Not necessarily by regulation but by encouragement, assistance, outreach, and working together. We need more people involved in the associations and to take more interest in NCR and NCEC. More people involved brings more oversight. More people involved brings more accountability. And more people involved brings the best out of an organization.

There is always room for improvement. NCEC needs to have commissioners willing to work with each other. They may disagree but they need to work together for the sake of our residents. The meetings also have to be public friendly. This includes easy-to-find previous minutes and documentation, videos, meetings kept to well-constructed agendas that end on time, and business conducted and completed at committee level then presented to the Commission in complete formats. Petty disagreements need to be kept offline and Robert's Rules of Order need to be strictly followed. To assist with this, one person on the commission or staff should be a designated Parliamentarian for every meeting. This will increase civility and create a fair and welcoming atmosphere for the Public, the Commissioners, and the Staff.

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

We are a multi-cultural city without equity and an extremely high income disparity. I value our many differences and believe we can find common ground. Everyone needs to be treated equitably, fairly, and be provided every opportunity to engage and every tool to succeed. I am a leader but also a coalition builder and I believe that we need to share information and consult the community to make the best decisions. I also understand that it is often best for communities to lead themselves. More than anyone, those communities understand what they need. Our best ideas come from the grassroots level.

There are 10 neighborhoods in District 6 which makes it impossible to attend each neighborhood's meetings every month. I would like to see monthly group meetings. Most importantly, the neighborhoods themselves will be consulted as to the best way to hear concerns, exchange ideas, and work on projects together.

I will also push for more commissioner positions so we can have smaller districts and a larger budget for staff and engagement activities. This is not a full time government position and the commissioners are set up to fail on engagement with such large areas to cover and little to no staff to assist them. We also need a committee that focuses specifically on engaging our neighborhoods. NCEC has committees on all sorts of things including engaging and creating relationships with the city, but not with the neighborhoods who they are supposed to represent. We need to make engagement and an active dialogue with the neighborhoods a priority. And we need to start an education campaign to provide full and easy access to the commission and commissioners, increase public awareness about what the commission does, and the issues the commission is working on.

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

District 6 is one of the most divided areas of the city. The neighborhoods comprise CARAG, East Calhoun, East Isles, Kenwood, King Field, Lowry Hill, Lowry Hill East, Lyndale, Stevens Square, and Whittier. Some neighborhoods are heavily renter and other neighborhoods single family homeowner. We have transitional and long-term housing. We have neighborhoods with little cultural, ethnic, and income diversity and rapidly gentrifying neighborhoods where we are in danger of losing that diversity. And we have severe income disparities and cultural divides. Each neighborhood is unique, has individual needs, and must have those needs met.

I plan to utilize NCR and personal resources to communicate as much as possible and in every language possible. This includes email bulletins, a link on the NCEC webpage, and regular communication and meetings with the neighborhood and community organizations within the district. I would like to work with NCR on reaching inside the larger apartment buildings to engage and activate the tenants.

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

I am a union organizer with Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 (ATU 1005) and current Vice-Chair of the ATU 1005 Education Committee. We are utilizing current and designing new engagement initiatives to increase outreach, communication, and relationship building with union and metro area community members.

I am a founding member of MCRG-Minneapolis Coalition for Responsible Governance, an organization with a long-term goal of increasing community awareness of development and city issues. Through social media and the formation of person to person support groups, civic concerns of a growing number of under-represented communities have been exposed and addressed, such as, inclusion, economic equality, affordable housing, and fair representation for all (renters, homeowners, and business owners alike). MCRG has proven successful and continues to grow each year, building strong, supportive relationships among the residents of this city. Through the coalition, I work with and support many community organizations, such as, Defend Glendale & Public Housing and Minneapolis Rising, a local public education parent/teacher/resident group.

7. Please list all current paid and unpaid affiliations.

- Metro Transit/Metropolitan Council
- Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1005 (ATU 1005)
- League of Women Voters Minneapolis (LWV)
- Lowry Hill East Neighborhood Association (LHENA)
- Defend Glendale & Public Housing Coalition (DGPHC)
- Minneapolis Coalition for Responsible Governance (MCRG)
- Minneapolis Rising
- National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC)