

District 5 Voter Guide



As part of the neighborhood election process to elect 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 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 5 neighborhoods: Bryn Mawr Neighborhood Association, Downtown Minneapolis Neighborhood Association, Elliot Park Neighborhood, Inc., Harrison Neighborhood Association, Citizens for a Loring Park Community, Northside Residents Redevelopment Council, North Loop Neighborhood Association, Heritage Park Neighborhood Association

Candidates for District 5

- [Gary M. Simpson, Loring Park](#)
- [Lolita Davis Carter, Near North](#)

The citywide meeting to elect neighborhood commissioners will be held on:

Wednesday, July 17, 2019

6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Crown Roller Mill, 105 5th Avenue South, Minneapolis, MN 55401

[\(Click here for a map and directions\)](#)

To request reasonable accommodations, please contact NCR at 612-673-3737 or via email at ncr@minneapolismn.gov.

All votes must be cast on July 17, 2019

If you have any questions about the elections or voter guides, please feel free to call Cheyenne Brodeen, 612-673-2052. You can also find more information on our website at

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/WCMSP-217782>.

Gary M. Simpson, Loring Park

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

I am a life-long neighborhood activist with broad experience. Most recently I am the President of Citizens for a Loring Park Community, having first been its Secretary and a Board Member. I am also serving on NCR's Work Group 3 for the Minneapolis Neighborhoods 2020 Framework process. For 25 prior years I was an activist in St. Paul's Phalen Park neighborhood with a passion for developing the talents and character of girls through coaching sports (I have three now-adult daughters). Prior to that I was the Chair of the Board of Directors of SnowCap, the largest hunger agency in Oregon and also was the Chair of the Oregon Governor's Commission on Hunger where we permanently change the face of hunger and food insecurity in Oregon. As a profession I am a graduate professor of theology, ethics, and leadership and have served as the faculty representative to our Board of Directors as well as most recently as the faculty Secretary and Parliamentarian and as a member of the Faculty Concerns Committee. All of these experiences have shaped me as a trustworthy and competent collaborative leader who has worked with vast networks of ages, gender and sexual identities, ethnicities, diaspora communities, and socio-economic populations. I place a high value on deliberative and participatory democracy, on social justice, equity and solidarity, on attending to historical trauma within communities, and on collaborative working partnerships among volunteers, staffs, and elected officials.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

I currently am the Chair of the Board of Directors of Citizens for a Loring Park Community (CLPC), where I have also been a Board member for 4+ years. This involves me in many CLPC events and I also regularly attend the Nicollet Ave. Safety Coalition.

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

NCEC is a key strategic collaborator of neighborhoods and communities within Minneapolis's goal toward a more equitable future for the great diversity of peoples that count this City as their home. NCEC's core aspirations—to give voice and to broaden representation, to increase participation and to cultivate relationships, and to partner together to enhance the quality of life for all city residents and to hold one another accountable—are aspirations that I have long held and, indeed, that I have helped to accomplish in a variety of venues.

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

I plan to remain active in CLPC and to remain an elected Board Member.

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

District 5 is a highly diverse district that encompasses one of the highest rental populations with the City along with a high income, high home-ownership community. These different housing patterns have been long thought to be at odds with one another, which need not be the case as we have demonstrated in the Loring Park neighborhood. District 5 also includes the Minneapolis Downtown, with its vibrant economic, entertainment,

and theater corridors, and with its rapidly increasing residential communities of various economic resources, and also with a challenging reality of homeless and signing populations. I have been a regular participant in the Nicollet Ave. Safety Coalition, which is a laboratory of sorts of what's possible to bring many populations, interests, and community resources together to solve issues and to enhance well-being.

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

NA

**7. Please list any community-based organization(s) with which you are currently involved.
Please list all current and unpaid affiliations.**

NA

Lolita Davis Carter, Near North

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



Living, Learning and Growing in Near North multicultural environments has prepared for working in our increasingly multicultural and global neighborhoods and/or world.

2. How have you participated in your neighborhood organization?

Yes, I have in/my neighborhood organization in the following areas:

- Land use issues (location of a new school, shopping center, library, highway, etc.)
- Neighborhood improvements (additional street signs or lights, repair of a sidewalk)
- Urban design issues (historic preservation district; developing of architectural themes)
- Dealing with crime and other disturbances

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

Good neighbors' equal good neighborhoods, when you gather a group of people interested in bettering their neighborhood. I am confident good things will come to the community. Joining the Neighborhood & Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) would allow me, to highlight more community involvement in promoting inclusion, participation, and self-determination for individuals who feel they do not have a voice. Alongside helping to improve the economic mobility and inclusion of many individuals to strengthen the talent pool of City of Minneapolis for which our business relies on.

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

Build and sustain relationships and this process would consist of:

- Building relationships one at a time
- Remaining friendly and make a connection
- Ask community members questions
- Inform community members about myself
- Accept community members the way they are
- Assume other people want to form relationships, too
- Overcome your fear of rejection
- Been persistent
- Invite community members to get involved,
- Enjoy, appreciate, and be grateful for community members to whom I would be serving

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

First, I would do a self-assessment then create effective messaging to promote meaningful family engagement while creating community connections within sub-groups of secondary groups, to serve as an information resource for parents, families, educators, and community groups.

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

Community organizations include parent-teacher organizations, sports clubs, church groups, block or neighborhood associations, 4-H clubs, and many others.

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

Please list all current and unpaid affiliations.

- Minnesota Autism Council Working Group
- Minneapolis Neighborhoods 2020: Citywide Community Engagement Policy
- Criminal and Juvenile Justice Information Advisory Group
- Minnesota Corrections Association (MCA) | Juvenile Justice Committee