



Phillips Partnership

safety—jobs—housing—infrastructure
for the Phillips neighborhood

Abbott Northwestern Hospital
Denny DeNarvaez, President

Children's Hospitals and Clinics
Brock Nelson, CEO

The Minneapolis Foundation
Emmett Carson, President

Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
Susan Davis, SVP,
Corporate/Institutional Group

City of Minneapolis
Mayor R.T. Rybak

Hennepin County
Commissioner Peter McLaughlin

Metropolitan Council
Ted Mondale, Chair

Update

DECEMBER 2002

Crime Workgroup Reports Promising Developments at Chicago-Lake



A view from the Phillips Partnership's office above Roberts Shoes, on the corner of Chicago-Lake.

At its meeting on March 23, 2002, the Phillips Partnership established the Chicago-Lake Crime Workgroup, and charged the Workgroup with developing and implementing a plan for reducing crime at the intersection. The Workgroup has met regularly since May, and, with the input and support from a variety of sources, a broad plan of action has emerged. Now, following eight months of concerted effort, business owners, business patrons, and community residents have begun to notice a real change at the Chicago-Lake intersection.

Keeping a Watchful Eye

Tangible evidence of the Crime Workgroup's efforts is visible in the new office space on the second floor above Roberts Shoes at the corner of Chicago and Lake. The office, which overlooks the intersection, is designed to serve as a workspace and meeting site

for key police and probation personnel. At the community's suggestion, a large sign bearing Police Department and Hennepin County insignia will soon hang from the window. The sign will announce the presence of the office, and remind everyone of ongoing commitments to the intersection. Meanwhile, both the Metro Transit and the Minneapolis Police Department continue to coordinate their efforts to deploy an increased police presence at the intersection.

Over the last eight months, as the Minneapolis Police Department has tracked arrest data at the intersection, it has become apparent that while serious crime continues to decline in the area, so-called "livability crimes" persist. Livability crimes, which include such things as loitering, public consumption, and panhandling, intimidate innocent citizens

passing through the intersection and depress the area's commercial vitality. Because these crimes invite less serious sanction, they result in a "revolving door" effect, in which offenders are charged and released without any real consequences. The growing awareness of the impact of this phenomenon has helped the Workgroup to refocus its efforts and plan new strategies.

Hennepin County Resolves to Help

The Chicago-Lake effort has been boosted by a strong police-probation partnership. With support from Hennepin County probation, the Workgroup has defined a range of strategies under this partnership, such as increased partner patrols and more efficient data sharing so that police and probation officers quickly know when arrestees have violated probation. Probation officers can also work closely with community groups to implement innovative crime prevention initia-

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A Clean Sweep:

CCPI Trash Pickup Bags Another Success

On Saturday, October 12, the Community Crime Prevention Initiative sponsored its semi-annual trash pickup in the Phillips neighborhood. Approximately 70 volunteers joined the effort, including neighborhood residents, employees of Abbott Northwestern and Wells Fargo, representatives from the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches, Hennepin County Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, and a twelve-person Sentence to Serve crew. Good in the Hood, an organization that helps to connect volunteers with community projects, provided a 30-person crew, consisting of students from Bethany College of Missions in Bloomington.

Abbott Northwestern nurses Cheryl Rediger and Michelle Bergdorf and their husbands, Bryon Rediger and Luke Bergdorf, joined the trash pickup as part of the hospital's Healing Environment initiative. As new residents of Phillips, the Bergdorfs had an additional incentive to join the effort. According to Michelle, "I really notice the trash now that I walk to work every day. We are very conscientious about keeping the area in front of our house clean, and this is really an extension of that effort to promote a cleaner, more livable environment in our neighborhood." Other neighborhood residents echoed the Bergdorfs' sentiments. Cynthia



Michelle and Luke Bergdorf collect trash along Chicago Avenue.

Kretz, along with a pint-sized crew of youngsters, collected trash in her neighborhood, as she has during previous trash pickup events.

"Driving down my street, I notice a real difference in the atmosphere when the trash is gone," says Cynthia. "A clean, well-kept street both looks better and feels safer."

Along with Phillips Partnership staff, CCP/SAFE Officer Eric Shogren and Abbott Northwestern's Community Relations Specialist Joyce Krook were key organizers of the event. Wells Fargo provided hats and T-shirts to volunteers, and Phillips Partnership provided refreshments before and after the pickup. All told, volunteers collected enough trash bags to fill two pickup trucks, and organizers deemed the event a great success. ■

Phillips Partner profile

Denny DeNarvaez

President, Abbott Northwestern Hospital

Background

Denny DeNarvaez is president of Abbott Northwestern Hospital. Born and raised in Canada, she moved as a teenager to Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

In 1983, Denny joined International Medical Centers in Miami as director of finance and later moved to Thomas J. Merlo & Company where she was audit manager. Florida Medical Center recruited Denny in 1989 as their chief financial officer, and within four years, she had been promoted to chief executive officer and was running the medical center, which included more



Denny DeNarvaez

than 1,250 employees, 459 beds and over \$25 million in earnings.

In 1998, Denny and her family moved to the Twin Cities to be close to her son, who was attending high school as a

boarding student at Shattuck-St. Mary's in Faribault. At that time, she joined Allina Health System and began working for Medica as director of contracting. Two years later, she accepted the position of operations vice president, cardiovascular services, at Abbott Northwestern Hospital/Minneapolis Heart Institute. In October 2001 Denny served as interim chief operating officer of Abbott Northwestern Hospital and she was promoted to president of the hospital in March 2002.

Education

B.A., magna cum laude, in

Accounting, Drake University. Certified Public Accountant.

"One of the outstanding features of Abbott Northwestern Hospital is its commitment to the neighborhood it has been a part of for 120 years. I have been part of the Twin Cities community for four years, and in that time have been struck by the level, and sophistication, of involvement that the hospital brings to Phillips. It's a tribute to the visionary leadership of the business community and public officials, and I am glad to be a participant.

"Abbott Northwestern really is a Phillips neighbor. Our mission is healing. The Phillips Partnership helps us extend that mission

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tives. A probation officer in an official jacket can provide “calming” presence simply by walking a beat or riding on a Metro Transit bus.

Hennepin County further strengthened this partnership with its passage of a resolution on October 1, 2002, authorizing an increase in probation services in both the Phillips and Jordan neighborhoods. For Phillips, that translates into two additional probation officers—one adult and one juvenile—to be housed in a new office in the neighborhood, as well as additional scheduled Sentence to Serve crews. Commissioners Peter McLaughlin and Mark Stenglein sponsored the resolution. Bolstered by their encouragement and active participation, the County pushed the resolution quickly through the bureaucratic process, resulting in an unusually rapid governmental response to an identified problem.

While the resolution provides additional probation support for the entire neighborhood, it is likely to have a particularly significant impact at trouble spots, such as Chicago and Lake. According to Inspector Sharon Lubinski of the Third Precinct, the resolution fills a key gap in the existing approach to reducing crime at Chicago and Lake, especially given that so many crimes at the intersection are livability crimes that carry lesser jail stays. “The higher level of police activity and arrests at the intersection has helped to restore order,” says Inspector Lubinski, “but sustaining order requires that we have adequate follow-through on those arrests, including appropriate probation support.”

The Intersection’s Stakeholders Step Up

Encouraged by these visible improvements, the business community has shown a renewed commitment to take part in efforts to

clean up the intersection. By resolution dated October 15, 2002, for instance, the Chicago Lake Business Association agreed to establish New Look: Chicago Lake, a litter control plan designed to combat the persistent litter problems at the intersection. The plan includes an agreement by the Association to fund weekly City pick-ups at designated trashcans and a commitment from individual Association members to clean the areas in front of their businesses daily. Under the plan, a litter sweep will occur at the intersection every other day by a Sentence to Serve crew, the City, or volunteer crews. The plan also calls for greater cooperation and coordination between the City, Metro Transit, and the business owners to streamline litter control efforts.

The community has responded with energy and enthusiasm to the Workgroup’s efforts, which are entirely consistent with the Chicago Lake Improvement Plan

(CLIP). The result of grassroots, community leadership and support, CLIP began as an invitation to the Phillips Partnership from the Phillips West Organization. That group, meeting monthly in a Community Crime Prevention Initiative (CCPI), continues to monitor and define the plan. Members of CCPI have worked closely with CCP/SAFE officers to win local victories against crime, including the removal of a notorious public pay phone in an alley near Lake Street. The Crime Plan has been reviewed, improved and enthusiastically approved by the Chicago-Lake Business Association, the Phillips West Organization, the Lake Street Council, the Abbott Northwestern Community Advisory Committee, and the Chicago-Lake Review Council. All of these organizations have invited the Phillips Partnership to continue working in partnership with the community to fight crime in and around Chicago-Lake. ■

HCI student profile

Kimberly Lightfoot

to our neighborhood. We help heal in our own neighborhood when we work to prevent violence, expand opportunity, and adequately house our neighbors. We have learned a lot about this kind of healing along the way.

“The Phillips Partnership has provided opportunities for Abbott Northwestern to connect its mission with the neighborhood. The Health Careers Institute, Train-to-Work, and the Joseph Selvaggio Housing Initiative have increased the number of employees calling Phillips home by over 70% in the last two years alone. Improving the housing stock improves the neighborhood’s atmosphere, and decreasing crime rates help us recruit employees and patients. Those achievements are good for the

Kimberly Lightfoot had already begun to consider a health care career when she received an HCI flier in the mail a couple of years ago, but the responsibilities of work and a young family made the prospect of fitting education into her schedule daunting, to say the least. When she saw that HCI’s classes would be held less than a block from her Phillips neighborhood home near the Abbott Northwestern campus, she knew the time had arrived to begin pursuing her goals. “Because I was interested in working from home, I enrolled in and completed the medical coding program last year,” explains Lightfoot. “I enjoyed it, but I soon realized that I really wanted to pursue a nursing degree, so this



Kimberly Lightfoot

fall I took the nursing assistant and acute care classes.”

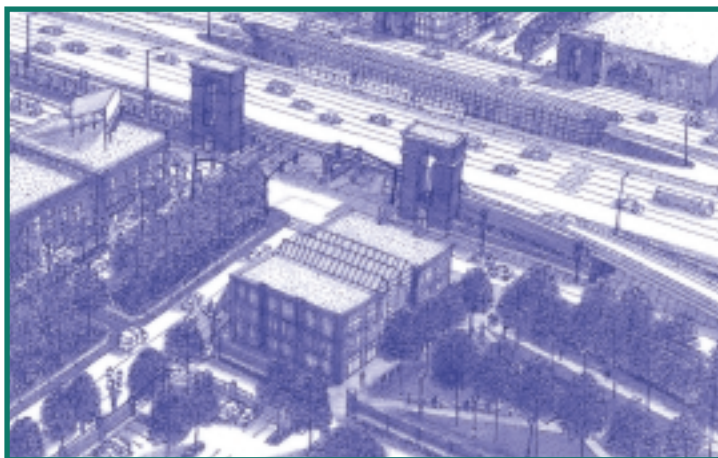
“My experience at HCI could not have been better,” she says. “The proximity to home is great, of course, while the small class size and more intimate setting allows the teachers to develop real connections with their students.”

Having now completed her training, Lightfoot is poised to exchange her waitressing job for a nursing assistant position at an area hospital, and plans to begin working on her RN requirements. “If HCI offers any of the RN classes, I’ll be first in line. The school’s commitment to career laddering really makes it unique, and I know I’ll be taking take advantage of any opportunities it offers to help me move up.” ■

I-35W Advisory Committee Votes 17 to 3 for Access Improvement

The Project Advisory Committee (PAC), for the I-35W Access Project voted to approve the preliminary design plans and mitigation/enhancement proposals for the project on November 26. The committee's action followed a lively public dialogue in three community meetings. The committee weighed public opinion carefully and voted overwhelmingly to approve the Project design, concluding three years and nine months of committee deliberation. Liz Riley, a resident of the Bryant neighborhood, summed up the committee's effort: "After nearly four years of hard work, the Project Advisory Committee's 17-3 vote on November 26 should send a message that this process has been a good one, and the Project has strong support and is badly needed for South Minneapolis residents and businesses."

The public meetings provided a range of comment, from critical to enthusiastic. From the meetings, survey results showed public opinion in the neighborhoods surrounding the Access Project to be mostly supportive of the proposed improvement. Surveys returned from 95 citizens (45% of all atten-



Artist's illustration of an aerial view of Lake Street and I-35W, after the construction of the I-35W Access Project.

dees) revealed that two-thirds believe that access should be improved. A larger margin supported a northbound entrance ramp from Lake Street to I-35W and the preferred southbound exit design to Lake Street and Nicollet Avenue. The PAC carefully reviewed meeting transcripts and survey results before voting. According to Craig Anderson, citizen-chair of the PAC, "I've gained great respect for the dedication shown by our committee of idealistic yet practical citizen planners who built the most important bridge in any project—from

self-interest to common interest." Most agreed with Muriel Simmons, the head of the Phillips West Organization, who stated: "It's time for this neighborhood to be better linked to the freeway. The access project is desperately needed."

The Committee responded to concerns raised in the public meeting process by including amendments that provide for:

- Transit improvements, including sustainable transit options, to reduce forecasted traffic volumes in the final design process.

- Further study of converting 1st and Blaisdell to two-way streets in the final design.
- Maintaining the 2nd Avenue pedestrian connection between Lake Street and the Greenway.
- Requiring that the project staff work with all property owners of adjacent and acquired properties to decide landscaping features.
- A recommendation that MN-DOT rebrand I-35W northbound lanes or take other appropriate measures to ensure continued full access/exit both to and from Lake Street, should the new northbound entrance create a traffic management issue.

The approved mitigation/enhancement report included an estimated \$30M of mitigation measures, an unprecedented expenditure of funds to ensure that the Project is consistent with the aesthetic, environmental, and livability concerns of residents.

The PAC recommended that Hennepin County submit its plans to all the necessary public agencies for their approval. Construction is planned for 2004. ■



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