

March 20, 2020

Dear Kingfield Neighborhood Association,

During this time of increased uncertainty in the wake of COVID-19 and its threat for increased spread in our community, it is imperative that we are bridging gaps and communicating directly with one another. I wanted to reach out to offer my support and advocacy on behalf of the residents of Ward 8, and more broadly the City of Minneapolis, by making my office available to our area neighborhood associations.

The Mayor and City Council are working tirelessly to ensure that we are taking the necessary precautions to help slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect residents, while continuing to advocate for solutions that support our most vulnerable communities. With the closure of schools, bars and restaurants, entertainment venues and other places of public accommodation; many folks in our community are facing insecurity in their income, housing, childcare, and health care during this time.

The City of Minneapolis has published a webpage dedicated to Coronavirus news and happenings, found at www.minneapolismn.gov/coronavirus/. I encourage everyone to check this page regularly for updates and shared resources. In addition to news about federal, state and local aid, this webpage also includes news on what utility companies are offering to help us all get through this time without disrupting service, as well as accessible food options, FAQs for small businesses, and a host of other pertinent information.

Below you can find some available resources. Please help us distribute and share this information with residents who may contact you during this time and through your outreach efforts:

- Translated Materials to assist with preparing and responding to COVID-19 can be found [here](#).
- As [Minneapolis Public Schools \(MPS\)](#) are closed until April 5th to slow the spread of COVID-19, MPS is currently providing meals to any child while the schools are closed Monday – Friday 10am to 2 pm:
 - Green Central Park Elementary School, 3416 4th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55408
 - Lyndale Community School, 312 W 34th St, Minneapolis, MN 55408
- [Metro Transit](#) has suspended all bus and light rail service from 11 pm to 4:30 am.
- The Minneapolis Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs posted updates in response to COVID-19 on March 19th, found [here](#).
- Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid has created a new page on lawhelpmn.org with updates on court cases and advice for people with questions about housing, safety, health, unemployment benefits, etc.
- Resources are available for workers looking for information about [Minneapolis Sick and Safe Time Leave](#) and [unemployment insurance](#) from the State of Minnesota.

While we are unsure of how long the spread of COVID-19 will last, it is in all of our best interest to work together to keep one another safe for the duration of this pandemic. It will take combined effort between our local, state and federal governments but also our efforts and response as a community. It is imperative that we all support one another through this difficult time, first and foremost, by following the guidelines from the [Center of Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) and [Minnesota](#)

[Department of Health \(MDH\)](#) by practicing excellent hand hygiene, strong social distancing, staying home as much as possible, and covering coughs and sneezes.

Additionally, as Chair of the Racial Equity Subcommittee, I am asking all of my colleagues, department heads and other governmental jurisdictions to please center equity in all of your responses. In moments of great tragedy, i.e. Katrina, 911, and the 2008 market crash, communities of color are the first to suffer and the last to recover.

My office will continue to send updates through our e-newsletter ([sign up here](#)) and through our [Ward 8 Facebook Page](#). I encourage you all to reach out to my office with questions and concerns you may have during these trying times by either [e-mailing myself and my staff directly](#), or giving my office a call at 612-673-2208.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Andrea", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Minneapolis Council Vice President – Ward 8
Andrea Jenkins