

Ward 6  
August 2016  
Newsletter

## City Council Votes on Path to Raise Minimum Wage A MESSAGE FROM COUNCIL MEMBER WARSAME

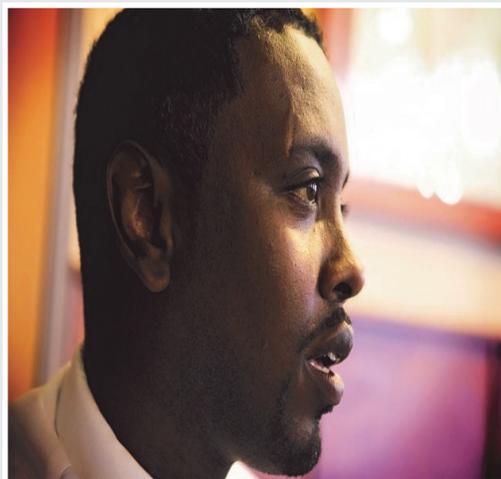


I am proud to have co-authored a staff direction yesterday which aims to develop a city minimum wage ordinance. As a black man who was raised poor and by a single mother, I fully support an increased minimum wage. I'm also very aware of the contribution small businesses make to the overall vitality of the city of Minneapolis. Thank you to my co-authors Council Members Jacob Frey and Lisa Bender, thank you to all my colleagues and many thanks to our communities for organizing around this important issue.

We recognize the urgency of this issue and have taken an historic step towards enacting a municipal minimum wage in Minneapolis yesterday.

Important issues start with collaboration and this one is no different. I look forward to talking with you all and taking all your voices into consideration as we craft a legislation that works for our workers and that protects our small businesses.

### WORDS OF GRATITUDE FOR YOUR SUPPORT



Recently a [Start Tribune Article](#) was released regarding the hate messages that my Office has received since I started serving as council member. In the last couple of days, I have received many emails and phone calls from constituents and people beyond the City to express their solidarity. My heart is deeply touched by all the support, I want to thank every person who has taken the time to call or email me with words of encouragement.

We all know that fear and hate are currently being promoted against communities. I stand up against anti Muslim bigotry, against hatred and oppression. The recent sharp rise in bigotry and hateful rhetoric about Muslims, Latinos and many other communities has consequences that hurt not only those communities, but also our Nation, a Nation that protects rights like freedom of religion and equality.

It is important to talk about this issue. It is important to raise all our voices to raise awareness of this critical situation. It is my hope that leaders and community members work together to promote inclusion and respect for one another. Instead of hate and bigotry what we need in our country is love, compassion and understanding.

Thank You,  
Council Member Abdi Warsame, Ward 6

## Promise Scholarship Available for Cedar Riverside

**Deadline is August 12. Don't Miss Out this Great Opportunity!**

Cedar Riverside suffers from an unemployment rate four times as high as the City rate. With Councilmember Warsame's leadership, the Cedar Riverside Opportunity Hub will begin to close this gap by bringing the very best college and career planning tools to the neighborhood. Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC) is honored to partner with Ward 6, City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County Commissioner McLaughlin, the Emerge and the Cedar Riverside Partnership on this Opportunity Hub.

MCTC is the lead collegiate educator for Minneapolis high school graduate and has been invited by Councilmember Warsame to be a bigger part of the solution in Cedar Riverside—starting now. The MCTC Foundation Board has expanded its Power of You scholarship program to cover 20 Promise Scholars—adults who have been out of school for over two years.

Council Member Warsame has asked MCTC to guide students to college programs with a high likelihood of graduation into a livable wage career. Scholarships will support students who pursue health careers, heating ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), and welding. All three have high placement rates with many postings at \$20 or more an hour. Two fields are now experiencing very high hiring rates into employment—health and building maintenance careers. These twenty scholarships will make MCTC tuition-free for students in these two programs. But enrollment must happen now for Fall of 2016. Visit <http://www.minneapolis.edu/Paying-for-College/Financial-Aid/Scholarships/Promise-Scholarship> to apply and for more information.



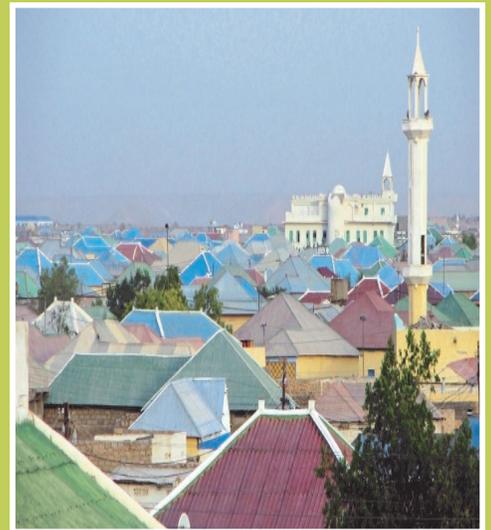
## PUBLIC INVITED TO SISTER CITY CEREMONY—BOSASO, SOMALIA

On Friday, August 12th, 2016 a signing ceremony to formalize and commemorate the first-in-the-nation sister-city relationship between Minneapolis and Bosaso (Somalia) has been scheduled. The Mayor of Bosaso Mayor Yasin Mire Mohamud will be in attendance to sign the memorandum of understanding that formalizes the sister-city relationship which was originally endorsed by the City Council in October 2014.

The program will feature performances of the national anthems of the United States and Somalia and a formal presentation of the flags, all followed by the formal signing of the memorandum (produced in both English and Somali). They are signing to for the donation of two fire trucks, a van and other used equipment for Bosaso.

This event is open to the public:

WHERE/WHEN: Minneapolis City Hall – Rotunda, Friday, August 12at 10 a.m.



Contact Ward 6

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[www.minneapolismn.gov/ward6](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward6)

## ***November 8th Election Judges Needed***

### ***Judges with a Second Language Especially Needed***

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Election judges are needed for the general election Nov. 8 to serve voters in local polling places. Election judges are paid \$13.30 per hour for their service, which includes training. Serving as an election judge provides an opportunity to learn about the election process and is an important service to our community. Judges who are fluent in a second language are especially needed to provide additional language support in the polling place, including Spanish, Somali, Hmong, Oromo, Lao, Vietnamese, Russian and American Sign Language.

Selection and placement of judges is based on qualifications of applicants and party balance within the precinct. Preference will be given to those willing to serve a full day in a precinct with a vacancy.

The Minneapolis Elections & Voter Services Division is responsible for administering elections in the City of Minneapolis. For information about registering and voting in Minneapolis or to serve as an election judge, residents can visit [vote.minneapolismn.gov](http://vote.minneapolismn.gov) or call 311 or 612-673-3000.



## ***Help Kids Experience the Democratic Process at a Young Age***

### ***Volunteer Opportunity for November 2016 Elections***

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Kids Voting Minneapolis is a community-based, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to prepare Minneapolis' 50,000 K-12 students to be educated, informed voters. Kids Voting Minneapolis combines civic learning in the classroom, family dialogue at home, and an authentic voting experience to prepare the next generation of citizens.

Since 2004, in partnership with the Minneapolis Public Schools and the Minneapolis City Elections Department, Kids Voting Minneapolis (KVM) has offered Minneapolis K-12 students the opportunity to go to the polls on Election Day with their parents/guardians and vote. Students vote in their own voting booth, on their own ballot, and get an I VOTED sticker. This authentic voting experience furthers civic education and helps students understand the importance of voting. For this to happen, KVM needs 400 community volunteers who staff the 130 city precinct polling places to assist students as they vote.

Kids Voting Minneapolis is in need of volunteers for Nov. 8. Participants will hand out ballots, explain the voting process, and distribute VOTED stickers. This is a wonderful, one-time volunteer opportunity plus a one hour training session. The Election Day shifts are 3 hours— 2:00-5:00pm or 5:00-8:00pm. Anyone over 16 is encouraged to volunteer! Those interested, contact the KVM Volunteer Coordinator, Jennifer, at [mplskidsvoting@gmail.com](mailto:mplskidsvoting@gmail.com).

## ***Career Opportunities at the City of Minneapolis***

### ***Apply Today***

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Interested in working for the City of Minneapolis? Opportunity is knocking. 900+ times. The City of Minneapolis has more than 900 career opportunities available. Visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/jobs> for more information.



## Launch of Promising ADC Entrepreneurship Program

### Helping Youth Learn Business Skills

On July 12, I had the opportunity to launch the African Development Center (ADC) Youth Program that will help build the leaders of tomorrow. These young students will go through the City of Minneapolis' Step Up and the College Bound Entrepreneurs programs.

The purpose of this program is to empower the students with entrepreneurial and business skills, and to encourage them to think creatively, take initiative, implement innovative ideas, and become confident about their futures goals through the prism of entrepreneurship. It will enable them to pursue their education and to enter into the workforce with a working knowledge of business and enterprise. Such an inventive mindset will engender for them greater opportunities and success in the future! I am grateful to have been around eager, ready students to further their professional development.



## Supporting Taxi Drivers

### Potential Changes on Airport Taxi Ordinance

There is a possible change in the way taxi drivers operate at the Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. On July 20, about 200 cabbies attended a public hearing to protest this issue.

As of right now taxi drivers pay a 3,350 fee upfront to serve at the airport and undergo background checks. The MAC, which operates MSP, suggested an ordinance that has the intention to lower the fee to a \$100 per year with a \$4 per-trip-fee and eliminate the background check. This change would allow services such as UberX and Lyft serve the MSP at the same level of taxi drivers.



Further yet, during the public hearing, MAC staff acknowledged that the proposed change will likely lead to lowered wages for the taxi community at MSP, a group of workers that are predominantly people of color.

I support the position of the taxi drivers since their source of income will be compromised by these changes. Understanding the negative impact of these drastic measures, I would urge MAC not to pass this ordinance change, especially considering the high unemployment rate among many of the African immigrants. I am simply defending a community that is already struggling.