



Dear Friend,

Keeping Minneapolis youth safe and making sure that they are able to develop year-round is not just the job of our schools and teachers, it's the job of all of us. With the start of summer, I'm writing to tell you about some of the many ways that we at the City of Minneapolis are collaborating as never before with Hennepin County, the Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board and the Minneapolis Public Schools to make sure that our young people have opportunities to keep developing and connect with trusted adults.

And I'm writing to ask for your help, too.

I'm excited about several things that we at the City are doing for youth this summer.

- **We're putting kids into good jobs.** Last week, over 1,350 Minneapolis youth — a record number — started their new summer jobs through STEP-UP, a City program now in its seventh year. STEP-UP places youth in high-quality summer jobs in business, non-profits and government, including my office. Other City programs are putting 1,000 Minneapolis more youth to work this summer. Over the last seven years, we have placed 14,000 Minneapolis youth, a large majority of whom are youth of color, in good summer jobs.
- **We're keeping kids connected year-round.** We've put the Minneapolis police officers who work as School Resource Officers during the school year to work directly in our parks this summer. This means that every day, those officers are building on the relationships that they've developed with kids in the schools and are making sure that they stay connected to adults they can trust.
- **We're innovating.** Some of our School Resource Officers serve as the Bike Cops for Kids. Last year, Officers Mike Kirchen and Mark Klukow began using bike helmets and bike safety as a way to connect with kids — and this year, the Bike Cops for Kids have added two more officers and are expanding their reach from the North Side to the South Side. Bike Cops for Kids are supported not only by the City, but by grants from the Ciresi Foundation and the PEACE Foundation, and by our great partners at Penn Cycle. (Read some of their inspiring stories [here.](#))

We work closely with our partners at Hennepin County, whose library system is one of the strongest in the country and who work hard to create inviting places for Minneapolis youth to keep learning and developing.

- Hennepin County Libraries are one of the only library systems in America to actually add hours to for residents, meaning that kids will have even more access this summer to their many resources and programs.
- The libraries are offering a creative line-up of summer programs for kids and teens that include video-game design, bike repair and novel writing.
- The Hennepin County Youth Sports Program is investing millions of dollars in our communities by providing grants from the Twins ballpark sales tax to renovate or construct youth-sports facilities, including in Minneapolis parks.

The Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Board have also stepped up their commitment this summer to making our parks a safe place for our kids to play, learn, and work.

- Thanks to generous grants from the Minneapolis Foundation and General Mills, nine Minneapolis parks on the North Side and South Side are staying open extra hours this summer to help kids

connect with trusted adults and make sure they continue to learn productively outside of school.

- Three hundred Minneapolis youth from economically disadvantaged backgrounds are working at good jobs in the parks this summer.
- The innovative Street Reach program, which the City helps fund, is also expanding from the North Side to the South Side this summer. Street Reach workers engage youth that have not used our parks and libraries and help them connect with and take advantage of those opportunities to develop themselves.

And to better serve those youth who are attending school this summer, the Minneapolis Public Schools have made new investments in extended learning opportunities to help them achieve.

- Summer school has been revamped and expanded to offer high-quality learning and enrichment activities for all K-12 students. To accommodate this year’s increased enrollment, programming will stretch to six hours each weekday for five weeks, and a pilot program will run eight hours a day over a six-week period.
- Camp MPS, a summer-school program for elementary- and middle-school students, builds essential academic knowledge and offers high-interest recreation activities like canoe trips and visits to local parks and museums.
- Credit-recovery classes help high-school students catch up and complete credits that they may need to graduate on time.

We are fortunate to collaborate with some great community partners in helping youth connect to trusted adults this summer. But now more than ever, we need the help of every Minneapolis resident in doing so — in other words, you, too.

I’m asking you to be our eyes and ears in helping kids develop productively and stay safe this summer. This means knowing where your kids are at night. This means calling 911 if you see kids violating curfew. This means calling 911 at the first sign that youth are at risk for violence. Even if you think a situation doesn’t look serious, call 911, because it can escalate quickly.

I’m very pleased that our comprehensive Youth Violence Prevention work has helped bring down juvenile crime 23% from this time last year. It’s the job of all of us to make sure youth violence keeps heading down and our kids stay safe.

Across Minneapolis, we're taking responsibility for helping our young people develop and fulfill their potential. Join us in making this summer a productive, safe and fun one for Minneapolis youth.

Sincerely,
Mayor R.T. Rybak
City of Minneapolis

PS: The Youth Coordinating Board is working on putting comprehensive information about all summer opportunities for Minneapolis youth in one place. Check <http://www.ycb.org> regularly for more information.



To unsubscribe or update your City of Minneapolis subscriptions list, click [Update Subscriptions](#).

If you have problems reading this message or updating your subscriptions list, please contact support@govdelivery.com for assistance.

GovDelivery, Inc. sending on behalf of the City of Minneapolis · Suite 760 · 331 2nd Ave S. · Minneapolis MN 55415 · 1-800-439-1420