**West Bank Community Coalition**

**2014 Annual Meeting & Elections**

**Wednesday, December 17th - 6pm to 8pm**

**630 Cedar Ave S, The Cedars Pavilion (MPHA)**

The mission of the WBCC is to strengthen and celebrate the neighborhood by promoting connections between its residents, businesses, institutions, and organizations.

**COME AND VOTE TO BE AN ACTIVE PART OF OUR COMMUNITY!**

**LEARN WHAT WE’VE BEEN UP TO AND HOW YOU CAN HELP GOING FORWARD!**

**Who can vote:**

Any person of legal age (18) who is a resident tenant, a resident homeowner, or a resident or a non-resident property owner or business owner, within the boundaries of Cedar-Riverside West Bank who wish to vote at the Annual Meeting must show either:

(1) a Minnesota driver’s license, Minnesota identification card, or some form of residency verification which indicates that the individual resides within the geographic boundaries of the Cedar-Riverside West Bank neighborhood or,

(2) proof of ownership or lease of a business or property located within the geographic boundaries of the neighborhood.

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| **Tentative Agenda:**  1. Brief Meet and Greet (6:00pm - 6:15pm)  2. Overview of 2014 (6:15pm - 6:30pm)  3. Candidate Statements (6:30pm - 6:45pm)  4. Election of Directors (6:45pm - 7:45pm)  a. 4 Resident Tenants  b. 4 Resident Homeowners  c. 2 Business/Property Owners  5. Closing Statements (7:45pm - 8:00pm) |  | **PARKING**  We encourage those who can walk to the event to do so.  Parking is available in any spot marked “Staff Parking” from 5:30pm to 8:30pm on the night of the event. If you are parked in “Staff Parking” at any other time you will be towed. There is more on-street parking now on Cedar Ave as well. |

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*The WBCC Board of Directors meeting is every third Wednesday of the month, 6pm-8pm. The first meeting in the new year is on Wednesday, January 21st, 2015 at the Cedar Riverside West Bank Safety Center (1601 S 4th St., 'F' Building Ste 101).*

Candidates & Statements for the 2014 West Bank Community Coalition Elections

**4 Resident Tenant Spots (only 1 can be for Riverside Plaza):**

Abdi Mohamed

Barry Peterson, Riverside Plaza

Bekele Adamu, Riverside Plaza

Mohamed Awaid

Nasser Mussa, Riverside Plaza

Nichole Buehler

Zamzam Karar

**4 Resident Homeowner Spots:**

Ashraf (AJ) Siddiqui

Zev Radziwill

**2 Business or Property Owner Spots:**

Brian Monroe, Business

Liban Alishire, Business

Desta Bedasso, Business

Ilham Hussein, Business

**Candidate Statements are below…**

Resident Tenant Candidate Statements

**Abdi Mohamed**

No statement.

**Barry Peterson, Riverside Plaza**

I have avidly assisted and advocated for members of the Riverside Plaza community for over twenty-years, assisting with management issues, mentoring school kids, and working with our past and current city council members, and state senators and representative. I would like to formalize my work through participation on the West Bank Community Coalition (WBCC). I am excited about the work that I’ve done with the City and public works, law enforcement, and non-profits. Additionally, I was appointed by the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners to serve on the 23 member Hennepin County Adult Mental Health Advisory Council, where we worked with various officials and care providers to dignify the recuperation of residents with mental health conditions, expressing our love and solidarity. I was also active in student leadership in college, and worked with the Norwegian Red Cross while attending school in Norway. I believe I am highly suited to assist the WBCC, and was enthusiastically invited to apply for this position by two veteran members of NRP, who have also been active with Cedar Riverside Neighborhood Revitalization Program with me.

**Bekele Adamu, Riverside Plaza**

I have decided to run for this position with the very intention of faithfully representing and serving the community where I live and contribute to endeavors towards bringing about a positive impact on members of the community by harnessing available resources to their identified needs in areas that matters most in their day-to-day life.

**Mohamed Awaid**

No statement.

**Nasser Mussa, Riverside Plaza**

I have been living in Cedar Riverside neighborhood for nearly a decade and have been working here for almost two years now. I am deep connected to this community and I really want to improve this neighborhood by advocating for some critically needed resources such as affordable housing, job training, youth development programs, and early childhood program. As volunteer service coordinator and program assistant at the Cedar Riverside Adult Education, I have been working with different organizations including university of Minnesota, Augsburg college, Metro State and other community colleges to create effective partnership through volunteer and develop multidimensional solutions to community issues and connect people to various community resources. More importantly, I have a great ambition to work with different local organizations to improve the Cedar Riverside Neighborhood and seek include the voices of all community members. I graduated from the University of Minnesota with triple major in African American and African Studies, Sociology of Law, Political Science and currently I am in two different fellowships, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs Policy Fellow, Boards and Commissions Leadership Institute fellow. I am also serving on different board members including DFL Central Committee at-large, Oromo American Citizen Council (OACC) and Cedar Riverside Neighborhood Revitalization Program (CRNRP).

**Nichole Buehler**

As a resident of Cedar-Riverside for the past ten years, I’ve had the opportunity to observe the many wonderful things the neighborhood has to offer: its cultural diversity, vibrant music/entertainment scene, a history of political activism, and a strong sense of community amongst its residents (to name just a few), but I’ve also developed a keen awareness of the many real issues facing the community, such as crime control, affordable housing, youth development, external development pressure, and the sparse allocation of resources (again, to name just a few).   As a Board Member of the WBCC, I would like to assist in solving these issues and work to create an even stronger community.  I believe my passion for community engagement and positive social change, along with my background in political science and the law, would make me a useful and effective addition to the WBCC Board of Directors.

**Zamzam Karar**

No statement.

Homeowner Candidate Statements

**Ashraf (AJ) Siddiqui**

I am a homeowner resident of West Bank with long term ties to the community. I am a parent of a U of M student and a South High student. Public service is my passion, I have years of prior public service experience. Aside from being deeply motivated to serve, my professional experience as a certified public accountant gives me the hard quantitate skills necessary to make WBCC a success. As a current Board Member and Chair of the West Bank Community Coalition I have raised my voice to ensure equity in the massive development projects on the horizon for our community. These projects have a potential of degrading our quality of life or make it unaffordable to live or do business here. Be it, the U of M power plant upgrade, or bridge to the new stadium exposing us to tailgaters, or burying 35W to bring downtown sprawl right to our doorsteps, or two light rails providing easy access to many more on to our streets, or new development projects some in the works others on the horizon. We can turn all this to our advantage and make the neighborhood and businesses thrive. Create opportunity for our youth. Thanks.

**Zev Radziwill**

After 5 years of volunteering as the Co-Chair of the WBCC’s ‘Bluff Street Park Task Force’ - and primarily advocating for parks and green space in the community, I felt that the next logical step was to volunteer to serve a term on the WBCC Board. I wish to serve because I want to contribute my voice and experience to the future of our neighborhood. I want to at least be able to say I was involved. My motivation is an obligation I feel to give back to the community that has given so much to me since I arrived in 1986. To see our neighborhood continue to develop, grow, and achieve would make serving on the board worth the while.

Business/Property Candidate Statements

**Brian Monroe, Business**

As a longtime worker/owner of the Hard Times Cafe and a former resident, I am representative of an important portion of the West Bank and the more voices there are at the table, the better the neighborhood will be for everyone.

**Liban Alishire, Business**

I want to serve the community and contribute to issues that may affect us.

**Desta Bedasso, Business**

No statement.

**Ilham Hussein, Business**

My name is Ilham Hussein and I would like to become a board member of West Bank Community Coalition because I am a business owner and I have been giving services to the community for the last 14 years. In addition, I would like my business to continue to stay with community and continue to offer the services they need effectively and efficiently.