



WARD 2 REVIEW

A Newsletter for Crystal Ward 2 Residents

July 2015

Hi Neighbors!

It's been a busy six months or so since I took office as your new council member.

One of my top priorities is to help keep you informed about what's going on in Crystal, and to help with that I've put together this short newsletter.

I've included some highlights of community events and a few of the things that we're working on as a city.

There's way too much to fit into such a small space, so I've also listed some ways to keep up with what's going on and some ways to contact me on the flip side.

I hope you're enjoying your summer, and I hope to see you around Crystal!

Jeff Kolb
Councilmember, Ward 2



Freight Rail Update—Proposed Connection Project Quiet... For Now



One of the biggest issues that faced Crystal recently was the proposed connection of the BNSF and Canadian Pacific rail lines at 51st and West Broadway.

At this time, we don't know if the railroads intend to go forward with this project. Since this connector was originally proposed, the business properties that were involved were purchased by Hennepin County. State law was also changed, thanks to a bipartisan group of state legislators, to disallow a railroad's use of eminent domain if property is owned by Hennepin County and the county determines that the taking of property would have an impact on public safety.

What this all means is that if the railroads do intend to make this connection in the future, the County (and hopefully therefore the City) would be involved directly in the process.

Thank you to all of the citizens who wrote, made phone calls, and attended events to give their feedback about the impact this connection would have had on our community. I encourage everyone to remain diligent and watch this issue in the future.

Things may have quieted down for now, but I don't believe this issue is gone for good.

Seeking Feedback on Potential Street Parking Changes

One of the things that comes up quite a bit when I am talking to residents is on-street parking. The council is currently considering changes to the overnight parking ordinance, and I am looking for feedback from you. The 3 options are:

1. Keep the current on street overnight parking restrictions as they are: no on-street parking between the hours of 2 and 5 a.m. Seasonal parking permits are available from the Police Department from April 1 – November 30 under certain conditions. The first permit is free and subsequent ones are \$25.
2. Allow on-street parking April 1 – November 30. No permits would be required for overnight on-street parking. State law does require vehicles to be moved every 48 hours, and that parked vehicles must be currently licensed and operational.
3. During the period of April 1 – November 30 each year each household receives one (1) seasonal parking permit at no cost to be shared with guests with no parking.

The council is taking feedback this summer and has set up a special email address to gather the results.



Residents can email ParkingFeedback@crystalmn.gov or mail their feedback to city hall.

We'll also be discussing parking at our Traffic Symposium in September. Watch for more info on this event coming soon!

Night to Unite is Tuesday, August 4

Annually, on the first Tuesday in August, neighborhoods across the nation celebrate, get to know one another and help keep their community crime-free with Night to Unite parties.

Last year Candidate Jeff was able to stop by 9 of the 23 parties in Ward 2. This year Councilmember Jeff gets a police escort and maybe I'll make a few more. Or maybe not because kids love to see the police cars.

If your neighborhood already participates, then you know how much fun Night to Unite is. If there isn't a party on your block, please consider starting one. It's easy, fun, and very rewarding. Find info on the city's website.

Or, if you're not quite ready to host, please stop by my neighborhood's party (38th Ave between Douglas and Hampshire, 6:30-8 pm). We always have a great time. Just be warned– there's a good chance my wife will convince you to host next year!

Contact Jeff

Questions or comments about what's going on in Crystal? Contact Jeff using one of the methods below.

Phone:
612-314-5652

Email:
jeff.kolb@crystalmn.gov

Website:
www.jeff-kolb.com

I write recaps of every council meeting and post them online.

Facebook:
[Facebook.com/JeffKolbCrystal](https://www.facebook.com/JeffKolbCrystal)

Nextdoor:
www.Nextdoor.com

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