



**December 19, 2016**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Andrea Jenkins enters race for Minneapolis 8<sup>th</sup> Ward City Council Seat**

Today Andrea Jenkins declares her bid to become the next Minneapolis City Council Member for the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward. Current 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Council Member Elizabeth Glidden recently announced she will not be seeking reelection after this term.

"I look forward to bringing my 30 years of public service experience to work in City Hall for the people of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward," says Jenkins, "I am prepared and ready to bring positive change toward a more equitable Minneapolis. I look forward to working with the residents of the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward, and beyond, in creating the policies and programs necessary to bring sustainable improvement for everyone in our economy, housing, and services."

Jenkins has the knowledge and experience to hit the ground running. She worked for 12 years as the aide to two different 8<sup>th</sup> Ward Council Members. She has led many community-driven efforts to create positive change like Arts on Chicago, and the rehabilitation of 3405 Chicago, which currently is home to Cafe Southside.

One initiative that highlights Andrea's effectiveness is her work to help redevelop the area of 38<sup>th</sup> Street and Chicago Avenue. Starting about 15 years ago, Jenkins led a handful of organizers to convene a group of community stakeholders to reimagine this blighted, crime-ridden intersection. "Our priority was to bring equitable economic opportunity to people of color and others who have been left out," says Jenkins, "When I see the progress and improvement at 38<sup>th</sup> and Chicago I am proud of what we have accomplished working together."

"Andrea Jenkins is the most prepared person to continue the good work of improving the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward, and the City of Minneapolis," says Jenkins Campaign Chair Senator Scott Dibble. "Her broad range of education and experience, her commitment to community and equity, and her unique perspective will make her a strong and effective voice in City Hall."

Andrea holds a Masters Degree in Community Development from Southern New Hampshire University, a Master of Fine Arts Degree in Creative Writing from Hamline University and a Bachelor's Degree in Human Services from Metropolitan State University. She is a nationally and internationally recognized writer and artist, a 2011 Bush Fellow to advance the work of transgender inclusion, and the recipient of numerous awards and fellowships. Jenkins has experience working in community development in North Minneapolis, and in delivering social services in South Minneapolis. She currently leads the groundbreaking Transgender Oral History Project at the University of Minnesota.

"I have considered running for the 8<sup>th</sup> Ward City Council seat for some time. The tremendous show of support recently convinces me that this is the right time," says Jenkins, "I ask for your support. We will run a positive, inclusive, and people-driven campaign, focused on equity, affordable housing and sensible transit and transportation options for our diverse community."

For more information on the campaign, and on how to be involved visit [www.AndreaforWard8.org](http://www.AndreaforWard8.org)

Contact Katie Hatt; [katie.hatt@gmail.com](mailto:katie.hatt@gmail.com); 612-986-0564

###