

# #22DAYS OF PEACE

# #WESTSIDESTRONG

Dear Julia,

West Side, we are hurting. As neighbors, parents, teachers, youth, and friends, we know that every life taken from our community too soon sends out shock waves of loss and pain.

We are still feeling those shock waves from last week. A young community member was killed in his home on February 1st. The next day, another West Side young man could not carry the pain, and ended his life too soon. Humboldt High School students were impacted by a fight last week involving dozens of our kids. And last Wednesday morning, Amir Locke was awakened and killed by the Minneapolis police in under 9 seconds, while he was still wrapped in a blanket. He was 22 years old.

"We have family the same way that you do. And we want to go home safely to our families. We want to be able to eat dinner with our families, be able to laugh with our families, hold hands with our families, walk, dance, we want to be able to hold our families and just be able to have a conversation. Amir doesn't have the opportunity to do that any longer," said Amir's father, Andre "Buddy" Locke. "I'm asking for people of color, Black, brown, Asian, that we stand together: 22 days of peace," in honor of the 22 years Amir lived.

Here on the West Side, let us answer this call for peace. Join us:

- **Be the light:** Place a candle in your window each night for the next 22 days. (Use your own candle or pick one up from us, Mon-Weds 10am-3pm at 209 Page St. W).
- **Share the light:** To share this action, we invite you to take a photo and post it on social media with the hashtags #22DaysOfPeace and #WestSideStrong, and add a message about your vision for peace and justice. Talk to your neighbors and ask them to do the same.
- **Unite our light:** [We will be gathering on Thursday, February 17th](#) in the evening to hold space.
- **Organize with us:** Join our Community Care Action Circle. Email WSCO Community Organizer RaRa Navarro at [rara@wsco.org](mailto:rara@wsco.org).

[Read our full statement and call to peace here.](#)



## West Side Black History Project

This Black History Month, join us on a neighborhood journey to uncover West Side Black History. We'll be interviewing neighbors, visiting Black-owned businesses, and digging deep into the archives at the Minnesota Historical Society to find out more. Join us! Do you have a story to tell? A local business to highlight? Comment below or send an email to WSCO Community Organizer RaRa Navarro at [rara@wsco.org](mailto:rara@wsco.org).

**Save the date!** We'll be sharing more details soon about a special [recital of Black Classical Music Composers](#), coming Friday February 18th at 7:00PM.



## Take Action for Housing Justice!

It's been 100 days since we voted yes for rent stabilization! This week, many of you joined us in demanding that our elected officials listen to the people and implement the policy as voted on. Thank you for speaking up! [Learn more and take action here.](#)

**Calling all West Side renters:** Has your rent gone up? Are there mice in your building? Does the heat work? Come meet with other neighbors who are dealing with the same issues. Let's work together to make our voices heard. Our monthly tenant leader meeting is coming up Wednesday, February 16th at 5:00PM on Zoom. Email Cintya Canales at [cintyac@wsco.org](mailto:cintyac@wsco.org) to sign up.



Our health as a neighborhood is tied to our environment. We want to learn what the most pressing health and environmental concerns are in our neighborhood, so we can plan to take action and create positive changes. Fill out the survey, *and* tell other people about the survey, for chances to win \$100 in a raffle!

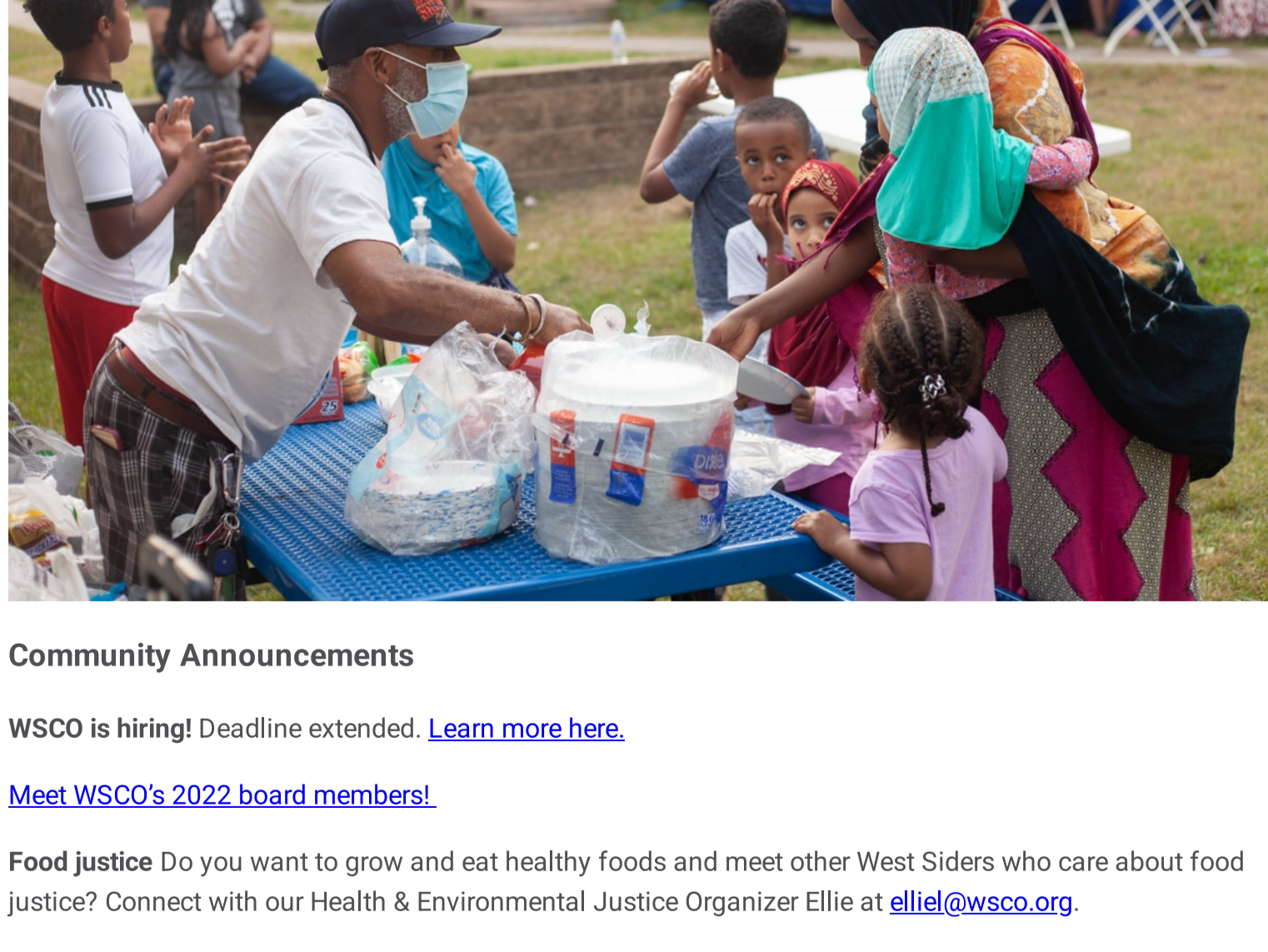
[Take the survey](#)

**Environmental news:** we're keeping an eye on a "Cumulative Impact" bill (HF168) that ensures the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has to consider *all* air pollution in the area (not just the one business) before approving an air permit.



## Let's build trans and queer community together!

Trans & Queer Community and other LGBTQIAP+ neighbors are invited to gather in the auditorium of Riverview Library for conversation & solidarity! We're meeting Saturday, February 26th from 2:30PM-4:30PM at the Riverview Branch Library, 1 George Street E. Questions? Contact our Community Organizer Elizabeth Leonardsmith at [elliel@wsco.org](mailto:elliel@wsco.org).



## Community Announcements

WSCO is hiring! Deadline extended. [Learn more here.](#)

[Meet WSCO's 2022 board members!](#)

**Food justice** Do you want to grow and eat healthy foods and meet other West Siders who care about food justice? Connect with our Health & Environmental Justice Organizer Ellie at [elliel@wsco.org](mailto:elliel@wsco.org).

**River balcony workshop** The City of Saint Paul and Great River Passage Conservancy are planning the River Balcony – a proposed 1.5-mile promenade along downtown Saint Paul's river bluff. Learn more and share your ideas at a virtual community workshop on February 10 from 6-7:30pm! [Register here.](#)

**Harriet Island survey** Parks and Rec has secured funding to renovate the play area at Harriet Island, and your feedback will help guide the design process! [Share your ideas here.](#)

**Green jobs alert!** Home Energy Career Paid Training with Xcel is recruiting, [register by March 14.](#)

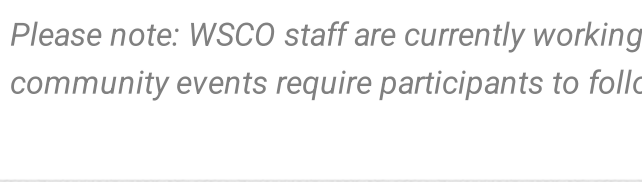
Got a community announcement? Email [genevieve@wsco.org](mailto:genevieve@wsco.org)!

## #WestSideStrong

WSCO organizes people of West Side to build collective power to advance justice and racial equity in the community for all people. We envision a just, united, self-reliant West Side where all of our people are connected, safe, healthy and successful. We are West Side proud. We are West Side strong.

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Please note: WSCO staff are currently working via a hybrid model, both remotely and in-person. All in-person community events require participants to follow COVID safety precautions recommended by the CDC.