



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon
City Council Member
Second Ward

350 South 5th Street - Room 301M
Minneapolis MN 55415

Office 612-673-2202
Fax 612-673-3250
Cell 612-296-0579

Email:

cam.gordon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward2/

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 10-21-09

**Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:
Tuesday November 3, 9:30-11:00am
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave**

Items:

- 1) Election Day is November 3
- 2) Parcel Behind Midwest Rezoned
- 3) Bike Sharing Coming
- 4) Street Sweeping
- 5) Parking near Riverside Park
- 6) Free Wireless Accounts
- 7) Pervious Driveway Ordinance
- 8) Parking on Game Days
- 9) Policing on Games Days
- 10) Pedestrian Master Plan
- 11) Buy American Resolution
- 12) Local Food in City Hall
- 13) Sustainability Indicators
- 14) Possible Hydrothermal Project
- 15) Recovery Act Funds
- 16) Public Hearing on Budget
- 17) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) The municipal election is this November 3rd. I strongly recommend that everyone vote "no" on the amendment to abolish the Board of Estimate and Taxation. This body helps coordinate the budgets of the City and the Park Board, and performs an important auditing function for us. To find your polling place go to <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/elections/precinct-finder.asp> or contact my office and we can find it for you.
- 2) The Council has voted to rezone the small parcel of land behind Midwest Mountaineering to match the zoning of the business. This is a small housekeeping change to ensure that the land sale (which already went through) has the intended effect.
- 3) Minneapolis is on track to launch *Nice Ride MN*, the first large-scale bike sharing system in the United States, next May. Right now, the program is planning kiosk locations, and there are several proposed to be installed in the Second Ward. *Nice Ride* will put approximately 1,000 bicycles onto Minneapolis streets, locked in self-service kiosks, and is now taking comments on specific proposed locations. Kiosks will be located in downtown, uptown, Midtown, the U area, Seward, Dinkytown, Cedar Riverside, and the Warehouse district. People have been asked to give feedback about the planned kiosk locations. The input/comment period lasts through October 30th, so please get your responses in before then. If you'd like more information on the upcoming *Nice Ride MN* program, please visit www.niceridemn.com or call Bill Dossett at 612-926-9218.
- 4) The fall comprehensive street sweep and leaf collection program will start on Tuesday, October 27. Please remember to keep your car off the street on the day it is swept, to prevent having your car towed. You can find out more, including when your street is scheduled to be swept, on the city's website: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/streetsweep/.
- 5) I have set up a meeting on Monday, November 16, 7 pm at Fairview Hospital with residents, City staff and nearby institutions to discuss the increase in non-resident parking on-street over the last few months. I hope to work with the Riverside Park Task force to help spread the word.

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact Matt Bower at (612) 673-2188 or Matthew.Bower@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

If you want help translating this call – Hmong– Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2188;

Spanish – Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2188;

Somali – Ogow. Haddii aad dooneysa in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' an wac 612-673-2188.

- 6) The City is seeking additional applications for “Wireless Community” accounts. These free wireless Internet accounts are for nonprofit organizations that provide free computer access to the public. The free “Wireless Community” accounts are one of the many community benefits that resulted from the City of Minneapolis’ contract with USI Wireless, the company that is constructing a wireless network to blanket the entire city. The City of Minneapolis will distribute requests for applications for the free wireless accounts to local nonprofit agencies. Applications will also be available online at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/wirelessminneapolis. Accounts will be given to agencies that provide public computer access, technology literacy training, and/or technology support for underserved communities. Applications are due by Friday, Oct. 30 at 4 p.m. Applications will be reviewed by the City of Minneapolis staff and the Digital Inclusion Advisory Board, which will make recommendations to the City Council on which organizations will receive free accounts in 2009. The accounts will be good through 2010. Agencies selected to receive the free accounts will also receive free monthly subscription vouchers that they can use to recruit volunteers who can assist with staffing and training in their community technology centers. In total, \$15,000 in free service vouchers will be distributed, in addition to the 100 free accounts.
- 7) I have introduced subject matter of an ordinance that will allow homeowners to install certain kinds of pervious pavers on their driveways that are not currently allowed under the zoning code. I’m hoping that this can be part of a larger business process improvement around issues of stormwater management and erosion control.
- 8) My office has been contacted by a number of businesses near the University Stadium who would like to begin using their parking lots as commercial parking lots on game days. The City, through a long neighborhood and community process, decided two years ago to place a “Pedestrian Oriented Overlay District” over much of the length of University Avenue. One of the reasons for this overlay was to protect nearby communities from the sprawl of surface parking lots that has surrounded other stadiums in the city, especially the Metrodome. I am open to working with business owners and the community to reopen this discussion, if the community believes that it should be revisited. On October 22nd, I will be meeting with the Stadium Area Commercial Association, area businesses and City staff about this issue.
- 9) The U of M has allocated \$60,000 for enhanced enforcement by Minneapolis police, primarily in the neighborhoods around the University campus on game days. I welcome this collaboration between the City and the U, and hope to see it continue. There have been some significant cases of unruly assemblies in the neighborhoods around the U on game day weekends, and I’m hoping that this collaboration will help us better address these sorts of events, to keep our neighborhoods livable.
- 10) The Council has adopted the City’s first-ever Pedestrian Master Plan. It is, for the most part, a very good plan, and will help us dramatically improve the pedestrian experience. My office, working with Public Works staff and others, successfully strengthened the plan in a few important ways, by ensuring that mid-block crossings will be addressed in the planned review of our crosswalk marking policy, that we’ll explore better ways to clear snow from city-owned sidewalks, and that the crosswalk review will look at allowing interested areas to pursue high-visibility crosswalk patterns. For more please visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/pedestrian/pedestrian-masterplan.asp>.
- 11) Working with the Steelworkers union, I have drafted a resolution that the Council unanimously, committing the City of Minneapolis to spend our Recovery Act dollars on American-made goods and services whenever possible. It also commits the City to document the cases in which it is not possible to buy American, and explain why. I believe it’s important to keep our dollars circulating in the local economy as much as we can, especially in this time of economic turmoil.
- 12) As I wrote in the last newsletter, the coffee and food vendor in City Hall (the “Clock Tower Café”) has decided to end its contract. I strongly advocated for the Metropolitan Building Commission, which operates City Hall, to find a new vendor that will serve healthy, local, sustainably produced food. They appear to have done just exactly that, and are poised to offer the contract to a small business called “Local D’Lish,” which specializes in local, healthy, sustainable food. I don’t believe that this would have been possible without the progress we’ve made through the Homegrown Minneapolis initiative. It’s great to see the City stepping up to lead by example on this issue.
- 13) The Council has passed some revisions of our twenty-six sustainability indicators. I’m impressed with the changes we’re making, which make some of our indicator targets much more sophisticated and sets the first-ever targets for other indicators. Some of the highlights include a new Solid Waste indicator (which commits the City to ramping up our citywide organics collection by 2013, reducing overall waste and increasing recycling rates), improved targets for Healthy Lakes and River, and more. My office has been especially involved in strengthening the bicycling indicator, to aim for a 7% bicycling mode share by 2014, and in drafting new targets for measuring the percentage of Minneapolis workers living in poverty and racial disparities in poverty.

- 14) The Health, Energy and Environment committee has heard a report on a new hydrothermal energy facility to be located at the East Bank Mills project that could, if successful, heat and cool up to four million square feet of residential and commercial buildings with little or no carbon emissions. The technology would use water from the Mississippi as a heat exchange, similar to how geothermal projects use the ambient temperature of the ground. It is also proposed to use the existing drop shafts to generate enough electricity to power the heat pumps. City staff has recommended that the Council devote a \$30,000 planning loan to this project, and I was proud to move their recommendation in committee.
- 15) We have submitted our first report to the federal government on American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding and launched a new website, <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/recovery/> , with information on how Recovery Act funds are being used in Minneapolis. As of Sept. 30, we have received more than \$30 million in Recovery funds (this total does not include funds received by other entities that is also being used in Minneapolis), and more than 600 people have been put to work so far because of that funding..
- 16) State law requires the City to hold a public hearing on the date the proposed budget is scheduled to be adopted. However, that's so late in the process that making major changes to that proposed budget is impractical. So, I am pleased to report that this year the City Council is holding an earlier hearing before sessions where Ways & Means Committee members begin to mark up the budget proposed by the Mayor. The State-mandated hearing will still take place on December 7, the date the City Council plans to approve a 2010 budget but we will also hold a **public hearing on tax levy and 2010 City budget, Thursday, Nov. 19, 6:05 p.m.** at City Hall, 350 South 5th Street, room 317
- 17) There are openings on the Arts Commission (closes 11/6), Civilian Police Review Authority (closes 12/31), Public Health Advisory Committee (open until filled), Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners (closes 10/16), Senior Citizens Advisory Committee (closes 12/11/09) and Zoning Board of Adjustment (closes 10/16/2009). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.