



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 Seward Neighborhood 7-28-10

Cam's next Seward Office Hours:
Tuesday, August 24th, 9:30-11:00am
Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St

Items:

- 1) Seward Solid Waste Pilots
- 2) New French Before Planning Commission
- 3) MaX It Pawn
- 4) Solar on Convention Center
- 5) Solar on Other City Buildings
- 6) Unisys Contract
- 7) Redistricting
- 8) "We Want You Back"
- 9) Park Participation Survey
- 10) Diversity Study Complete
- 11) Institutional Foods Ordinance
- 12) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) As you may have heard, the Seward pilot programs for both curbside organic collection and dual-stream recycling collection have been approved by Hennepin County. I look forward to seeing how these go, and hope that Seward's success can pave the way for more composting and recycling citywide.
- 2) New French Bakery is coming before the Planning Commission next Monday, August 2nd, requesting a site plan review for an addition to their building. Staff are recommending approval, and I expect that it will be approved.
- 3) MaX It Pawn is also coming before the Planning Commission next Monday, August 2nd, requesting a change in non-conforming use from a motorcycle sales and repair business to a pawn shop. Staff are recommending approval. I understand that the SNG Community Development Committee has taken a position in favor of the project.
- 4) The Public Utilities Commission has unanimously approved the City's petition to be the sole recipient of the \$2 million Renewable Development Fund Grant for a major solar installation on the Convention Center. We had shared this grant with EyeOn Energy until the Council voted to move forward on our own because the company did not have the capacity to do the project. City staff are working on an agreement with a new solar developer, and anticipate beginning the installation in August. This is great news on an important renewable energy project that will be one of the largest solar installations in the Midwest.
- 5) The City is poised to make significant investments in solar energy thanks in large part to a \$1.35 million grant from the Minnesota Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security (OES) for solar power installations on public buildings from along and near the Central LRT line Corridor within what is being called "the Energy Innovation Corridor." The locations for the Solar installations include: Fire Station #1 (240 sq. ft. thermal), Fire Station #19 (15.5 kW and 160 sq. ft. thermal with Battery Storage), the Haaf Parking Ramp (40 kW), Royalston Maintenance Facility (100 kW) 2 Solar Electric Vehicle Charging Stations on the Parking Ramp across from the Guthrie, and the Brian Coyle Center (28 kW/400 sq. ft. thermal). Once the projects are completed in the fall of 2011 the City will get 63.5 kW of solar electric power for just \$108,000. At our current electricity cost, this is a payback of less than 8 years.

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email Ahmed.Muhumud@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

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Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

- 6) The City's Business Information Services department is recommending a renegotiation of the City's contract for information/technology services with Unisys Corporation. The contract is set to expire in January 2013 and costs roughly \$11 million a year. Under the proposed terms it would be extended for four years through 2016 in exchange for some changes in service and a \$280,000 savings in 2010 (and additional savings in future years) for a total cost to the City of over \$45 million. I have had concerns about this contract for some time and do not think we should move forward with this extension without conducting an analysis of alternatives, including potentially going out for open bids on this contract, exploring moving some or all of this work back in-house, and investigating whether open-source software can better meet the City's needs. I was able to get my colleagues to agree to a two-week delay on this action, and I hope this will lead us to do more due diligence work before extending this costly contract.
- 7) The Charter Commission has voted to put a question on this fall's ballot that will, if passed by the voters, do away with the Redistricting Commission and empower the Charter Commission to draw Ward boundaries. While I do not believe the Charter amendment as proposed is perfect, it is a significant improvement over the Redistricting Commission process, which allowed a small group of unelected, unaccountable party insiders to draw maps based on an overtly politicized process. I hope that Minneapolis voters approve this amendment, and that we can have a fairer and more transparent redistricting process in 2012. I understand that there are some significant concerns being raised by good government groups such as Common Cause and the League of Women Voters, about both the criteria that will be used to draw ward boundaries and the transparency of the process that will be followed. I am working with the City Attorney's Office to see if there is any way for the Council to set these criteria by ordinance.
- 8) As a member of the Youth Coordinating Board I am excited about a new joint effort the Board is embarking on this fall with the Public School to enroll youth who have dropped out of school and get them on the path to graduation. The program's goal is to attract back 200 youth and put them on a path where they can be successful. Up to 1,900 young people dropped out of school between 2008 and 2010. The campaign is looking for volunteers to help reach young people who did not finish school this summer at various events and on Saturday, September 11 to join hundreds of people walking together, dropping information fliers, and talking to neighbors around the city. For info and to sign up to volunteer visit www.wewantyoubackmpls.org.
- 9) During the month of July the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is asking the public how you would prefer they engage you when they make changes in the parks. The survey is on our homepage at <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org> just click on the box in the lower left hand corner marked "2010 Public Participation Survey." If you do take the survey please make sure to include your zip code.
- 10) The Diversity Audit of the City's many boards and commissions that I initiated last year has been completed. While I wish we had had better participation (we got 194 of roughly 400 members of boards and commissions to complete the survey) it is good to have the results. The City has more than 50 advisory groups that it supports. The results seem to confirm that our boards and commissions need to be more diverse if they are to better reflect the diversity of our city. It will be interesting to see how this data compares to the forthcoming census data. You can see the survey results here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/docs/2009boardsandcommissionsurvey.pdf>. Hopefully this audit will be a resource that we can use to help set goals, guide future outreach efforts and to measure ourselves against in the future.
- 11) I have introduced subject matter of an ordinance, written by Regulatory Services staff, that will create an "Institutional Food" license type. This license would apply to charter and private schools, food shelves that prepare food, shelters and employers with cafeterias. This license will be less expensive than the existing Food Manufacturer and Restaurant licenses. As proposed, it will not apply to community kitchens. I am interested to see if there is any way that we can use this new license type to support the goals of Homegrown Minneapolis, and will be asking the Homegrown Implementation Task Force to weigh in on the ordinance as written.
- 12) There are openings on the Latino Advisory Committee (open until filled), Pedestrian Advisory Committee, (Open until filled), Public Health Advisory Committee (open until filled) and Senior Citizens Advisory Committee (open until filled). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.