

**Council Member Cam Gordon's
Report to Cedar Riverside, 1-16-08**

**Cam's next Cedar Riverside Office Hours:
Tuesday February 4, 9:30-11:00am
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave**

Items:

- 1) January Roundtable: Youth Violence Prevention
- 2) Central Corridor meetings
- 3) Bina Encroachment public hearing
- 4) University Area Neighborhood Alliance
- 5) Comprehensive Plan
- 6) Truck Weight Resolution
- 7) NRP "Framework for the Future"
- 8) Community Engagement
- 9) Major Solar Installation
- 10) Library Merger
- 11) Disparity Study
- 12) 2008 Legislative Agenda
- 13) 2008 Budget
- 14) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The **Minneapolis Plan to Prevent Youth Violence** will be before the City Council for consideration on January 18. To learn more and share your views please join me, our Minneapolis Commissioner of Health and Family Support, Gretchen Musicant, and others **Tuesday January 22, 7-9pm at Matthews Center**, 24th St E and 28th Ave S, for a presentation and discussion about this important new initiative. This is a major step forward for work that started with the resolution I introduced last year recognizing youth violence as a public health problem. The plan was approved by the Health, Energy and Environment Committee on January 7th. I am hopeful that they will also be approved by the full Council approval on January 18th. For more information :
http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/YouthViolencePrevention_home.asp
- 2) The Central Corridor project is moving quickly, with a major decision of the Management Committee scheduled for February 27. The Met Council is holding Listening Sessions, the closest to Cedar Riverside being **Wednesday, February 6, Noon-2:00 pm, Weisman Museum, 333 East River Road**. They have also scheduled a Public Meeting for **Monday, January 28, 7-8 pm, Prospect Park United Methodist Church, SE Malcolm & SE Orlin Ave** (at a membership meeting of the Prospect Park neighborhood group). The University is also sponsoring a meeting **Tuesday, January 29, 5-6:30 pm, McNamara Alumni Center, Suite 200, in the Laukka Conference Room 200 Oak Street SE**. Major decisions yet to be made include the east bank tunnel.
- 3) The public hearing for staff's recommendation that the City sell the Bina encroachment onto the Dania Hall lot to Bina will be on the City Council's Community Development Committee agenda February 5, 1:30pm.
- 4) On December 19 the University Area Neighborhood Alliance elected two co-chairs: Dick Poppele, Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association President, and Karen Himle, Vice President for University Relations. We also established four work teams. I will be leading up, and convening meetings for, the Demonstration Project(s) work team. This process has enormous potential to transform the relationships between the neighborhoods, the University and the City to make them more effective, positive, and collaborative. I look forward to the next steering committee meeting Thursday, January 24, and all the work on this before us in 2008.
- 5) I encourage residents to review the new draft of the Comprehensive Plan that is available in public libraries and at www.minneapolisplan.info. You can submit comments at www.minneapolisplan.info, or send an email to lanupdate@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or written comments to: Haila Maze, Senior City Planner, CPED, 350 South 5th St., Rm 210, Minneapolis, MN 55415. The closest meeting to Cedar Riverside is at Eastside Neighborhood Services, 1700 2nd Street NE, January 29, 4-6pm.
- 6) I am sponsoring a resolution for the Alliance for Safe Highways, calling for a moratorium on increases to freight trucks' size and/or weight until the impact of these larger vehicles on our bridges and infrastructure can be conclusively determined. I believe this is especially important in the aftermath of the 35W bridge collapse, and given the number of fracture-critical bridges in Minneapolis.

- 7) Last month the Council took some promising steps forward for the future of Minneapolis neighborhoods. A new report, called Framework for the Future, recommends, among other things, that 2 million dollars a year be set aside to assist neighborhood organizations cover basic administrative costs, that a Neighborhood Investment Fund be established to fund discretionary spending; that a resident-controlled, neighborhood organization-elected governance board be created to oversee the funds, and that the City create a division of Community Involvement to better support community participation efforts. I successfully amended the action to require that all neighborhood group presidents and all City advisory boards and commissions receive a copy of the report, as well as the Community Engagement Task Force's recommendations for review and input. As part of this process, the City will be holding informational sessions, the closest to Cedar Riverside being **Wednesday, January 23, 7-8:30pm**, at **Eastside Neighborhood Services** (17th Ave NE & 2nd St NE), and **Monday, February 4, 12-1:30pm**, in **City Hall room 319**. Neighborhood groups are also being encouraged to consider the "Framework" and submit formal comments and feedback before **March 17**. Community input will be presented to the Minneapolis City Council Committee of the Whole, tentatively scheduled for April 3, 2008. Please submit comments one of three ways: 1) **Email** to Community.Engagement@ci.minneapolis.mn.us; 2) **Mail** to: Jennifer Lastoka Community Engagement Coordinator 350 S. 5th St. – Room 301M City Hall Minneapolis, MN 55415; 3) **Fax** to: (612) 673-2011 (Attention: Jennifer Lastoka). See <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/communityengagement.asp> for more.
- 8) On December 7, 2007, the City Council adopted the [Core Principles of Community Engagement](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/CorePrinciples_CE.asp) (http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/communications/CorePrinciples_CE.asp) as recommended by the Community Engagement Task Force. This was one of 36 recommendations. It also recommended that each neighborhood organization also adopts them. It will be important that neighborhood organizations and others review and comment on the recommendations of the Community Engagement Task Force as well as the future NRP framework group in the first quarter of 2008.
- 9) The City has been selected to receive a \$2 million grant to build a 600 kilowatt solar installation on top of our Currie Maintenance Facility. This is bigger than any existing solar project in the upper Midwest. Xcel Energy's Renewable Development Fund, which they were required by the Prairie Island agreement to create, will provide \$2 million towards this project. The City will lease space on top of our facility to a third-party solar developer. The City will enter into a power purchase agreement with the solar developer, paying a little more than we do per kilowatt-hour off of the normal Xcel grid. This will generate enough energy to power about 80 single-family homes.
- 10) I was the only Council Member to vote against the merger of the Minneapolis Public Library System with the Hennepin County library system. I have serious concerns about transferring the jobs, land, buildings and other assets that belong to Minneapolis residents without a better governance structure for the a new library board and without better protections for recapturing assets should they be sold by the county in the future. More importantly, I believe that major changes to our charter and decisions like this about the structure of government should go before the voters. On the positive side the Southeast, Roosevelt and Webber libraries have reopened for limited hours and plans for a renovated (and likely relocated) Southeast Library will move forward.
- 11) I am pleased that the City is moving ahead with a Disparity Study. The City of Minneapolis' Small and Underutilized Business (SUB) Program promotes opportunities for businesses owned by women and minority citizens. The disparity study will give us the information we need to know if there are disparities in the marketplace and if our affirmative efforts to hire and contract with underutilized businesses are warranted. Twelve years have passed since the last City of Minneapolis disparity study was completed.
- 12) The Council's 2008 legislative agenda includes the following proposals I put forward: support for measures to stop the flow of handguns to youth, legislative action to eliminate tax incentives that encourage the conversion of single family housing to rental property, allowing organic waste to be mixed with yard waste for municipal collection, legislation adopting rules for ranked choice voting, and consideration of an elected Metropolitan Council.
- 13) On December 12th the City Council approved a budget for 2008 The City Council voted 12-1 in favor of a \$1.4 billion city budget that includes \$200 million in public safety programs, funds the largest police force in more than five years and addresses root causes of crime with funding to prevent youth violence and build economic opportunity. It includes a 1.8 million decrease in LGA (Local Government Aid), an increase of 8% to the property tax levy, the removal of the 2% wage cap for employees and cuts to the Public Works and Regulatory Services department. Other highlights include: \$300,000 to hire 4 new 911 operators, \$150,000 for community micro-grants to prevent gang graffiti, \$100,000 to fund the Youth Violence Prevention Committee Implementation plan, \$100,000 to fund the next round of climate change micro grants.
- 14) There are openings on the Minneapolis Capital Long-range Improvement Committee (closes 2/1/2008), Civilian Police Review Authority (closes 1/18/2008), Minneapolis Telecommunications Network (MTN) (Closes 1-25-08), and the Zoning Board of Adjustment (closes 2/1/2008). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us