

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Cedar Riverside, 1-17-07

**Cam's next Cedar Riverside Office Hours:
Tuesday February 6, 9:30-11:00am
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave**

Items:

- 1) Condo Conversion ordinance
- 2) Republican National Committee
- 3) Somali Youth Report
- 4) Community Engagement Report – final input session
- 5) Youth Violence Steering Committee
- 6) Roundtable Recap
- 7) Blue Goose
- 8) 7 Corners Parking Ramp
- 9) Children's Hospital Expansion
- 10) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The Condo Conversion ordinance I sponsored will be coming for a public hearing on January 31, at 1:00 pm at the Public Safety & Regulatory Services committee. The goal is to prevent the loss of affordable rental housing due to condo conversions and to protect condo buyers. Please attend, if you can, and advocate for rental housing preservation in Minneapolis.
- 2) The Council has signed the contract to bring the Republican convention to Minneapolis in 2008. I have been concerned about whether free speech rights of residents and visitors will be violated, as they have in past conventions, so I successfully created an internal work group to create a model for how the City can preserve the right to political speech and civic debate without disrupting community life during the Convention. The group includes the Mayor, up to two Council Members, the relevant department heads, and two representatives of civil liberties groups such as the ACLU and National Lawyers Guild. I also attempted to change the contract to ensure that the Minneapolis Police Department would have a say in approving the Convention Security Plan, but my colleagues ultimately voted this down. It is important that free speech concerns have been voiced so early in this planning process – my hope is that Minneapolis can provide an example of how a city can host a major party convention without taking on huge financial burdens and violating its residents' First Amendment rights.
- 3) Shukri Adan will be presenting a report exploring some of the challenges facing Somali youth and recommendations for positive steps the larger community can take to help at the Health, Energy and Environment Committee meeting tomorrow, January 18, 1:30pm at City Hall.

Recommendations include:

- 1) Addressing concerns through the City/County Youth Coordinating Board,
- 2) Reduce Somali youth crime by collaborating with philanthropic agencies to create a "drop in" center in the **Cedar Riverside** area.
- 3) Develop and implement a community outreach plan to identify individuals who can advise the City on community needs, to inform people of existing services and to build trust and lasting relationships.

You can read the full report here <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/civil-rights/docs/somali-report.pdf>. If you would like a copy of the report sent to you or have additional questions you can contact me or Kelly Brewer of the Minneapolis Department of Civil Rights at 612-673-2091.

- 4) The City has completed a Community Engagement Report and is soliciting public comments. The officials comment period ends February 8th. This report, and the comments we receive, will serve as a foundation for important City Council policy discussions and decisions in February, March and April. You can read the report online at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/docs/CE_Report_final.pdf, and send comments to clara.perrin@ci.minneapolis.mn.us. There will also be public meetings throughout the City. For Cedar Riverside, the meeting is **Monday, February 5, 7–8:30pm, Mill City Museum, 704 S 2nd St.** For Cooper and Seward, the meeting is **Tuesday, January 30, 7–8:30pm, Plaza Verde, 1516 E Lake St.** For Southeast Como and Prospect Park, the meeting is **Wednesday, January 31, 7–8:30 pm, Marcy Open School, 415 4th Avenue SE.** For the full list of public meeting times and locations, go here: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/20061121CE_Report.asp.
- 5) The Youth Violence Prevention Steering Committee will be created tomorrow. I will serve on it, along with the Mayor, Chief Dolan, Health Commissioner Musicant, Youth Coordinating Board Chair Judith Kahn, Shukri Adan and many other committed, deeply involved people. I believe this is an incredibly important step towards keeping our youth from becoming victims and perpetrators of violence, one of our City's main goals.
- 6) Last night, I held a roundtable discussion at Saint Martin's Table on ending homelessness and decriminalizing poverty. Thirty-three people attended, including several West Bank neighbors, and they shared their hopes and ideas for how to transition people out of homelessness constructively and effectively. I believe the plan that the Council passed in December offers us a clear path to follow, and I am resolved to start working on taking the discriminatory "lurking" ordinance off the books.
- 7) The West Bank Community Development Corporation was given preliminary approval by the Community Development Committee to move forward with their debt restructuring and renovation plan for the Family Tree and The Blue Goose housing cooperatives.
- 8) Nine companies have submitted proposals to purchase the Seven Corners ramp from the City. No decision has been made. Once staff finishes their preliminary evaluation, a public participation process will take place to gather community input. I will be sure to notify you of these input opportunities as I hear about them.
- 9) Last week Fairview and the University made public their plan to build a new \$175 million Children's Hospital on Riverside Avenue. Fairview leadership have expressed a willingness to brief me on their plan – I will pass along more information as soon as I get it.
- 10) There are openings on the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, the new Pedestrian Advisory Committee, the Minneapolis Empowerment Zone Governance Board, the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee, the Minneapolis Private Industry/Workforce Council, the Latino Advisory Committee, the Minneapolis Telecommunications Network board, the Minneapolis Charter Commission and the Public Health Advisory Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.