Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 7-10-07

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours: Tuesday, August 14, 9:30-11:00am SECIA Office, 837 15th Ave SE

Items:

- 1) National Night Out
- 2) Youth Violence Prevention Public Forums
- 3) Climate Change Micro Grants congratulations!
- 4) Transportation Action Plan
- 5) Community Engagement Task Force
- 6) Unpaid Judgments ordinance
- 7) Lead Safe Work Practices ordinance
- 8) Infill Housing ordinance
- 9) Bike Infrastructure in Ward 2
- **10)** Bicycle mode share we're number two
- 11) Wind turbines
- 12) New CPED Director
- 13) Sale of City-Owned Parking Ramps
- **14)** Aggressive Solicitation ordinance
- **15)** Openings on Boards and Commissions
- 1) This year, one process makes it possible to register your National Night Out event and apply to close your street. To do one or both visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno, or if you don't have Internet call 311. If you register by July 24, you'll be eligible for a door prize drawing, and street closure will be free. Adam Engleman, my office's intern for Southeast Como, is available to help anyone interested in hosting an NNO event this year.
- 2) The Youth Violence Prevention Steering Committee I helped form will present a first draft of our strategic plan for preventing youth violence, at two public forums: Thursday, July 12th, 7-9 pm, YWCA, 2121 E Lake St; and Monday, July 16th 7-9 pm, North High School, 1500 James Ave N. Your participation is encouraged.
- 3) Congratulations to SECIA on the successful application for one of the City's Climate Change Micro Grants. I look forward to seeing the outcome of your innovative clothesline project.
- 4) The Council has passed a 10-year Transportation Action Plan for Downtown. It includes plans for increasing transit capacity on Marquette and 2nd, turning a number of one-way streets into two-way streets (including Hennepin and First Avenues), as well as various bicycle and pedestrian improvements I moved an amendment that passed unanimously, requiring staff to explore what I am calling the "Copenhagen Model" in downtown including curbed bike lanes between sidewalks and parking lanes and bicycle signalization. This final Plan, along with a summary of public comments received, is posted at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/trans-plan/ under the project documents section.
- 5) The Minneapolis Community Engagement Task Force has been named, and began meeting weekly in June. I have been chosen as one of the Council's representatives on the Task Force. Second Ward residents Diann Anders (Seward) and Mohammed Ali (West Bank) have also been named as participants. The charge of the group is to help the Council define the following:
 - How the numerous neighborhood, community, cultural and business organizations in Minneapolis should participate in local government decision-making
 - What expectations these organizations and the City should have of one another
 - What role the City should ask these organizations to play in City decision-making
 - How the City can broaden and enhance community participation in decision making

- 6) The ordinance I have introduced giving the City the authority to revoke or not renew rental licenses to landlords who have unpaid legal judgments against them will go before the Public Safety and Regulatory Services committee tomorrow for a public hearing. The committee meets at 1pm in the Council Chambers.
- 7) The ordinance I have introduced requiring that anyone repairing chipped or peeling paint on a pre-1978 housing unit, as required by a City violation order, must have attended a Lead Safe Work Practices training, unanimously passed the Health Energy and Environment Committee yesterday. I expect it to easily pass the Council, and hope that this will be a small first step towards ensuring that people dealing with lead paint understand how to do so safely.
- 8) Betsy Hodges' Infill Housing (or McMansions) ordinance passed the Council unanimously last month.
- 9) I'm extremely pleased by the many bicycle infrastructure projects in the Second Ward that will be funded by the recently-announced Non-motorized Transportation Grants. The City will add bike lanes on E Franklin Ave from Riverside across the bridge, along the whole length of Riverside from Franklin to the Cedar Riverside LRT Station, Minnehaha from 31st to Franklin, 20th Ave S from Minnehaha to Riverside, 19th Ave S from Riverside across the bridge to 10th Ave SE, the University bike trench, SE Como from 10th Ave SE to St. Paul, and 27th Ave SE from E River Parkway to University. I want this to be a beginning and plan to keep pushing to improve our system of bike and pedestrian transit in the City and the region. If we consider what has been done in some areas of the world we still have a long way to go before we have the kind of bicycling-friendly walkable City so many of us hope for. For more thoughts on these projects, and a map of all funded projects citywide, please see my blog.
- 10) According to U.S. Census Bureau statistics released this month on the 50 cities with the most workers, Minneapolis has the second highest percentage of people who bike to work. The bureau said 2.4 percent of Minneapolis' 189,294 workers (16 and older) pedal to their jobs, which is second only to Portland, OR, and several times higher than the national average of 0.4 percent. It is my hope that the infrastructure projects above can help us move towards our goal of doubling bicycle commuting mode share in Minneapolis. We still have a long way to go, however. I believe we need to implement creative ideas like the ones employed by Copenhagen, whose bicycle mode share is a stunning thirty-plus percent, and build a reliable, high-quality bike grid in the whole metro area.
- **11)** My proposed zoning code amendments that broaden and expand the allowable and conditional uses of wind turbines in the City passed the Council unanimously June 29. This is a small step towards increasing renewable energy in our city.
- **12)** Mayor Rybak has appointed Mike Christenson to take Lee Sheehy's place as head of the Community Planning and Economic Development department. Mike has served as Director of Economic Development since 2003. I support this appointment, and I expect it to move through the Council easily.
- **13)** There was a public hearing today on the proposed sale of nine City-owned parking ramps. For more information, please go here: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070629/Docs/08 Parking Ramp Set PH.pdf
- 14) I opposed the Remington/Ostrow amendments that expand aggressive solicitation. While I do agree that aggressive solicitation is a problem I am convinced that expanding the ordinance will do nothing to improve the situation and is not an effective use of our resources. Intimidating, harmful behavior need not be tolerated and it is appropriate for the City to prohibit it through ordinance but the disruptive behaviors that were used as reasons for this new ordinance are already against the law. Better enforcement is more appropriate. Additionally, I think that we need to target our criminal justice resources to investigate and convict serious criminals and utilize other researched and proven avenues to find longer term solutions for issues related to poverty, homelessness, chemical dependency and mental illness. For a more thorough position on this issue, please see my blog.
- **15)** There are openings on the Public Health Advisory Committee and Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.