

Report to SECIA, 4-4-06

- Items:**
- I. Office Hours
 - II. Bunge Elevator
 - III. Community Policing Initiative
 - IV. 2nd Precinct CCP / Crime Alert Emails
 - V. Commuter Challenge Bike/Walk event 5-19-06
 - VI. Solar Permitting
 - VII. Industrial Land Use Study Meeting
 - VIII. Ward 2 Land Use and Transportation forum 4-11-06
 - IX. Como closures
 - X. 16th Ave SE between 8th St SE & Railroad
 - XI. 732 30th Ave SE
 - XII. Ward 2 Blog

- I.** I will be holding regular office hours in Southeast Como the third Tuesday of every month from 9:30-11:00 AM at the SECIA office. You can schedule time with me here in the neighborhood by calling 673-2202, but also feel free to just stop in.
- II.** A large group of neighborhood residents, SECIA staff, students and family members of Germaine Vigeant met last Wednesday to discuss the Bunge Elevator tragedy and next steps. My office committed to work with PPL to keep the 24-hour security detail that Bunge has been pressured into putting in place. We ask that neighbors keep an eye on the elevator and notify my office if the security of the site degrades. We are looking into possible ordinance changes to make it easier to deal with vacant buildings and draft a plan for the many vacant elevators in Minneapolis.
- III.** The Minneapolis Police Department is holding an event to update residents on the ongoing Community Policing Initiative. It takes place Thursday, March 30th, from 4-6 pm at the Zurah Shrine Center, 2540 Park Ave S. A report on the Initiative will be posted on the City website on the 30th, and if you can't attend the event, please email comments to police@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.
- IV.** As you've likely heard, the new Community Crime Specialist at the Second Precinct is Carol Oosterhuis. Her number is 673-2874 and her email is carol.oosterhuis@ci.minneapolis.mn.us. She has set up a crime alert email list. To subscribe, send an email to SAFE2.2-on@ccpsafe.org.
- V.** May is Bike Month, and Minneapolis will again be celebrating the Commuter Challenge Bike/Walk Event, which encourages commuters to get to work using healthier, more environmentally-friendly transportation modes. This year's event will take place on May 19th. If you're interested in helping to plan the event and/or getting Southeast Como connected to it, please call Mackenzie Turner at 670-3987 or email her at mturner@mplstmo.org.

- VI.** I will be meeting this month with City inspections, licensing and planning staff, to try to sort out the permitting difficulties that are proving problematic for SECIA's solar program. It is extremely important to me that the city encourage residents to generate renewable, off-grid energy, rather than putting up obstacles. I will do everything I can to streamline this process, including potential ordinance changes.
- VII.** There will be an industrial land use forum for the Southeast area on Wednesday, March 22, 6:30pm to 8:30pm, at the Van Cleve Recreation Center, 901 15th Avenue SE. The questions I distributed with my last report will be asked and results made part of the study's findings. I encourage all interested Southeast Como residents to participate, as your neighborhood is adjacent to two of the largest industrial zones in the city. For more information, please visit: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/planning/industrial-landuse.asp>
- VIII.** As part of my ongoing series of community forums on issues of importance to residents of the Second Ward, I will be holding a forum on land use and transportation policy on April 11th, 6:30-8:30 pm, at Pratt School, 66 Malcolm Ave SE. The City is engaged in discussion about long-term land use planning, especially focused on industrial land uses. Should we preserve industrial land uses in the city? We are also in the midst of establishing a 20-year transportation plan for the city. I believe this planning can only be successful with input from residents.
- IX.** Starting at 7 a.m. on Monday, March 13, Como Avenue will be closed from 22nd to 24th Aves SE so the BNSF railroad bridge over the street can be replaced. The roadway will then be reconstructed to open by early fall.
- X.** Michael Johnson has applied to vacate 16th Ave SE between 8th St SE and the BNSF railroad. He is redeveloping the adjacent property to the east and would use the land allocated if the vacation is approved for landscaping and pedestrian access to the building. This will be taken up at the next City Planning Commission meeting on Monday, March 27th at 4:30pm, room 317 of City Hall. Comments can also be submitted in writing to tara.beard@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.
- XI.** Cathy Nordin has applied on behalf of Capp Industries for a conditional use permit to allow the use of bus sales and a Site Plan Review at 732 30th Ave SE. This will also be taken up at the March 27th CPC meeting. Again, comments can be made in writing to tara.beard@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.
- XII.** Starting today, my office will be regularly updating a public policy weblog (commonly known as a "blog"). For a link, email me at cam.gordon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us. The blog will outline some of what I'm working on, give the reasons for my votes and other actions, and share some stories of life in City Hall. Please feel welcome to comment on my posts. I hope this can be an effective tool for residents of Southeast Como to know what I'm up to, understand my reasoning and give me feedback in a public forum.