

**Council Member Cam Gordon's
Report to Southeast Como, 8-8-06**

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

Items:

- I. Second Ward Survey
- II. Solar Pilot Project
- III. Rental Licensing Ordinance Amendment
- IV. The Future of Our Parks
- V. Close Talmadge at RR tracks?
- VI. WiFi update
- VII. IRV on ballot
- VIII. Plan to End Homelessness
- IX. CRA public comment opportunity
- X. PPL receives grant for Bunge site
- XI. New Second Precinct Commander

- I. I will be distributing a survey to assess which issues residents find most pressing in their neighborhoods. Please take a moment to fill this out. Your opinions and ideas are very important to me. It will also be available on the Ward 2 website:
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward2/>
- II. At tomorrow's Public Safety and Regulatory Services committee, I will be moving to direct staff to waive permit fees for participants in the Solar Pilot Project. Thanks to Justin's good work, this investment will be matched by the Center for Energy and Environment, providing \$550 to each participant to offset the cost of unforeseen structural work. I hope this will be enough to help make this project a success.
- III. At the last City Council meeting (8/4/06) I introduced the subject matter of an ordinance amending Title 12, Chapter 244 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to *Housing: Maintenance Code*, for referral to the Public Safety & Regulatory Services Committee adding provisions to Rental Licenses to require additional application information, to make violations of Title 5, Building Code, grounds for license revocation or refusal to renew, and to make continuing violations of Title 12, Chapter 244 and unpaid water bills grounds for refusal to renew.
- IV. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) invites city residents and park visitors of all ages to attend one of six town meetings to be held throughout the city in September. The town meetings kick off the Park Board's efforts to gather information from the community as the MPRB develops its long-term comprehensive plan for the park system. Tuesday, Sept. 19, Van Cleve Park Community Center, 901 15th Ave. SE and 6:30 – 8:30 pm. More information is available at: <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org>

- V.** BNSF Railroad has stated that the Talmadge Ave at-grade rail crossing appears to be a good candidate for closure. Public Works has previously identified crossings for closure as part of its Railroad Quiet Zone initiative, and concurs that the Talmadge crossing may be a viable candidate. BNSF is seeking Council action supporting the closure initiative so that further evaluation can be made and funding resources can be pursued. Public Works intends to seek input from the affected neighborhoods in developing a design plan and proposes to explore opportunities to incorporate storm water management best practices and landscaping into the closure.
- VI.** The City has held two open houses on the WiFi project, and groups both inside and outside City government have released their blueprints for a Community Benefits Agreement. More information is available here:
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/wirelessminneapolis>
- VII.** By a 12-1 vote, the Council decided to put Instant Runoff Voting on the ballot this November. I encourage you to learn more about IRV at <http://www.fairvotemn.org> and <http://www.betterballotcampaign.org/>.
- VIII.** The Hennepin County and City of Minneapolis Commission to End Homelessness has released their plan to end homelessness. I enthusiastically support their findings and will push the City to devote significant resources as the plan directs. Please contact my office for more information.
- IX.** There will be another opportunity for the public to weigh in on proposed changes to the Civilian Review Authority in the next month. Right now, we are looking at Wednesday, August 30, 7 pm at the Brian Coyle Center, 420 15th Ave S. That date/time/location is tentative, so if you plan to attend please contact my office for details. You can also send written comments to natalie.collins@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.
- X.** Today the Community Development committee voted to accept and appropriate \$121,500 to PPL for the Bunge site development in Metropolitan Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA) Grants, and \$243,000 in Hennepin County Environmental Response Fund (ERF) Grants. These actions are very likely to pass next Friday at the full Council.
- XI.** Robert Skomra has been named the new Inspector of the Second Police Precinct, serving Southeast and Northeast Minneapolis. Inspector Skomra replaces now-Deputy Chief Valerie Wurster, who is replacing DC Lucy Gerold.