

**News from Cam Gordon
Council Member, Second Ward**

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward2/>

Second Ward Survey. Please take a moment to fill our short survey. I want to learn more about your priorities, concerns and interests. You can fill it out on the Ward 2 website:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/forms/ward2-issuesurvey/>. Your ideas are very important to me.

Community Engagement Forum. On July 25th, I hosted one of my ongoing series of roundtable discussions, on how the City can better engage residents in public decisions. More than 30 people attended and discussed how the City can do a better job utilizing and supporting the work residents and neighborhoods organizations do to improve our City. In September the City Council will consider ways to change how it engages community members. At the same time, many neighborhood organizations are struggling to survive and the future of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program is in question. In general people were very interested in making it easier to get involved, preserving their neighborhood organizations and empowering residents to have more control over decisions that impact their communities.

CLIC Report. The Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee (CLIC) has released its official report summarizing their recommendations for 2007-2011 Five Year Capital Improvements Program. Funding recommendations include a number of significant projects in and near the Second Ward. There should be a link up soon, and until then you can contact my office to request a copy.

Please Help Water Trees. Due to extremely dry and hot summer weather, new boulevard trees are at risk of dying. Even after recent rain and recent watering efforts, young trees need to be watered every 7-10 days by property owners. Please do your part to help water trees on your property. For more information, contact Ralph Sievert at 612-370-4900 or rsievert@minneapolisparks.org.

National Night Out. Despite the rain, Robin and I had a wonderful time meeting with many neighbors Tuesday, August 1st at the several National Night Out gatherings we visited. Congratulations to everyone who weathered the storms. I am sorry I couldn't meet with more of you. Building community like this is one of the best things we can do to improve our neighborhoods. Not only does it help us share ideas for solving problems, but when neighbors know and care about each other, we are better able to prevent crime. More people getting organized, watching out for each other and calling 911 helps make our city safer.

Department of Peace. I am proud to be co-authoring a resolution supporting federal legislation calling for the creation of a United States Department of Peace and Non-Violence. We will likely introduce the resolution at the next City Council meeting, 8/18.

WiFi. 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>

Arsenic. Working with the Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota, my office is working to reinforce efforts to test and clean up contaminated soil by creating an ordinance to require landlords to inform tenants of any known soil contamination and requiring that known soil contamination be included in Truth-in-Housing reports.

Green Power. Working with Green activists, my colleague Council Member Scott Benson and Mayor Rybak, I am working to put together a "Green Power Challenge" to encourage Minneapolis residents to reduce our use of fossil fuels through energy efficiency and renewable energy.

New Second Precinct Commander. 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.

Hazardous Waste Collection. Hennepin County's fall Household Hazardous Waste collection is coming up: August 17-19, 9am-4pm, at 2231 Garfield St NE. The next collection date is September 14-16, 9am-4pm, at 3607 E 44th St. Find out more at <http://www.co.hennepin.mn.us>.

Riverside Market Site Task Force. I have been fortunate to participate in Seward Neighborhood Group's task force regarding the redevelopment of the old Riverside Market site and development along E Franklin. Kudos goes to SNG and especially Dave Mann, who very ably chaired the Task Force. Meanwhile, efforts are apparently still underway to relocate the old Riverside Market grocery stores on University Avenue but no formal agreements have been reported at this time. In other Riverside news, Seward Redesign has been granted \$149,700 in Hennepin County Environmental Response Fund (ERF) Grants for cleanup of the petroleum pollution on the site.

Central Corridor LRT. In late June the Metropolitan Council voted to select rail as the "locally preferred alternative" for the Central Corridor. When it did so, it also indicated its approval of the designated route down University Ave and moved forward with its request for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) permission, and funding, to initiate "Preliminary Engineering." The FTA evaluates proposed projects according to the following criteria: mobility improvements, environmental benefits, cost effectiveness, operating efficiencies, transit-supportive land use and future patterns, capital and operating finances, among others. This summer and fall the Met Council is expected to establish a project office and project management structure, and name a Corridor Management Committee, chaired by the Met Council Chair, to provide oversight. It also plans to establish a Community Advisory Committee to provide local input.

LCDA Grants. Three projects in the Second Ward were in the top five for the Met Council's Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA) grants: SEMI in Prospect Park, Currie Park Lofts in Cedar Riverside and the PPL Bunge development in SE Como. These rankings reflect the huge potential for transit and workforce development in the Ward, and could produce a much-needed influx of capital into our neighborhoods.

Youth Violence Prevention Grants. The Confederation of the Somali Community of Minnesota has received a \$21,200 Youth Violence Prevention Grant to expand street based outreach to Somali youth and expand staff to facilitate home visits to parents of high risk Somali youth. When I worked to make these funds available, I had hoped that some of the resources would be used to prevent youth violence in Cedar Riverside neighborhood. Congratulations to the Confederation and thanks to the Department of Health and Family Support for their leadership on this.

Plan to End Homelessness. 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.

Report on Somali Youth Issues. The Department of Civil Rights has released a "Report on Somali Youth Issues," which explores some of the challenges facing Somali youth and makes recommendations for positive steps the larger community can take to help. For a copy of the report, call the Department at (612) 673-2582.

CRA Work Group. Civilian Police Review Authority (CRA) work group that I helped form has made some very important recommendations, including: removing the Internal Affairs Unit (or other) review or investigation of CRA sustained cases, establishing a process for administrative dismissal of complaints, formalizing the process for the CRA to recommend changes to the Minneapolis Police Department's Policies and Procedures manual, initiating an audit of the

Internal Affairs Unit, directing a staff group to work on an Early Intervention System, appointing Deputy Chief Lubinski as CRA liaison and changing the format for CRA output.

Written comments on any of the CRA work group's recommendations may be sent to Natalie Collins at natalie.collins@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or 350 S. 5th St., Room 307, Minneapolis, MN 55415. The City will hold at least one additional public hearing (date to be announced) associated with any recommended ordinance changes.

Cedar Riverside Cameras. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of neighborhood activists, I was able to convince my colleagues to support expanding the SafeZone and fund public safety cameras for the Cedar Riverside neighborhood.

Sale of City-Owned Parking Ramps. The City of Minneapolis has nine parking ramps for sale. Selling the ramps could provide revenue and encourage redevelopment at the ramp sites. The nine ramps are part of Minneapolis' Municipal Parking System <http://parking.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/index.htm>, which includes 24 parking ramps and eight parking lots. The future redevelopment potential varies for each of the nine ramps for sale. The City will consider proposals to buy one or more ramps to continue as parking or as part of a larger development. Details of the ramps up for sale are available on the RFP website <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/parkingrfp/>. Proposals are due Oct. 19, 2006.

Blogs. The Council passed my resolution allowing Elected Officials to use blogs (as I have been doing since March).

Instant Runoff Voting (IRV). I co-authored an ordinance placing an Instant Runoff Voting charter amendment on the ballot in November. The measure passed the Council by a 12-1 vote. I encourage you to learn more about IRV at <http://www.fairvotemn.org> and <http://www.betterballotcampaign.org/>, and vote **YES** this November.

The Future of Our Parks. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) invites city residents and park visitors of all ages to attend town meetings, to 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. For more information visit <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org>

Gophers Stadium Victories. The University Stadium Area Advisory Group (SAAG) has been reconstituted and met once since the passage of the Gopher Stadium legislation. The new SAAG will include the addition of a student representative. Its duties will include advising and helping to address ongoing issues with construction and operation of the stadium as well how to manage income from a \$1.5 million endowment fund starting July 1, 2007. Work has already begun to put surface parking on "Block 12" near the Academic Health Center. Three university buildings on University Avenue SE, including the former University Press building, are scheduled to be demolished in September. Concerns and questions for the University can be directed to the Project Coordinator, Brian Swanson, bswanson@umn.edu 612.625.6665.

As part of the state legislation that funded the Gopher Stadium, the City, the University of Minnesota and the SAAG have also been directed to draft a report on the more general impact of the University on the neighborhoods by a January 15, 2007 deadline. According to the legislation: "The report shall include consensus recommendations from the University of Minnesota, the city of Minneapolis, and the reconstituted stadium area advisory group for short- and long-term solutions to ongoing issues and concerns and shall include projected costs and benefits of the recommendations made." This offers us a great opportunity to address issues of public safety, transportation, and housing quality, availability, and affordability, among other things.

The bill also prohibits the University from taking Station 19 by eminent domain.

Mercury Ordinance. The City Council voted unanimously to support mercury reduction ordinances I supported, authored by Health Energy and Environment committee chair Scott Benson in collaboration with Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota.

Sustainable Minneapolis. The first annual [Minneapolis Sustainability Report](#) has been published, using the [Sustainability Indicators and Targets](#) established this spring. [SustainLane](#) has ranked Minneapolis as one of the top 10 cities in the nation for sustainability.

Openings on City Boards and Commissions. There are currently openings on the Civil Service Commission, Civil Rights Commission and the Civilian Police Review Authority. Please consider applying for one of these positions. For more information see:

[Civil Service Commission \(closes 8/11/2006\)](#)

[Civil Rights Commission \(closes 8/18/2006\)](#)

[Civilian Police Review Authority \(closes 8/25/2006\)](#)

As always, please feel free to contact me anytime if you have questions, ideas or concerns.

Yours, in peace and cooperation,

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