



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

## Cam Gordon

City Council Member  
Second Ward

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## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 7-6-10

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:  
Tuesday, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am  
SECIA Office, 837 15th Ave SE

### Items:

- 1) Central Corridor Construction has Begun
- 2) Joe Baker Property
- 3) National Night Out
- 4) StreetWerks Cleanup Crews
- 5) Parking Near University Stadium
- 6) Commercial Recycling
- 7) Purposeful Planting Ordinance
- 8) Redistricting
- 9) Alley Behind SECIA Office
- 10) Bicycle Lanes on 15<sup>th</sup> and Como
- 11) Diversity Audit of Boards and Commissions
- 12) Institutional Food Ordinance
- 13) RENEW Project
- 14) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) Construction related to the Central Corridor Light Rail project is already underway in the University area. The Central Corridor Project Office has taken steps to reduce construction-related impediments to businesses and property owners. These steps include: a contractor incentive program to encourage responsiveness, weekly emailed construction updates (sign-up to receive e-updates at: <http://tinyurl.com/29kjwm8>), public construction meetings for businesses and the public to get updates from project staff and utilities and a construction 24 hour hotline at **651-602-1404**.
- 2) Hennepin County has decided to allow Joe Baker to repurchase the property he used to own at 1721-1733 Como Ave SE. However, the County seems to have heeded the concerns that my office and SECIA raised in the hearings, and has placed a number of conditions on the repurchase, including:
  - Mr. Baker must pay the county \$10,000 within the next two weeks.
  - Also within the next two weeks, Mr. Baker must provide a written plan for marketing and selling the property. This plan is subject to the County's approval. If a plan hasn't been approved within 45 days, the repurchase agreement will be cancelled.
  - Mr. Baker may not operate a business on the property.
  - Mr. Baker must pay the full repurchase price of over \$47,000 by November 30 of this year.
  - By November 30, Mr. Baker must sell or transfer the property over to a new owner. This sale has some conditions on it as well. It will be subject to the approval of the County, which will "seek input from appropriate stakeholders." And the City or County will have right of first refusal to purchase the property on the same or similar terms.

I am grateful that the County has taken the community's input on this repurchase into account when crafting these conditions. I am hopeful that Mr. Baker will find a buyer who will build a business that will better serve the neighborhood. My office will be working with CPED to ensure that the City is prepared to exercise our right of first refusal, if necessary.

- 3) National Night Out is **August 3<sup>rd</sup>**. To register your block party, call **311**. It's free to close a street if you call by **July 14<sup>th</sup>**.
- 4) The City's StreetWerks summer youth employment program has offered cleanup crews to the commercial corridors in the city. Please communicate with my office about any regular (weekly or monthly) cleanup needs, as well as any time-sensitive requests.

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact Matt Bower at (612) 673-2188 or

[Matthew.Bower@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:Matthew.Bower@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).

If you want help translating this call – Hmong– Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2188;

Spanish – Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2188;

Somali – Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' an wac 612-673-2188.

If you need disability related accommodations, please contact Matt Bower at (612) 673-2188 or [Matthew.Bower@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:Matthew.Bower@ci.minneapolis.mn.us). TTY: 612-673-2626.

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Affirmative Action Employer

- 5) I am working with business owners near the new University stadium on a compromise that will allow them to have up to 15 temporary event parking permits per year. This will allow them to charge people to park at games without fueling a change towards more auto-oriented uses along University Ave.
- 6) I am continuing to work on strengthening Minneapolis recycling regulations to increase recycling at business and commercial properties and reduce the amount of recyclable material going into the garbage burner and into landfills. I have already strengthened the City's multifamily dwelling recycling ordinance, and plan to use that as a model for a similar commercial recycling ordinance that would require recycling services to be provided at all commercial properties. I have prepared a survey in conjunction with the greater Minneapolis area Chamber of Commerce, and they will be putting it before their members this summer.
- 7) Last Friday, I introduced the subject matter of an ordinance that will clarify that property owners may grow purposefully planted grasses, whether native or not, above eight inches in height. This is in response to a steady stream of incidents over the past five years in which City Inspections staff have cited people for "tall grass and weeds" when in reality the grass in question was a purposeful planting. My view is that the City should be encouraging property owners to plant these sorts of grasses, which help storm water flow into the ground rather than running off into our lakes and river. For too long, the City has been an obstacle to people doing the right thing, and I aim to change that.
- 8) The Charter Commission is poised to put a Charter amendment on this fall's ballot that would get rid of the Redistricting Commission and empower the Charter Commission to draw Ward boundaries. While I do not believe the Charter amendment as proposed is perfect, it is a significant improvement over the Redistricting Commission process, which allowed a small group of unelected, unaccountable party insiders to draw maps based on an overtly politicized process. I hope that Minneapolis voters approve this amendment, and that we can have a fairer and more transparent redistricting process in 2012.
- 9) My office is continuing to push Public Works staff to find a solution for the alley behind the SECIA office. I believe that this would be a great opportunity to try out some creative, innovative systems for sequestering stormwater onsite.
- 10) The bicycle lanes for 15<sup>th</sup> Ave SE and Como Ave SE have been approved by the Council. There will be a minor change to the section on Como between 15<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>: rather than a full bike lane on the south side of the street and "sharrows" on the north side, both sides will feature a dashed lane, with six-inch-wide dashes indicating the inner edge of the bike lane. This change was called for by Transit for Livable Communities, which holds the federal funding for the Nonmotorized Transportation Pilot that funded this project. It is good to see the City working on more innovative infrastructure solutions, and I will be tracking this project to see how these lanes work.
- 11) The Diversity Audit of the City's many boards and commissions that I initiated last year has been completed. While I wish we had had better participation (we got 194 of roughly 400 members of boards and commissions to complete the survey) it is good to have the results. The City has more than 50 advisory groups that it supports. The results seem to confirm that our boards and commissions need to be more diverse if they are to better reflect the diversity of our city. It will be interesting to see how this data compares to the forthcoming census data. You can see the survey results here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/docs/2009boardsandcommissionsurvey.pdf>. Hopefully this audit will be a resource that we can use to help set goals, guide future outreach efforts and to measure ourselves against in the future.
- 12) I have introduced subject matter of an ordinance that will create an "Institutional Food" license type. This license would apply to charter and private schools, food shelves that prepare food, shelters and employers with cafeterias. This license will be less expensive than the existing Food Manufacturer and Restaurant licenses. As proposed, it will not apply to community kitchens. I am interested to see if there is any way that we can use this new license type to support the goals of Homegrown Minneapolis, and will be asking the Homegrown Implementation Task Force to weigh in on the ordinance as written.
- 13) The City's Employment and Training Program, in participation with Ramsey County Workforce Solutions, was recently awarded \$4 million in federal money for the Renewable Energy Network Empowering Workers (RENEW) Project. This project will focus on providing sustainable pathways out of poverty through job training and placement for 500 adults, while ensuring that area businesses have access to a well-trained workforce that is prepared to carry out the work of greening the local economy. For more information visit [www.renew.org](http://www.renew.org).
- 14) There are openings on the Latino Advisory Committee Vacancy (open until filled), Pedestrian Advisory Committee (Open until filled), Public Health Advisory Committee (open until filled) and Senior Citizens Advisory Committee (open until filled – priority given to applicants received by July 9th, 2010). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email [cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).