

**News from Cam Gordon
Council Member, Second Ward
June 2007**

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

Roundtable: Increasing Safety by Building Community. Please join me and the new Second Ward Community Outreach Interns for a Roundtable Discussion on Community Policing, Block Clubs and Walking Groups, **June 19th, 7-9 PM at Luxton Park.**

Mobilizing Citizens for Grassroots Climate Change. The City of Minneapolis is taking applications for micro grants to help people in Minneapolis take steps to reduce global warming. Neighborhood, business, and faith-based associations are eligible to apply for the grants, along with other non-profits, libraries, park and recreational centers, and other public organizations that serve Minneapolis residents.

Mobilizing Citizens for Grassroots Climate Change micro grants of up to \$1,000 each will be awarded, and the total amount given out through the grants will be about \$20,000. The application is relatively short and easy to fill out. Applicants are asked to submit their plans to use the money for a project that results in meaningful, measurable steps to reduce climate change.

To learn more about the micro grants, to get an application, and to see project ideas, visit the City's sustainability Web site at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/.

Applications for the grants must be received by 4 p.m. June 20, 2007. All projects funded through the grants need to be finished by Dec. 1, 2007.

City Wireless meetings. The City of Minneapolis signed a 10-year contract with US Internet, a local company that will build a wireless network across the city and offer service to Minneapolis residents and businesses, and City government. US Internet is currently in the process of constructing the wireless network, which is expected to launch citywide before the end of 2007.

While the citywide wireless network gradually gets up and running, the City is hosting a series of community meetings to keep you and other residents updated on the progress. Folks will also learn more about the process for developing community and neighborhood portal pages that will be hosted on the wireless network.

Through portal pages, the City can offer neighborhood and community organizations a powerful communication and community-building tool. Initially, six portal pages will be created (Central, Downtown, North, Northeast, South, and Southwest), and the public is invited to the community meetings to give their ideas and feedback about the content of those pages.

The meetings will take place from 5:30-7:30pm at the following locations: **Thursday, June 14**, Downtown Central Library Nicollet Mall, Doty Board Room; and **Thursday, June 28**, Midtown Global Market, Lake Street & Chicago Avenue.

EPA Air Quality Award. The US Environmental Protection Agency has recognized Minneapolis (as one of only two winners nationwide) with a Clean Air Excellence Award and Minneapolis in the "Regulatory/Policy Innovation" category. Air quality in Minneapolis is among the best of major metropolitan areas in the United States, and the City is working to make it even better.

Minneapolis: Living Well. The full Minneapolis Sustainability Report, entitled *Minneapolis: Living Well* has been released: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070525/docs/Living-well-Report.pdf>. This document includes the already-released *Greenprint*, but covers all 24 Sustainability

Indicators. It shows that we have made some good progress on many of our indicators, but also shows where we have room for improvement.

Panhandling Ordinance. Council Members Ostrow and Remington have introduced an ordinance seeking to make it illegal to ask for money within 10 feet of a crosswalk, convenience and liquor stores, within 50 feet of entrances and exits to a park or sporting arena, within 80 feet of an ATM, and at night. I opposed this ordinance. While I agree with Mayor Rybak and others that giving to panhandlers does not contribute to a real solution to the problem of homelessness, I am also convinced that attempts like these to further criminalize homelessness, poverty, chemical dependency and mental illness will never solve the problem either. We should be spending our limited resources on the 24-7 Homelessness Outreach workers called for in the unanimously-passed "Heading Home Hennepin" plan, not wasting them on the band-aid, arrest-and-release methods that have clearly not worked in the past.

University Impact Alliance. The Legislature has approved \$750,000 in funding for the University Community Partnership District, as recommended by the University Impact Report. I consider this a major victory for the neighborhoods surrounding the U, and a great opportunity for us to help protect and improve the livability of the U area.

Unpaid Judgments Ordinance. At the next Council meeting on June 15, I will be introducing an ordinance making it possible for the City to revoke or not renew a rental license for any landlord who has unpaid legal judgments against him/her. The City has this authority with all of the other licenses we give (restaurants, etc), so this ordinance will bring our regulation of landlords up to par with our regulation of other sorts of businesses.

Lead Safe Work Practices ordinance. On June 15, I will be introducing an ordinance 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. This is a small step towards reducing and, in time, eliminating lead poisoning among children.

Arsenic Ordinance. The City has mailed letters to all landlords within the South Minneapolis Arsenic Contamination site, telling them that they must inform their tenants of any known arsenic contamination in their soil. Landlords within the contamination site must keep a signed form indicating the date on which their tenants or prospective tenants received this information. If a tenant has not been informed of the arsenic contamination, they can report their landlord to Housing Inspections via 311.

311 in Rental Dwellings. I supported CM Schiff's ordinance requiring city-prepared information on 311 to be posted in all rental dwellings in the City. This is a small step that can help better connect renters to City services, especially regarding Snow Emergencies and rental housing inspections.

Police Department Plans. The Minneapolis Police Department has released their 2007-2011 Business Plan. You can read it here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070511/docs/MPD-5-Year-Plan.pdf>. It references the "Safe City Resolution" that I coauthored during last year's budget cycle, and includes measures of Department performance other than crime and arrest rates, such as complaints against officers, City liability and crime prevention. It refers to the ongoing work of the Youth Violence Prevention Steering Committee. The Internal Affairs Unit is going out for an external audit, and has released their yearly report, which you can read here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070511/docs/IAU-Annual-Report-final.pdf>. I believe that we are making slow progress in making the MPD more accountable and prevention based.

Grand Rounds CAC. The Park Board is in the process of creating a Citizens Advisory Committee to meet over the course of the next 12-15 months to develop recommendations about completing the last link of Grand Rounds Scenic Byway. The study area is bordered by 35 W on the west and north, the Mississippi River to the south and St. Paul to the east.

Youth Opportunities. Minneapolis has plenty of opportunities for youth this summer. There are more than 750 activities and programs covering a wide array of topics available for children and teens. For students

old enough to work, the **Step-Up** summer jobs program recruits, trains, and places Minneapolis teens in jobs that provide them with solid work experience, puts them on career paths, and lets them earn some money in the process. There are around 2,000 summer jobs available through Step-Up this summer, 600 more than last year. Find out about many of these programs by going to the Minneapolis' new youth Web page at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/residents/youth.asp. Also, call the "**What's Up?**" youth information line at (612) 399-999 or search the organization's database at www.whatsup.org.

Openings on City Boards and Commissions. There are openings on the Charter Commission, the Empowerment Zone Board, the Housing Board of Appeals, the Latino Advisory Committee, the Public Health Advisory Committee and the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Yours, in peace and cooperation,

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