

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Prospect Park, East River Road Neighborhood, 11-27-06

Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
Pratt School, Tuesday December 12, 9:30-11am

Items:

- 1) Second Ward Update
- 2) Minneapolis Energy Challenge
- 3) Youth Violence Prevention Resolution
- 4) IRV Passes
- 5) Library Funding
- 6) Neighborhood Impact Report
- 7) Industrial Land Use and Employment Policy Plan
- 8) Claim It!
- 9) SEMI Update
- 10) 2007 Budget
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) You should have received, or will soon receive, a copy of the Fall 2006 Second Ward Update in the most recent copy of the Bridge. This is being distributed ward-wide and offers me a chance to reflect back and report on the progress made during my first year in office. It has been a great year and I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to serve you as your Council Member.
- 2) Go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/energychallenge to take the **Minneapolis Energy Challenge**. According to a recent report in the Daily, "People identifying themselves with the University are leading the Minnesota Energy Challenge among Minnesota schools, reducing emissions by about 46 tons. Minneapolis has trimmed emissions by more than 3,500 tons - the largest reduction of any city in the state." Prospect Park residents have committed to reduce emissions by 11.4 tons and is ranked 27th in the standings of neighborhoods.
- 3) Working with Council Member Samuels, Health Commissioner Musicant and Chief Dolan, I co-authored a resolution that recognizes youth violence as a public health problem and creates a steering committee to coordinate City, County, private and nonprofit initiatives to prevent youth violence. The resolution unanimously passed the Council. I believe that this is an important step towards building a more holistic model of youth violence prevention.
- 4) By a staggering margin of 65%, Minneapolis voters have chosen to use Instant Runoff Voting in future elections. I consider this an important step forward for our local democracy.
- 5) Working with other Council Members and the mayor I was hopeful that we could keep all of our libraries open through 2007, and was disappointed that the Library Board still voted to close the three neighborhood libraries, including Southeast. I find some hope in the fact that they decided not to sell these libraries immediately, and in the change in the Minnesota House, which might mean a reversal of the Local Government Aid cuts. I will continue to work to seek creative solutions, especially during budget discussions this month, so that we can keep all of our libraries open.

- 6) Many residents as well as the University of Minnesota, the Stadium Area Advisory Group and City staff have been working on the University Neighborhood Impact Report. The report will likely be coming before the City Council in January and go to the legislature early next year. The goal is to have a consensus report that will include recommendations about how to improve the neighborhoods adjacent to the U of MN campus. I want to make sure that we have as much participation in this as possible and that every neighborhood organization reviews and approves the final draft.
- 7) In October the Council approved a new Industrial Land Use and Employment Policy Plan that will help protect our diminishing industrial land, clearly define designated employment districts and pursue industrial redevelopment opportunities. SEMI has been designated as an Employment District.
- 8) The Greater Twin Cities United Way is working with the City on a campaign to help increase by 10,000 the number of qualified individuals claiming the earned income tax credit (EITC), by offering free tax preparation services. They are looking for volunteers to help provide these services, and asking that we all encourage those of our neighbors who might qualify to apply for the tax credit. To volunteer or get more information, contact Laura Gutierrez at 612-340-7616 or gutierrezl@unitedwaytwincities.org.
- 9) A number of initiatives are underway to help bring future development and good jobs to the Southeast (SEMI) industrial area. On December 12 at 1:30 the Community Development Committee of the City Council will hold a public hearing for the purpose of considering a modification to the SEMI Redevelopment and Tax Increment (TI) plans to allow "pooling" of tax increment for infrastructure expenses. That means that the existing TI generated in SEMI, that is not already committed, can be used anywhere in the Bio-Science sub-zone area of SEMI for roads and other infrastructure (including the planned realignment of Kasota, 25th Ave, Malcolm Ave, and planned stormwater management ponds). The Community Development Committee will also be asked to approve industrial development funds (MILES) to match a State grant to acquire portions of the roadway right-of-way needed for reconstruction of Malcolm Ave. and Granary Road. And finally the City will be applying to the State Department of Employment and Economic Development for a grant for SEMI infrastructure by the end of the month.
- 10) Over the next month, the City Council will be making major budget decisions based on the Mayor's recommendations. I welcome any and all comments on the Mayor's proposed budget, which you can view here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/city-budget/2007recommended/>. The date for the Budget Mark-up by the Ways & Means Committee is Wednesday, November 29, 2006. The Truth-in-Taxation Hearing, which is an opportunity for public comment, will take place on Thursday, November 30, 2006, starting at 5:05 pm in Council Chambers. The Budget Adoption is scheduled for Monday, December 11 at 5:05 pm.
- 11) There are openings on the Empowerment Zone Governance Board, the Heritage Preservation Commission, the Latino Advisory Council, the Housing Board of Appeals and the Minneapolis Arts Commission. For more information and for applications, please go here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/> or call 673-3358.