



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

**Cam Gordon**  
City Council Member  
Second Ward

350 South 5th Street - Room 301M  
Minneapolis MN 55415

Office 612-673-2202  
Fax 612-673-3250  
Cell 612-296-0579

Email:

[cam.gordon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:cam.gordon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

[www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward2/](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward2/)

## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 6-16-10

**Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:**  
**Tuesday July 6, 9:30-11:00am**  
**Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave**

### Items:

- 1) Discussion on the Future of Neighborhoods
- 2) Dania Site
- 3) Washington Ave Open House
- 4) Riverside Reconstruction Meeting
- 5) Commercial Recycling Ordinance
- 6) NiceRide opens
- 7) StreetWerks Cleanup Crews
- 8) Purposeful Planting Ordinance
- 9) Construction Beginning on Central Corridor
- 10) Renewable Energy Network Empowering Workers (RENEW)
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Please join me, Marcea Mariani (8<sup>th</sup> District Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commissioner) and other community leaders, for a roundtable discussion on **Thursday, June 24<sup>th</sup>** 7–9pm at Matthews Park, 2318 29<sup>th</sup> Ave S, about the state of neighborhood organizations in Minneapolis today. We will look at how changes in neighborhood funding will impact neighborhood work, explore strategies for influencing the development of new policies, and ways to improve and strengthen these critically important organizations through the new Neighborhood Relations Department and Engagement Commission (NCEC).
- 2) The People's Center has responded to the City's request for proposals for redeveloping the Dania Hall parcel. The West Bank Community Coalition Land Use Committee will hold a public meeting on this extremely important redevelopment on **Wednesday, July 14<sup>th</sup>**, at 6:30pm at the Augsburg Oren Gateway Center. I am excited about the prospect of putting this incredibly important parcel, which has been the source of so much neighborhood conflict over the past decade, to a good, neighborhood-serving use.
- 3) Please join me at an Open House on **Wednesday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>**, from 5-8pm at the Brian Coyle Center, to discuss the City and County partnership that is studying the impacts that the Central Corridor LRT can have on the Washington Avenue trench. We have joined forces to hire a team of professionals to examine how the addition of light rail can stimulate new development near the station, and "stitch" together the two sides of Washington Avenue. This design team will build on the previous work and plans. The open house format means show up when you can - there will be two identical presentations at 6 PM and 7 PM. There will be exhibits to look at and design team members will be available throughout the evening to answer questions and talk about the study. A Somali translator will be present.
- 4) I invite you to join me at the first public meeting on the reconstruction of Riverside Avenue, which will be held next **Tuesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>**, from 6:30-8:30 at Augsburg College's Oren Gateway Center in room 114. It will be a good opportunity to learn about this major project, which will start next year.

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email [Ahmed.Muhumud@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:Ahmed.Muhumud@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may call 311 or 612-673-3000. TTY users may call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

Attention: If you want help translating this information in language other than Hmong, Spanish or Somali, call 311

Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

[www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

Affirmative Action Employer

- 5) I am working 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 hope to be surveying local business association member as well.
- 6) The NiceRide bicycle sharing system is now up and running, with kiosks at several locations in and around the West Bank, including the Hiawatha LRT station, Seven Corners, Augsburg College and Blegen Hall and Wilson Library on the University campus. I'm excited to see this move forward, and I encourage Seward businesses to take advantage of it. For more information, go to <http://www.niceridemn.org>.
- 7) The City's StreetWerks summer youth employment program is offering cleanup crews to Minneapolis neighborhoods. I am interested to know what services the West Bank community would like StreetWerks to perform in the neighborhood. Please communicate with my office about any regular (weekly or monthly) cleanup needs, as well as any special time-sensitive requests.
- 8) This Friday, I plan to give notice of intent to introduce 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.
- 9) Construction is beginning on elements of the Central Corridor LRT line in Minneapolis. In September, the project will begin prep work to retrofit the Washington Avenue Bridge to accommodate light-rail trains by reconstructing the bridge piers. They are also beginning work on the "advance traffic improvements" to the area around the campus. These improvements include new traffic signals and turn lanes in and around the University East Bank Campus. In December, they will start work to tie in the Central Corridor line from the Hiawatha LRT line just west of the Cedar-Riverside Station to Pleasant Street on the East Bank. The bulk of the work in Minneapolis will start in spring 2011. If you would like to receive weekly construction updates from the Central Corridor project, go here: <http://tinyurl.com/29kiwm8>.
- 10) The City's Employment and Training Program, in participation with Ramsey County Workforce Solutions, was recently been 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) or attend the informational session that will be held in the area at the American Indian OIC at 1845 East Franklin Ave on June 21, 9:00 am.
- 11) There are openings on the Latino Advisory Committee (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). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email [cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).