

Report to SECIA, 6-6-06

Items:

- I. Striping on E Hennepin
 - II. Clean City Program
 - III. New French Bakery
 - IV. Bunge site update
 - V. Gophers Stadium victories
 - VI. District Council Collaborative
 - VII. CRA Work Group
 - VIII. Mercury Ordinance
 - IX. Green Power Challenge
 - X. Instant Runoff Voting
 - XI. City Boards and Commissions
 - XII. Elected Official Use of Blogs
 - XIII. OneStop
 - XIV. Opening on Ethical Practices Board
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- I. A business owner on E Hennepin has requested that the parking lane on the south side of E Hennepin be striped, for the safety of her customers. From communications with Hennepin County, including Commissioner McLaughlin's office, it sounds as if the County is prepared to do this work. If SECIA or individual residents have concerns about this or opinions about how far the striping should go, please contact Joe Scala with Commissioner McLaughlin's office at 612.348.7884.
 - II. I invite SECIA to participate in the Clean City Program, which provides volunteers with paint to remediate graffiti on public property more quickly than the City generally can. My staff forwarded the application to SECIA staff today.
 - III. The Community Development committee today, with my support, approved \$9 million in revenue bonds for the proposed Kasota Ave. New French Bakery development.
 - IV. PPL has taken over ownership of the Bunge site. I have been working closely with them, and will continue to, on issues of safety now and during demolition. They have retained the 24-hour security that Bunge put in place and have extensive plans for removing and securing entry points into the buildings and increasing lighting. At this point, they are again looking to keep the head house, and they are also looking to reuse two of the grain elevators as housing.
 - V. In the final version of the Gophers Stadium bill, the Stadium Area Advisory Group was granted \$1.5 Million in mitigation funds. That's \$700,000 more than originally proposed. The bill also prohibits Station 19 from being taken by eminent domain and requires the development of a University area neighborhood impact study and report. I consider these terrific wins for Southeast neighborhoods, and thank SECIA for all your hard work on this.
 - VI. Southeast Como has been invited to join the District Councils Collaborative, a coalition of neighborhood groups along the Central Corridor transit line. Call Andy Driscoll at 651.249.6877 or email him at andy@districcouncilscollaborative.org for more information, or visit www.districtcouncilscollaborative.org.

- VII.** I am Vice Chair of the internal work group I helped form to address problems with the Civilian Review Authority. The group meets weekly, Thursdays at 8:00 am – 9:30, in room 319 of City Hall. So far the following recommendations were made to, and approved by, the Council in May.
- a. A review of Internal Affairs Unit operations be conducted by an outside, independent auditor and be reviewed by the Public Safety and Regulatory Services Committee.
 - b. That staff from departments including Police, City Coordinator, Human Resources, Civil Rights, and City Attorney, and the Police Federation, work to optimize an Early Intervention System for the Police Department. Early Intervention Systems allow departments to identify officers who are having performance problems and intervene before a major incident.
- VIII.** The City Council voted unanimously to support mercury reduction ordinances I supported, authored by HEE committee chair Scott Benson in collaboration with Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota.
- IX.** I am working with Green and environmental activists and the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee (including Southeast Como’s own Justin Eibenholz) on a Green Power Challenge initiative to promote energy conservation and the use of renewable energy in Minneapolis.
- X.** I co-authored an ordinance placing an Instant Runoff Voting charter amendment on the ballot in November. The measure passed the Council last cycle by an 11-1 vote.
- XI.** At yesterday’s Health, Energy and the Environment committee meeting, I won passage of an amendment to the Civil Rights ordinance which states that it is not a discriminatory act for the Council to set aside seats on City Boards and Commissions based on age. The City currently has two Commissions with seats set aside by age: the Latino Advisory Committee sets aside a single seat for a high school student and the Senior Citizens Advisory Committee sets aside 13 of 23 seats for persons over 55.
- XII.** The Council passed my resolution allowing Elected Officials to use blogs (as I have been doing since March) last cycle.
- XIII.** I am part of an effort to improve the city’s OneStop program to better serve businesses and development projects. The City Coordinator has been directed to prepare a plan outline to consolidate the City's development review operations within one clear line of jurisdiction and accountability, appoint a Minneapolis One Stop Ombudsperson, evaluate the merits of an organizational structure in which the Development Review Office is responsible for day to day operational control, and report back to the Council June 30, 2006, and on a quarterly basis thereafter to address the City's progress in achieving the directives.
- XIV.** There are openings on the Minneapolis Ethical Practices Board, whose purpose is “to promote high ethical standards and conduct, and to foster a healthy ethical culture throughout Minneapolis city government.” For more information, look here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open> or call Assistant City Attorney Susan Trammell at 673-3230.