

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Seward Neighborhood, 8-22-07

Cam's next Seward Office Hours:
Tuesday, August 28, 9:30-11:00am
Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St

Items:

- 1) August Roundtable: Biking and Walking in Mpls, 8-23-07
- 2) I-35W Bridge Collapse Updates
- 3) Cliquot Club tragedy
- 4) Seward expansion at Planning Commission, 8-27-07
- 5) National Night Out
- 6) E Franklin Bike Parking
- 7) Morningstar Coffee fined
- 8) Seeking CLIC Appointee
- 9) Unpaid Judgments Ordinance
- 10) DeLaSalle Football Stadium
- 11) Requiring fresh produce at grocery stores
- 12) Farm stands
- 13) Proposal to require protests to be permitted
- 14) Animal Protection Ordinance
- 15) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Please join me for my next Roundtable Discussion on **Thursday, August 23: Biking and Walking in Minneapolis**. The Council has approved a Downtown Transportation Action Plan, incorporating some improvements to the bike and pedestrian grid downtown. Staff will be exploring the "Copenhagen Model" of enhanced bike facilities. A citywide Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan is being drafted this summer. Non-Motorized Transportation funds continue to support new bike/ped projects. The City is even working on a "bait bike" program to catch and deter bike thieves. Come find out what changes are coming for downtown and what new projects will be coming to your neighborhood, and share your ideas for how we can get even more neighbors walking and biking: **Brackett Park, 2728 39th Ave S, 7-9pm**.
- 2) As the recovery phase of the tragic bridge collapse continues, let's not forget that some are still grieving the loss of family members, co-workers and friends, in anguish for loved ones who are still missing, or struggling to recover and survive from injuries resulting from the fall. Please keep these people in your thoughts. The City Council has been very engaged in the response to this over the past two weeks. Last Friday we passed a statement of principles for rebuilding the bridge. In addition, Council Member Ostrow and I scheduled a community meeting on Monday in Como. For more information see <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/minneapolisresponds>.
- 3) I was shocked and saddened by last Friday's terrible accident at the Cliquot Club. Please keep the family of the single fatality Jerome Perkins in your thoughts, as well as Pearson-Cater family from Seward and all the other victims, the driver of the truck, and the restaurant's owners and employees. Please make a point to stop by and support the Cliquot Club.
- 4) The Seward Coop expansion project on the old Riverside Market site is coming before the Planning Commission next Monday, August 27, at 4:30pm. Staff have recommended **approval** for all necessary rezoning and variances.
- 5) Congratulations on a successful National Night Out! Seward had more than 26 registered events, almost 50% better than last year's totals. I'm glad that Annie could be a resource, and I hope to be able to help the same way in years to come.

- 6) My office is working with local businesses and Seward Redesign on a unique and consistent Seward bike parking design for E Franklin Ave, as recommended by the Riverside Market Task Force. So far, at least seven property owners have verbally committed to purchase around 40 bike racks with an emblematic, artistic design that you won't find anywhere else. The City will be covering half the cost of each of these racks.
- 7) Last week, Morningstar Coffee received two \$200 administrative citations for odor violations and noncompliance with City orders. They will continue to receive escalating citations (\$400, then \$800, then \$1,600, up to \$2,000) every two weeks until they install the afterburner they committed to install by 7/16/07. I am frustrated that it has come to this point, but I hope that the fines already levied and the threat of ongoing enforcement action will finally compel Morningstar to stop reducing the livability of West Seward. My office's experiences with this business have prompted me to call a meeting with the Deputy Director of Regulatory Services for Environmental Management and Safety, to discuss necessary changes to their processes. Specifically, we are looking for Environmental Management to give future violators clear deadlines for when their plans are to be finished. Lastly, as of next Monday there will be a new Supervisor of Environmental Management, a highly competent staff member named Dan Huff.
- 8) I am looking for a new appointee to the Capital Long Range Improvement Committee (CLIC) appointee, as my previous appointee and Seward resident Emily Cox has moved out of the state. CLIC makes recommendations to the City Council and Mayor on capital improvement program development and annual capital improvement budgets. It meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, with additional meetings at the call of the chair. Please send me a letter of interest (electronic, if possible) and outline some of the reasons you feel you would be a good addition to CLIC.
- 9) The ordinance I introduced giving the City the authority to revoke or not renew rental licenses to landlords who have unpaid legal judgments against them has passed the PS&RS Committee. I am hopeful that it will pass the full Council.
- 10) I was the only member of the Zoning and Planning committee to vote against vacating Grove Street on Nicollet Island for use as part of the proposed DeLaSalle football stadium, and voted against it at the full Council meeting last Friday as well.
- 11) Regulatory Services staff have presented the Council with a proposal that all businesses with grocery store licenses carry "staple" food items. I am working with my colleagues to strengthen this recommendation to ensure that all licensed grocery stores have an adequate stock of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- 12) My office is continuing to work to make it easier and cheaper for small farm stands selling local produce to navigate the City's bureaucratic processes, to increase access to healthy foods in communities with little access at this time.
- 13) City Staff have drafted a proposed ordinance to require that protests obtain permits. I oppose this proposal, and will try to use the Free Speech Work Group I pushed to create to craft more constructive and constitutional methods for dealing with the inevitable protests we will see during next year's convention.
- 14) The Animal Protection ordinance that my colleague Ralph Remington has sponsored and that I support, prohibiting wild animal circuses in Minneapolis, has been postponed due to the bridge collapse. It will come before the PS&RS Committee for a public hearing on September 12 at 1pm.
- 15) There are openings on the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People With Disabilities (closes 8/31/07), Minneapolis Empowerment Zone Governance Board (8/31/2007), Minneapolis Ethical Practices Board (9/7/2007), Public Health Advisory Committee (8/31/2007), Senior Citizen Advisory Committee (8/31/2007), Zoning Board of Adjustment (8/24/2007). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.