

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Cedar Riverside, 6-20-07

Cam's next Cedar Riverside Office Hours:
Tuesday July 3, 9:30-11:00am
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave

Items:

- 1) Second Ward Outreach Interns
- 2) Panhandling Ordinance
- 3) Free Speech Work Group
- 4) Community Engagement Task Force
- 5) Central Corridor public meetings
- 6) Climate Change Grants
- 7) Unpaid Judgments Ordinance
- 8) Lead Safe Work Practices Ordinance
- 9) University Community Partnership District
- 10) CPED Director
- 11) Bedlam Theater
- 12) Bobby & Steve's block event
- 13) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) I'm pleased to announce that my office has hired four talented young people to serve as Community Outreach Interns this summer and into the fall: Annie Welch, Mustafa Adam, Paul Kristanovich and Adam Engleman. Mustafa Adam will be leading our efforts in Cedar Riverside, concentrating on starting block clubs east of Cedar Ave and helping to organize safety walking groups.
- 2) The Council has passed an ordinance proposed by Council Members Ostrow and Remington, which will 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 voted against 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.
- 3) The "Free Speech Work Group" formed to help preserve civil rights and community life during the 2008 Republican convention has drafted a set of Operating Principles. Residents of Minneapolis and the surrounding area are being invited to provide feedback and make recommendations on the principles. A public meeting will be held on **June 26 from 4:30–6:30 PM** in the Council Chambers at Minneapolis City Hall. Written comments should be sent to the Office of the City Clerk at: Cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or to: City Clerk, 350 S. 5th Street, Room 304, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55415.
- 4) The Minneapolis Community Engagement Task Force has been named, and will begin meeting weekly on **June 25**. I have been chosen as one of the Council's representatives on the Task Force. The West Bank's own Mohammed Ali, Board member of WBCC, Former Board member of West Bank CDC, Member of the Confederation of Somali Communities in Minnesota (CSCM), Board member of the Somali Intellectual league and Advisor of Somali American Media Association has been named as a participant. The charge of the group is to help the Council define the following:
 - How the numerous neighborhood, community, cultural and business organizations in Minneapolis should participate in local government decision-making
 - What expectations these organizations and the City should have of one another
 - What role the City should ask these organizations to play in City decision-making
 - How the City can broaden and enhance community participation in decision making

- 5) The Metropolitan Council is holding a series of public meetings related to the Central Corridor LRT project to let the public know that they are starting Preliminary Engineering: June 27, 6:30-8:30 PM at the Central Corridor Resource Center 1080 Lexington Avenue, St. Paul; June 28, 6:00-8:00 PM at the Camphor Memorial United Methodist Church 585 Fuller Avenue, St. Paul; July 8, 2:00-4:00 PM at the Center for Hmong Arts and Talent, 995 University Avenue, Suite 220, St. Paul; July 17, 6:00-8:00 PM at the South St. Anthony Park Rec. Center 890 Cromwell Avenue, St. Paul. For more information see <http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/CCcalendar>.
- 6) The City of Minneapolis is taking applications for micro grants to help people in Minneapolis take steps to reduce global warming. **Mobilizing Citizens for Grassroots Climate Change** micro grants of up to \$1,000 each will be awarded. The application is 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. The City has also issued an RFP for **Climate Change Innovations Funds**, focused on meaningful, measurable climate change actions. Eligible applicants may request up to \$10,000. Applications are due July 10, 2007. I encourage WBCC to apply.
- 7) I have introduced 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.
- 8) I have introduced 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.
- 9) 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.
- 10) Mayor Rybak has appointed Mike Christenson to take Lee Sheehy's place as head of the Community Planning and Economic Development department. Mike has served as Director of Economic Development since 2003, and I support this appointment.
- 11) My office is continuing to help Bedlam Theater navigate the City's bureaucracy, as they attempt to obtain a variance for outdoor theater on an ongoing basis.
- 12) The City has granted permission to Bobby & Steve's Auto World at 1221 Washington Ave to have an outdoor block event on July 14, from 10AM to 3PM.
- 13) There are openings on the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People With Disabilities, Minneapolis Empowerment Zone Governance Board, Heritage Preservation Commission, Housing Board of Appeals, Public Health Advisory Committee, Senior Citizen Advisory Committee, Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us