

**News from Cam Gordon
Council Member, Second Ward**

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward2/>

Second Ward Survey. My office has received over 70 responses to the Second Ward Issue Survey, but I'm still hoping for more. If you have not yet filled it out, please do so here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/forms/ward2-issuesurvey/>, and please encourage your friends and neighbors to participate as well.

Central Corridor Roundtable Discussion. As part of my ongoing series of roundtable discussions on issues important to the Second Ward, I will be hosting a forum on the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit line on Thursday, September 21st, 7-9pm at Saint Francis Cabrini Church, 1500 Franklin Ave SE (2 blocks east of the River), in Garvey Hall.

Mayor's Recommended Budget. The Mayor's recommended 2007 City budget has been released and is available online: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/city-budget/2007recommended/>. One highlight: the Mayor has called for the City to add 43 police officers to the Department. Other positives, from my perspective: the Mayor has invested in Youth Violence Prevention, Outreach Workers as recommended by the City-County Commission to End Homelessness and a full time City staff person devoted to Energy Policy. The Council will review and amend this recommended budget through November, and adopt the final 2007 budget in December. A more thorough overview of this process is available here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/city-budget/annual-budget-process.asp>. The Mayor will be outlining his budget's commitments to the environment on September 12.

Rental License Ordinance Amendment. Last month I introduced an ordinance change to try to deal with some of the problems absentee landlords create in our neighborhoods by giving Inspections the power to revoke or refuse to renew rental housing licenses for the following:

- a) failure to disclose all ownership interests in Limited Liability Corporations (LLCs)
- b) failure to pull appropriate building permits
- c) continuing violations of the rental housing code
- d) unpaid water bills

This ordinance will come before the Public Safety and Regulatory Services committee for a public hearing on September 27th.

Minneapolis Development Review. Minneapolis One Stop, the multi-departmental process for bringing forward business developments in the City, has undergone some changes. An advisory group has formed, Henry Reimer has been named as the new director, and the name has been changed to Minneapolis Development Review. Find out more here:

http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2006-meetings/20060901/docs/01-MOS_August_power_point_presentation1.pdf.

Solar Pilot Project. On August 18, the Council approved my directive to regulatory services to waive up to \$3,300 in permit fees for participants in the Southeast Como Solar Thermal Pilot Project. This investment was matched by a grant from the Center for Energy and the Environment, providing up to \$550 in relief to each participant. I hope that this small investment will help the project succeed, and send the clear signal that the City supports renewable energy. I also believe that this is a good deal for the City – in return for this small amount of lost revenue, we will receive a wealth of information about the problems facing those installing solar thermal systems on older (i.e. most Minneapolis) homes.

Alley Ordinance. I led the opposition to the proposed "no strangers in alleys" ordinance that successfully prevented it from becoming law. My office received more calls and emails urging me to oppose this ordinance than on any other issue I've confronted since taking office. The Seward

Neighborhood Group Board also voted unanimously to oppose the proposal. You can read my rationale for opposing the ordinance on my blog.

Spray Paint Ordinance. I supported Council Member Schiff's ordinance amendment requiring that retailers keep spray paint in a place not accessible to the public and post signs informing customers that they will not sell to minors. I also support the action to postpone this to conduct further research.

Report on Ending Homelessness. The draft report from the City-County Commission to End Homelessness is now available online: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/homelessness/>.

Gophers Stadium Update. Pavement and utility work is continuing on the East Bank for the new Gopher Stadium. Read more about the construction at: <http://www1.umn.edu/stadium/construction.html>.

Department of Peace. The resolution I co-authored supporting the creation of a federal Department of Peace passed at the 8-18-06 Council meeting.

WiFi. The City has chosen to contract with local company US Internet for our citywide WiFi system. Though I supported public ownership of this infrastructure, I believe that the Community Benefits Agreement the Council voted to approve as part of the contract moves the City in a positive direction.

Minneapolis Energy Challenge. The City of Minneapolis will be partnering with Center for Energy and Environment to challenge our residents, neighborhoods, businesses, churches and nonprofits to reduce their fossil fuel consumption. The Minneapolis Energy Challenge will launch in October – stay tuned!

Violence Prevention. I am working with the Health Department and outside activists in the nonprofit and faith communities to create a program to address youth violence through a public health model.

CRA Work Group. The CRA work group that I helped form has made its final recommendations to the City Council:

- 1) Perform an audit of the Internal Affairs Unit
- 2) Improve the MPD Early Intervention System
- 3) Appoint MPD Senior Command Officer as Liaison to CRA (Sharon Lubinski has been appointed)
- 4) Improve Case File formats
- 5) Form Police Accountability Coordinating Committee
- 6) Enable CRA Board to recommend changes to the MPD Policy & Procedure Manual
- 7) Conduct study of satisfaction with complaint process
- 8) Provide training on police accountability issues for CRA & IAU
- 9) Ask the Legislature to give the CRA subpoena power, and seek charter change if Legislature does not take action
- 10) Allow CRA Board to continue considering all cases regardless of staff recommendation
- 11) Do not create an appeals process to Administrative Law Judge
- 12) Make the following ordinance changes:
 - a) Case dismissal process
 - b) Expand CRA scope of authority to "any violation of Policy & Procedure Manual"
 - c) Require the Chief to issue discipline for sustained CRA complaints

You can read the full report here:

http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cra/docs/CRA_WorkingGroupReport.pdf, and some of my commentary on my blog.

Ethics and the Greens. Last month, I released a statement on ethics and the Green Party, prompted by the conviction of my friend and fellow Green Party member Dean Zimmerman. You can read it on my blog.

Openings on City Boards and Commissions. There are openings on the following City Boards and Commissions:

- a. [Civilian Police Review Authority \(closes 8/25/2006\)](#)
- b. [Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission \(closes 9/1/2006\)](#)
- c. [Zoning Board of Adjustment \(closes 9/15/2006\)](#)
- d. [Minneapolis Empowerment Zone Governance Board \(closes 9/8/2006\)](#)
- e. [Civil Rights Commission \(closes 9/8/2006\)](#)

For more information on these openings or for applications, call 612-673-3358 or visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/>.

As always, please feel free to contact me anytime if you have questions, ideas or concerns.

Yours, in peace and cooperation,

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