

February e-blast:

Office Hours: I am happy to announce that beginning in February I will be holding office hours every Tuesday morning in the Second Ward from 9:30 – 11:00 AM. The locations will rotate as follows, so that I can meet with residents in their own neighborhoods:

West Bank / Cedar Riverside neighborhood
Hard Times Cafe, 1821 Riverside Ave

Second Tuesdays:
Prospect Park / East River Road neighborhood
Pratt School, 66 Malcolm Ave SE

Third Tuesdays:
Southeast Como neighborhood
SECIA office, 837 15th Ave SE

Fourth Tuesdays:
Seward / Cooper neighborhoods
Seward Tower East Advantage Center, 2910 E Franklin Ave

Unruly Assembly: Paul Zerby's Unruly Assembly Ordinance unanimously passed the full Council on February 10. Per my staff direction, its efficacy will be reviewed in March 2007.

27th Ave Reconstruction: 27th Ave S will be reconstructed this year from 9th St S to 29th St E. Work will take place from early April until October.

Lake Street Reconstruction: I attempted to delay the approval of the Lake Street reconstruction by two weeks, to assess the "Special Services District," but was unable to win the support of my colleagues. Lake Street will be reconstructed this year, with businesses along the street being assessed for much of the cost.

Industrial Land Use: To better integrate industrial land uses into the City's planning process, the City is currently studying industrial land use trends and policies. The purpose of the study is to provide the City with a clear policy direction for industrial land uses and industrial sector employment within the City of Minneapolis. For more information, visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/planning/industrial-landuse.asp> There are two upcoming meetings to gather public input about industrial land use in the neighborhoods of the Second Ward:

Southeast Como, Prospect Park, University area
Wednesday, March 22nd
6:30pm to 8:30pm
Van Cleve Recreation Center

901 15th Avenue SE

West Bank, Seward, Longfellow
Tuesday, March 21st
6:30pm to 8:30pm
Longfellow Community Center
3435 36th Avenue South

CRA Internal Work Group: In early February, the City released a report on the problems facing the Civilian Review Authority. I proposed and won unanimous consent from the full council to set up an internal work group to act on the findings of this report. I have heard that I will be appointed to this work group. I will use my presence at the table to continue to work for better systems of police accountability.

Wi-Fi: I was the only Council Member to vote against the private-public partnership for a municipal wireless broadband network. I believed that we had not adequately studied any public ownership models, and that public ownership offered many benefits to the city that private ownership does not. I will continue to work on Wi-Fi by pushing for the best possible contract for the City and all its residents, especially the least privileged among us. I will be holding a public forum on this topic:

Wireless Broadband Internet Initiative:
Who Owns and Who Benefits?
Monday, March 6th, 6:00-8:00 PM
Brian Coyle Community Center,
420 15th Ave S, Minneapolis

Rental Housing Summit: I am co-sponsoring a Rental Housing Summit with the Minnesota Students Association, the Graduate And Professional Students Association, Southeast Como Improvement Association, Prospect Park/East River Road Improvement Association and Council Member Diane Hofstede. The Summit has been split into two days: March 27th and April 10th. Both events will be held at Coffman Union, 300 Washington Ave SE, from 5-8pm.

Citizen Participation Guidelines: I won unanimous support from my colleagues for a change to the NRP Citizen Participation Guidelines making clear that a neighborhood group must allow the participation of all residents of the neighborhood's geographic boundaries. For more information, visit: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2006-meetings/20060224/CD20060214agenda.asp#TopOfPage>

Bunge Elevator: I responded to the tragic accidental death of a young University student in the vacant Bunge Elevator by pressuring Bunge to tear down the buildings or fully fence off the property. The company has not agreed to do take either of these steps, though they have pledged to increase their patrols of the property. I will be attending a community meeting organized by SECIA at Van Cleve Recreation Center, 901 15th Ave

SE, on March 8th at 7:30. We will be discussing ways to pressure Bunge to secure their building, as well as ways to help expedite the redevelopment of the property.