

**News from Cam Gordon
Council Member, Second Ward
October, 2009**

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

Election Day is November 3. Minneapolis voters have an historic opportunity on November 3rd – to cast our first ranked choice ballots ever in a municipal election. Educational sessions have been scheduled, including several in or near the Second Ward: Saturday, October 24th, noon-2pm at Matthews Park and Tuesday, October 27th, 6:30-7:55pm at Southeast Library. For more information, visit www.fairvotemn.org/sites/all/modules/civicrm/extern/url.php?u=12&qid=7786.

Fall Street Sweeping is coming. The fall comprehensive street sweep and leaf collection program starts on Tuesday, October 27. Please don't park your car on the street the day it is cleaned or your car may be towed. You can find out more, including when your street is scheduled to be swept, on the city's website: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/streetsweep/.

Bike Sharing is on the way. Minneapolis is on track to launch *Nice Ride MN*, the first large-scale bike sharing system in the United States, next May. Right now, the program is planning kiosk locations, and there are several proposed to be installed in the Second Ward. *Nice Ride* will put approximately 1,000 bicycles onto Minneapolis streets, locked in self-service kiosks and is now taking comments on specific proposed locations. Kiosks will be located in downtown, uptown, Midtown, the U area, including Seward, Dinkytown, Cedar Riverside, and the Warehouse district. The input/comment period lasts through October 30th, so get your responses in before then to help determine the final location of these bicycle rental kiosks. If you'd like more information on the upcoming *Nice Ride MN* program, please visit www.niceridemn.com or call Bill Dossett at 612-926-9218.

New Public Health Appointee Needed. Former Council Member Paul Zerby has decided not to seek reappointment for the Ward 2 seat on the Public Health Advisory Committee. I thank Paul for all his good work, on topics ranging from binge drinking to phthalates. If you or anyone you know might be interested in serving on this very important committee, please contact my office.

Parking Near U Stadium. My office has been contacted by a number of businesses near the University Stadium who would like to begin using their parking lots as commercial parking lots on game days. The City, through a long neighborhood and community process, decided two years ago to place a "Pedestrian Oriented Overlay District" over much of the length of University Avenue. One of the reasons for this overlay was to protect nearby communities from the sprawl of surface parking lots that has surrounded other stadiums in the city, especially the Metrodome. I am open to working with business owners and the community to reopen this discussion, if the community believes that it should be revisited. On October 22 I will be meeting with the Stadium Area Commercial Association, city staff and others to help better understand and address this issue. I have also heard concerns about parking in residential areas on streets and in yards and will work with staff and neighbors to explore possible solutions.

Safety Collaboration on Game Days. The City has crafted an agreement with the U of M, under which they are allocating \$60,000 for enhanced enforcement by Minneapolis police, primarily in the neighborhoods around the University campus on game days. I welcome this collaboration between the City and the U, and hope to see it continue.

Pedestrian Master Plan. The Council has adopted the City's first-ever Pedestrian Master Plan. It is, for the most part, a very good plan, and will help us dramatically improve the pedestrian experience. My office, working with Public Works staff and others, successfully strengthened the plan in a few important ways, by ensuring that mid-block crossings will be addressed in the planned review of our crosswalk marking policy, that we'll explore better ways to clear snow from city-owned sidewalks, and that the crosswalk review will look at allowing interested areas to

pursue high-visibility crosswalk patterns. For more please visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/pedestrian/pedestrian-masterplan.asp>.

Promote Biking and Walking. There will be a Volunteer Training on October 20th, from 6-8pm at the Downtown Central Library. Participants can learn more about promoting biking and walking as transportation at workplaces, places of worship, community organizations and events and promoting biking and walking safety at k-12 schools and conducting walk-ability assessments.

University Sues Central Corridor. Despite reports that the University and Central Corridor project (with help from the City and the County) have been nearing an agreement on vibration, noise and electromagnetic disruptions to U research on Washington Avenue, the U has decided to sue the Metropolitan Council over the project. The University appears to be the most significant potential obstacle to this important piece of environmentally sustainable transportation infrastructure. While I find it especially problematic that the University chose not to communicate with any of its partners on the Alliance – the City, the neighborhoods, or the business community – before taking this extraordinary step, I have asked for a meeting with a University Vice President to better understand the U's perspective. I will continue to work to be a cooperative partner with all the neighborhood, community, business, governmental and institutional partners concerned with the Central Corridor.

Social Hosting Ordinance. I have given intent to introduce a "Social Hosting" ordinance, similar to what has recently passed in St. Paul, that will discourage underage consumption of alcohol by imposing penalties on those who host events or gatherings where underage persons possess or consume alcohol. These penalties will likely apply regardless of whether the person hosting or allowing the event served or purchased the alcohol. The aim of this ordinance is to give our police more tools to deal with the out of control parties that happen with unfortunate regularity in some neighborhoods near the University.

Recovery Act Funding. We have secured federal American Recovery & Reinvestment Act funding for a number of Projects including: \$3.2 million in Recovery Act funding to pay for 13 police officers from January 2010 through December 2012; \$10 million in Recovery Act funding to rehabilitate the Camden Bridge (and create about 90 construction jobs and add 35 years to the life of the bridge); and \$2 million for improvement to the City's Water Works Dewatering Plant in Fridley.

Buy American Resolution. Working with the Steelworkers union, I have drafted a resolution committing the City of Minneapolis to spend our Recovery Act dollars on American-made goods and services whenever possible. It also commits the City to document the cases in which it is not possible to buy American, and explain why. I believe it's important to keep our dollars circulating in the local economy as much as we can, especially in this time of economic turmoil.

Local D'Lish. As I wrote in the last newsletter, the coffee and food vendor in City Hall (the "Clock Tower Café") has decided to end its contract. I strongly advocated for the Metropolitan Building Commission, which operates City Hall, to find a new vendor that will serve healthy, local, sustainably produced food. They appear to have done just exactly that, and are poised to offer the contract to a small business called "Local D'Lish," which specializes in local, healthy, sustainable food. I don't believe that this would have been possible without the progress we've made through the Homegrown Minneapolis initiative.

Possible Hydrothermal Project. The Health, Energy and Environment committee has heard a report on a new hydrothermal energy facility to be located at the East Bank Mills project that could, if successful, heat and cool up to four million square feet of residential and commercial buildings with little or no carbon emissions. The technology would use water from the Mississippi as a heat exchange, similar to how geothermal projects use the ambient temperature of the ground. It is also proposed to use the existing drop shafts to generate enough electricity to power

the heat pumps. City staff has recommended that the Council devote a \$30,000 planning loan to this project, and I was proud to move their recommendation in committee.

RCV Volunteer Educators Needed. The Elections Department is looking for volunteers to help educate residents and join a neighbor to neighbor outreach program. They are looking for volunteers every weekend between now and the election. One volunteer orientation meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 24, 10am at the Overflow Espresso Café, 2929 University Ave SE. Find more information here: <http://ga0.org/voteminneapolis/events/n2n1024am/details.tcl>. All volunteers will receive training, materials, and food.

Elections Ordinance Tweaked. The Council has passed a non-controversial revision of the ranked choice voting ordinance that cleans up and clarifies the text, bringing it into alignment with how staff and outside experts agree the process should go. I commend elections staff for their work on this housekeeping change, as well as the work they've done to speed up the counting process. I look forward to a successful first ranked choice election this November.

Expansion of Premises Near Stadium. The ordinance I authored, allowing businesses near the stadium to expand their premises up to twelve times per year, has passed the Council unanimously. It allows the Licensing Director to deny applications based on poor past performance.

Affordable Housing Goals. The Council has decided to significantly decrease our affordable housing goals, from the 1,970 units we've aimed to create over the past three years to 1,555 units over the next three years. The rationales staff used to bring this forward mostly relate to our lack of success in meeting our goals. I voted against this downward move in committee because I believe it's important to keep our goals high, and because from what I hear, affordable housing is actually one of the only types of housing being built in the current economy.

Police Federation Contract. With my support the Council has approved a new 3 year contract with the Police Federation. It does a much better job than past police contracts of holding the line on pay increases, holding officers to 0% increase for the first 10 months of the contract, 2.5% for the next 7, 2 % from August 2010 to June 2011 and 1.5% from July 1 to December 31 2011.

Affirmative Action Plan. The Executive Committee has received a report on the City's Affirmative Action Plan, which you can see here: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2009-meetings/20091016/Docs/AffirmativeActionPlan_PLAN.pdf. It is full of good information about how well and poorly we are doing in terms of diversifying our own City work force, and include plans to improve. There is some good information showing how each department and job classification does in comparison to the Relevant Labor Market (qualified folks who live around here). We seem to be doing worst in terms of the lack of females in a number of job categories.

Greenway Rezoning. Staff's proposed rezoning of certain areas near the Greenway is beginning to move its way through the Planning Commission. The public hearing for the east portion, which includes areas in Seward, Cooper and Longfellow, occurred on October 13, and another hearing for the west portion is scheduled for October 27th. I have heard some concerns from residents, especially in the "island of residential" between 30th and 28th just north of the Greenway, that the proposed R4 zoning would allow greater height and density than they would like to see. I am sympathetic to these concerns, but also want to respect the plan that the neighborhood drafted in 2004, which calls for redevelopment of the parcels directly adjacent to the Greenway. I will continue to seek a compromise that both addresses nearby residents' concerns and meets the goals of the broader neighborhood.

Sustainability Indicators. The Council has passed some revisions of our twenty-six sustainability indicators. I'm impressed with the changes we're making, which make some of our indicator targets much more sophisticated and sets the first-ever targets for other indicators. Some of the highlights include a new Solid Waste indicator (which commits us to broadening our

composting program and improve recycling rates), improved targets for Healthy Lakes and River, and more. My office has been especially involved in strengthening the bicycling indicator, to aim for a 7% bicycling mode share by 2014, and in drafting a new target for measuring the percentage of Minneapolis workers living in poverty. I am hoping to come forward with a new target to address racial disparities in poverty soon.

Census Planning. Work to conduct a successful census next year is being done by the Minneapolis Complete Count Committee, a volunteer team of city residents appointed by the Mayor and City Council, and a staff team led by CPED with help from the University's Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, which has been hired to assist with outreach. An accurate census count is critical in ensuring that Minnesota retains its full congressional representation and obtaining federal funding. Some people fear that their census answers could be shared with immigration, welfare or housing agencies but by law, the U.S. Census Bureau cannot share individual information with anyone, including landlords and other government agencies and officials. While some areas of Minneapolis responded in strong numbers to the 2000 census, lower responses were reported in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood, and areas around the University of Minnesota. For more information about the City's 2010 Census efforts, please visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/2010census/>. Information is available in the City's six Low English Proficiency languages.

Minneapolis offers property management workshop. Police and housing inspections staff will offer a property management workshop to help rental property owners keep their properties in sound structural condition and free of illegal activity on Thursday, October 22, from 5-9pm at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Ave. S. If you or someone you know is interested in attending, please RSVP at (612) 673-2812 or ccpsafe@ci.minneapolis.mn.us. There is a \$30 registration fee, which covers the costs for all printed materials, a box meal and a DVD on Hennepin County Housing Court.

Pervious Driveways. I have introduced subject matter of an ordinance that will allow homeowners to install certain kinds of pervious pavers on their driveways that are not currently allowed under the zoning code. I'm hoping that this can be part of a larger business process improvement around issues of stormwater management and erosion control.

Bystrom Project. The Community Development committee has approved a small land sale to allow the Touchstone project on the Bystrom site to move forward.

Critical Parking Areas. The south side of Prospect Terrace is now a Critical Parking area, allowing only two hour parking without a permit. I've heard concerns from some residents that they would like to see this time reduced, and will be watching closely to see if it works well enough, or if it should be amended to be more restrictive. I am also setting up a meeting with residents near Riverside Park, City staff and nearby institutions to discuss the increase in non-resident parking on-street over the last few months.

600 Main. The Stone Arch Phase II project has been denied by the Council, in keeping with the staff recommendation and the Planning Commission's action. I voted to deny the project.

Bakery in Cliquot Club Space. My office has heard that a cupcake bakery is planning to move into the space in Seward that most recently housed the Cliquot Club café. I wish the new entrepreneurs luck and success.

Openings on City Boards and Commissions. There are openings on the Civilian Police Review Authority (closes 12/31), Public Health Advisory Committee (open until filled), Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners (Closes 10/16), and Zoning Board of Adjustment (closes 10/16). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Yours, in peace and cooperation,

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