

## News from Ward 2 Council Member, Cam Gordon

**I will be hosting a Crime and Safety roundtable discussion Tuesday, May 23, 7 - 9 pm at Van Cleve Recreation Center, 901 - 15th Ave SE** as part of my ongoing series of community forums on issues important to the Second Ward. In the months ahead the City will likely name a permanent replacement for Chief McManus, develop a new model of Community Policing and implement the Safe City initiative to address increasing crime in our neighborhoods. At the same time neighborhoods are getting more organized and are working to activate public safety efforts of their own. Come share your ideas with your neighbors, your police and your Council Member, and explore ways we can make this a safer City for everyone.

**In April I hosted a Land Use and Transportation Policy Roundtable discussion** at Pratt School. There I joined with a group of residents to address forthcoming policy decisions the City Council will face regarding land use and transportation planning. We focused some of the challenges of preserving industrial land and balancing that we needs for housing, affordable housing, commercial development and parks. Some early findings of the City's Land Use study were shared (is there a link) as well as those of the 10-year Transportation Action Plan. The issues included:

- A focus on better public transit citywide,
- Fighting to ensure that the central corridor transit way is success,
- Working to preserve industrial land throughout the city and in the Southeast Minneapolis Industrial (SEMI) area in particular,
- Helping develop a bio science corridor in the SEMI between Minneapolis can St. Paul
- Potential development in keeping with the Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association's 29<sup>th</sup> Street Station Land Use Plan
- Special concern about possible development behind the KSTP buildings and St. Paul plan to change the allow it to be sold for housing development.

**Central Corridor DEIS.** The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Central Corridor LRT line is available to be viewed online at [www.centralcorridor.com](http://www.centralcorridor.com) – click on the “links and documents” link. It can also be viewed in person at any St. Paul public library. There will be a public hearing about the DEIS on Monday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 6:30 PM, at the Radisson Metrodome, 615 Washington Ave SE. An open house for questions and answers will precede the hearing from 5:00 to 6:30 PM.

**Dining Out for Life.** I had a great time on the 27<sup>th</sup> helping fundraise for The Aliveness Project, which provides supportive services for HIV-infected Minnesotans, at St. Martin's Table. For more info on the program go here: [www.diningoutforlife.com](http://www.diningoutforlife.com).

**Instant Runoff Voting.** I led the IRV task force all through April. We delivered our final report in early in May and the matter of putting a proposed charter amendment on the ballot will likely be coming before the full City Council on May 26th.

**Wind Turbines.** In April, I introduced a change to the zoning code to broaden and expand the allowable uses of electricity-generating wind turbines in Minneapolis. I believe that the solution to our energy problems is not just to increase the amount of renewable energy we use, but to increase the amount we generate in the urban environment.

**The Industrial Land Use study** has come out with a new Draft Summary and Redevelopment Analysis. Both documents can be viewed here:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/planning/industrial-landuse.asp>.

**Riverside Market Site,** I am participating actively in Seward Neighborhood Group's Riverside Market Site task force, which is seeking to find neighborhood consensus on what uses we would like to see (and not like to see) on that site. The task force will be working closely with Seward Redesign, which is now part of the development team that owns the site. I believe that this process presents a great opportunity for the neighborhood to improve the services offered on the east end of Franklin, and come to a broader understanding of our development strategy for the neighborhood's major thoroughfare.

**The West Bank is embarking on a Small Area Planning process.** I will be working closely with Beth Elliott, the lead City Planner for the West Bank, along with community members and project consultants to help make this a success. I very interested in helping ensure that this process is open, inclusive and effective.

**CRA Work Group.** I am Vice Chair of the City Hall CRA work group formed to address problems with the Civilian Review Authority process. The group meets weekly, Thursday 8:00 am – 9:30 in room 319. So far the following recommendations were made to, and approved by, the Council in May.

1. A review of Internal Affairs Unit operations be conducted by an outside, independent auditor and be reviewed by the Public Safety and Regulatory Services Committee.
2. That staff from departments including Police, City Coordinator, Human Resources, Civil Rights, and City Attorney, and the Police Federation, work to optimize an Early Intervention System for the Police Department. Early Intervention Systems allow departments to identify officers who are having performance problems and intervene before a major incident.

**May is Bike Month,** and Minneapolis will again be celebrating the Commuter Challenge Bike/Walk Event, which encourages commuters to get to work using healthier, more environmentally-friendly transportation modes. This year's event will take place on May 19<sup>th</sup>. Go here for more info: [www.mplstmo.com](http://www.mplstmo.com)

**Southeast Como Tour.** My office helped get Mayor Rybak to agree to come on a tour of Southeast Como on April 23<sup>rd</sup>. I will be working with the Mayor's office to address the concerns raised on the tour and schedule a broader community meeting about the challenges facing Southeast Como.

**Safe City Initiative.** Interim Chief Dolan recently presented the Minneapolis Police Department's Safe City Initiative. It can be viewed online here:

[http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2006-meetings/20060512/docs/01-Safe\\_City\\_Strategic\\_Plan\\_0502.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2006-meetings/20060512/docs/01-Safe_City_Strategic_Plan_0502.pdf)

**Gophers Stadium.** I worked with CM Hofstede and Senator Pogemiller to get \$200,000 more put into the stadium mitigation fund, to be overseen by the Stadium Area Advisory Group. We are working to establish an ongoing partnership between neighborhoods and U.

**SEIU Organizing at Fairview Riverside.** Responding to complaints that SEIU organizers were being unduly restricted by the Fairview administration, I accompanied their lead organizer into the hospital once last month. I also helped defeat a proposed noise ordinance change that

would have made organizing and picketing by union members illegal within a certain radius around a hospital. I fully support SEIU's efforts and goals for a fair healthcare plan for healthcare providers.

**Open Positions on City Boards, Councils and Commissions.** Please consider applying to serve on one of these if you are interested. For more info see

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/>

- **The Minneapolis Private Industry/Workforce Council (PIWC) (closes 5/19/2006)** was created in 1982 to provide policy and program guidance for all activities under the Job Training Partnership Act in the City of Minneapolis. There are currently nine (9) vacancies for terms beginning July 1, 2006 and expiring June 30, 2008. These positions represent the following areas: large business – more than 500 employees (3), small business (2), organized labor (1), public employment service (1), public assistance agency (1) and economic development agency (1). These positions are appointed by the Mayor. Meetings are usually held bi-monthly on the third Tuesday of the odd months at 7:30 a.m. The location varies as does the time and day of the meetings. There is no compensation for attending the meetings.

Applications are available from the Office of the City Clerk, 304 City Hall, Minneapolis, MN 55415, 612-673-3358. Persons may apply on their own behalf, nominate others for consideration or inform the Office of the City Clerk of persons to whom they wish application materials to be sent.

- **The Zoning Board of Adjustment (closes 5/19/2006)** hears and decides appeals from decisions made by the Zoning Administrator under the Zoning Code. There are currently two (2) vacancies for terms beginning immediately and expiring December 31, 2009. These positions are appointed by the City Council. Applications are available from the Office of the City Clerk, 304 City Hall, Minneapolis, MN 55415, 612-673-3358, or at the link above.

The board shall consist of nine (9) members appointed by the city council from an advisory list submitted to it by the city planning commission. Members serve for a term of 3 years. Meetings are held the first and third Thursday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in Room 317 City Hall and often continue for several hours. Applicants must be City residents.

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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