

## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Cedar Riverside, 8-15-07

**Cam's next Cedar Riverside Office Hours:  
Tuesday September 4, 9:30-11:00am  
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave**

### Items:

- 1) August Roundtable: Biking and Walking in Mpls, 8-23-07
- 2) I-35W Bridge Collapse Updates
- 3) Unpaid Judgments Ordinance
- 4) Tour of Community Gardens Saturday
- 5) "Bait Bicycle" Program
- 6) DeLaSalle Football Stadium
- 7) Bina Encroachment
- 8) Bedlam Theater
- 9) Public Safety for Public Housing
- 10) Farm Stand Policy
- 11) Free Speech Work Group Guiding Principles
- 12) Contract Compliance
- 13) Air Quality Study
- 14) Sale of City-Owned Parking Ramps
- 15) Green Convention 2008
- 16) Animal Protection Ordinance
- 17) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Please join me for my next Roundtable Discussion on **Thursday, August 23: Biking and Walking in Minneapolis**. The Council has approved a Downtown Transportation Action Plan, incorporating some improvements to the bike and pedestrian grid downtown. Staff will be exploring the "Copenhagen Model" of enhanced bike facilities. A citywide Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan is being drafted this summer. Non-Motorized Transportation funds continue to support new bike/ped projects. The City is even working on a "bait bike" program to catch and deter bike thieves. Come find out what changes are coming for downtown and what new projects will be coming to your neighborhood, and share your ideas for how we can get even more neighbors walking and biking: **Brackett Park, 2728 39th Ave S, 7-9pm**.
- 2) As the recovery phase of the tragic bridge collapse continues, let's not forget that some are still grieving the loss of family members, co-workers and friends, in anguish for loved ones who are still missing, or struggling to recover and survive from injuries resulting from the fall. Please keep these people in your thoughts. I want to thank all the people in the West Bank area for your patience, support and willingness to pitch in and help during this crisis. Special thanks go to the Holiday Inn and Augsburg College for opening their doors to house our emergency family response/operations center. They generously provided space for Red Cross workers, chaplains and city staff who were assisting families of victims and missing loved ones. Thanks also to the Brian Coyle Center for hosting the Muslim response to the tragedy last week, and the associated Red Cross blood drive.

The City Council has been very engaged in the response to this over the past two weeks. This Friday we will likely pass a statement of principles for rebuilding the bridge. In addition, Council Member Ostrow and I have scheduled a community meeting on **Monday, August 20, 7 pm in the Van Cleve Park gym, 901 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE**. We will be joined by Public Works staff who will be prepared to give information and solicit input on transportation issues. Everyone is welcome to attend. We are saddened that this tragedy forced the cancellation of Bohemian Flats Day. Also of note, today the west end of Bridge 9 was opened. For more information see <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/minneapolisresponds/>

- 3) The ordinance I introduced giving the City the authority to revoke or not renew rental licenses to landlords who have unpaid legal judgments against them has been reviewed by the City's Rental Property Advisory Committee for review. I believe we are close to a compromise that will assuage some of the concerns of the landlord community, and I am hopeful that it will pass. I am encouraging supporters of this ordinance to write other Council Members.
- 4) On Saturday, please join your neighbors at the two West Bank participants in the Parade of Community Gardens: **Community Peace Garden** at Hwy 94 and Cedar, and the **5th Street Community Garden** at 1800 5th St S. The Council will be passing a Resolution on Friday declaring Saturday "Community Gardening Day." For more information, please go here: [www.gardenworksmn.org/Events/index.htm#parade](http://www.gardenworksmn.org/Events/index.htm#parade).

- 5) Last month, the PS&RS Committee passed a motion I wrote, directing the Police Department to explore creating a “**Bait Bicycle**” program, similar to the “Bait Vehicle” programs we currently have in place. It also directs them to pursue Non-Motorized Transportation grants to fund a pilot project. Bike theft is a serious concern in the Second Ward, and few bike thieves are caught. This program could potentially help increase bike mode share by deterring thieves and making potential riders feel comfortable riding and parking bikes in our city.
- 6) I was the only member of the Zoning and Planning committee to vote against vacating Grove Street on Nicollet Island for use as part of the proposed DeLaSalle football stadium. I plan to vote against this at the full Council meeting on Friday as well.
- 7) Bina has stated that he would be willing to sell the building that is encroaching onto the Dania Hall lot for \$1.4 Million. Our office has asked City staff to get another appraisal done of the encroachment parcel, taking this new information into account to the extent possible.
- 8) The Zoning Board of Adjustment voted unanimously to grant Bedlam Theater their variance for outdoor use. My office is working to coordinate a meeting between the Theater and their near neighbors, to discuss actions the Theater can take to reduce negative impacts on and increase communication with residents.
- 9) The Council has voted to put \$350,000 in additional funding into the Public Housing Authority and Police Department partnership for keeping public housing residents and the surrounding communities safe. I strongly supported this measure, both for the good of the many Second Ward residents of public housing and for the communities that surround them.
- 10) My office is continuing to work to make it easier and cheaper for small farm stands selling local produce to navigate the City’s bureaucratic processes, to increase access to healthy foods in communities with little access at this time.
- 11) The Free Speech Work Group that I helped form has drafted our guiding principles for protecting free speech during the RNC Convention next year. The Council unanimously approved these principles last month:  
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070720/COW20070719agenda.asp#TopOfPage>.
- 12) The Civil Rights Department has reported that there is a major discrepancy between the goals for our Contract Compliance Unit and the implementation of these goals. The report states that Governmental and non-governmental entities governed by the Civil Rights Ordinance are **not** in full compliance with the hiring, contracting, reporting, monitoring, and enforcement mandates described in the contract compliance provisions of the Ordinance. It goes on to state that the City is not holding firms that are not in compliance accountable. I take this report very seriously, and introduced a motion directing the Civil Rights Director to report back to the HE&E Committee in October with further analysis as to the scope of non-compliance, and with recommendations to improve the contract compliance in small and underutilized business program processes and for other potential Council actions. To see the report, please go here: [http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070629/docs/CCU\\_Report\\_5-24-07.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070629/docs/CCU_Report_5-24-07.pdf).
- 13) The Environmental Management Department has released an Air Quality Study, designed to look at air quality across the entire city in areas where citizens live, work and play. Samples were collected in each season and analyzed for volatile organic compounds. Fifty monitors were deployed four times throughout the year to collect information on 31 different chemicals. To see the report, please go here:  
[http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/airquality/docs/AirQualityReport\\_July2007.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/airquality/docs/AirQualityReport_July2007.pdf).
- 14) The Council has decided to sell eight City-owned parking ramps, including the Seven Corners ramp. For more information, please go here: [http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070629/Docs/08\\_Parking\\_Ramp\\_Set\\_PH.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070629/Docs/08_Parking_Ramp_Set_PH.pdf)
- 15) I have been involved in the effort to bring the Green Party 2008 Convention to Minneapolis, to further increase the visibility of our wonderful City and help offset the Republican Convention later this year.
- 16) The Animal Protection ordinance that my colleague Ralph Remington has sponsored and that I support, prohibiting wild animal circuses in Minneapolis, has been postponed due to the bridge collapse. It will come before the PS&RS Committee for a public hearing on September 12 at 1pm.
- 17) There are openings on the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People With Disabilities (closes 8/31/07), Minneapolis Empowerment Zone Governance Board (8/31/2007), Minneapolis Ethical Practices Board (9/7/2007), Public Health Advisory Committee (8/31/2007), Senior Citizen Advisory Committee (8/31/2007), Zoning Board of Adjustment (8/24/2007). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email [cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).