

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood, 10-26-09

Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
Pratt School, November 17, 9:30-11am

Items:

- 1) Election Day is November 3
- 2) Charter Amendment – Please Vote No
- 3) Profile Music Center
- 4) Public Health Advisory Committee Vacancy
- 5) Street Sweeping
- 6) Parking Near U Stadium
- 7) Buy American Resolution
- 8) Local Food Vendor in City Hall
- 9) Elections Ordinance Tweaked
- 10) Affordable Housing Goals
- 11) New Police Contract
- 12) Sustainability Indicators
- 13) Pervious Driveways
- 14) Critical Parking
- 15) 2010 Census
- 16) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Please remember to vote in the municipal election on Tuesday, November 3. If you need to find your polling place, go here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/elections/precinct-finder.asp>. And if you'd like to see a sample ballot, go here: <http://voteminneapolis.org/>.
- 2) I encourage you to join me in voting NO on the proposed amendment to abolish the **Board of Estimate and Taxation**. This board, while needing improvement, plays a vital role in balancing the financial relationship between the City and the independent Park Board. In addition, it can function as an external auditor of the City's finances, which I support. As we begin the constructive discussion next year about how to improve the way that the City works with the Park Board, we should also be discussing ways to improve the BET as well to make it more transparent, accountable and balanced in its representation.
- 3) The Profile Center has applied for a Rental Hall license, to replace their existing Place of Entertainment license. This is a positive move from the neighborhood's perspective, as the Rental Hall license will not allow the sorts of events that have resulted in fights and other behavioral issues, culminating in a homicide this summer. The public hearing will be on **Monday, November 16**, at **6:30pm**, at Luxton Park Recreation Center. If you can't attend the public hearing, but would like to submit comments, please email them to Michele Olds at michele.olds@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.
- 4) My office has begun receiving applications and letters of interest from potential Public Health Advisory Committee appointees. If you or anyone you know is interested in volunteering on this important City advisory body, please apply by November 30th. I will make an appointment in December.
- 5) The fall comprehensive street sweep and leaf collection program starts tomorrow, 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/.
- 6) Last week, I convened a lively and productive meeting between City staff and businesses near the University Stadium about the commercial parking situation. I have committed to working with business owners, the neighborhood, and staff to find a solution that will allow some limited amount of game day parking without incentivizing auto-oriented uses more broadly on University Ave.

- 7) 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.
- 8) 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.
- 9) 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.
- 10) 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.
- 11) 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.
- 12) 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.
- 13) 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.
- 14) 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 working with members of the Motley Crew to change their critical parking area to include Saturdays, due to new weekend parking pressures from the U Stadium.
- 15) 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.
- 16) There are openings on the Minneapolis Arts Commission (closes 11/6), Civilian Police Review Authority (closes 12/31), Planning Commission (closes 11/13), Public Health Advisory Committee (open until filled), Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners (closes 10/16), Senior Citizens Advisory Committee (closes 12/11), Zoning Board of Adjustment (closes 10/16). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.