

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Cedar Riverside, 12-20-06

**Cam's next Cedar Riverside Office Hours:
Tuesday January 2, 9:30-11:00am
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave**

Items:

- 1) January Roundtable: Decriminalizing Homelessness
 - 2) Second Ward Update
 - 3) African Development Center
 - 4) Currie Park Lofts
 - 5) Citizen Engagement Report – deadline extended
 - 6) Report on Somali Youth Issues
 - 7) Condo Conversion ordinance
 - 8) Library Funding
 - 9) Neighborhood Impact Report
 - 10) Youth Violence Prevention Resolution
 - 11) Chief Bleskachek
 - 12) Youth Roundtable
 - 13) Openings on Boards and Commissions
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- 1) Please join me and Cathy ten Broeke, Coordinator on Homelessness for Minneapolis and Hennepin County, for the next in my ongoing series of roundtable discussions, Ending Homelessness and Decriminalizing Poverty, **January 16, 7-9 pm at Saint Martin's Table**. The City Council and County Board have adopted a ten-year plan to end homelessness in Minneapolis. The criminal justice system alone cannot provide the solution. Come learn about our new approach, share your ideas and help us develop better tools for responding to poverty and homelessness.
 - 2) You should have received, or should soon receive, a copy of the Fall 2006 Second Ward Update at your door. This is being distributed ward-wide and offers me a chance to reflect back and report on the progress made during my first year in office. It has been a great year and I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to serve you as your Council Member.
 - 3) Understanding that traditional forms of financing involving interest/usury (Reba), directly or indirectly, are not allowed according to Islamic law (or Sharia), the City is partnering with the African Development Center (ADC) to establish an Alternative Financing Loan Program. The City will be allocating \$487,656 to this program, allowing Muslim entrepreneurs to raise capital without taking out interest. I am optimistic that this will help the formation of new immigrant small businesses, which I believe will be very good for Cedar Riverside.
 - 4) The Currie Park Lofts project has been allocated up to \$400,000 from the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
 - 5) The Community Engagement Report is now available for public review here: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/2006_1121CE_Report.asp. The comment period has been extended until **Thursday, February 8, 2007**, and there will be a public meeting to gather input at **Mill City Museum (704 S 2nd St.) on February 5th, 7-8:30pm**. I encourage you to submit comments to Clara Perrin, 301M City Hall, 350 S. 5th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55415, clara.perrin@ci.minneapolis.mn.us. If you need a paper copy of the report, or if you need this information in a different format, please contact Ms. Perrin at (612) 673-3163 or at the e-mail address above.
 - 6) Shukri Adan will be presenting a report exploring some of the challenges facing Somali youth and recommendations for positive steps the larger community can take to help at the Health, Energy and Environment Committee meeting on January 4th, 1:30pm at City Hall.

- 7) The Condo Conversion ordinance I sponsored will be coming for a public hearing on January 31, at the Public Safety & Regulatory Services committee. The goal is to prevent the loss of affordable rental housing due to condo conversions and to protect condo buyers.
- 8) The Council allocated an additional \$1.2 Million to the Library Board, and I hope they would use these funds to keep all of our community libraries open next year while we continue to work on ways to solve the long-term problems with library funding. I will continue to work to find the permanent solution to keep all of our libraries open.
- 9) The University of Minnesota's Neighborhood Impact Report is nearing completion. I strongly encourage WBCC and all Cedar Riverside stakeholders to contact my office or Jan Morlock at the UofM (jam@umn.edu) to get a copy of the report, and reply with comments by January 23rd.
- 10) Working with Council Member Samuels, Health Commissioner Musicant and Chief Dolan, I co-authored a resolution that recognizes youth violence as a public health problem and creates a steering committee to coordinate City, County, private and nonprofit initiatives to prevent youth violence. The steering committee is now going through the City's Open Appointment process (see item 13 of this report). The committee is charged to:
 - Develop a multi-year implementation plan that includes components addressing outreach, education, communications and infrastructure to oversee implementation plans and outcomes. Special emphasis will be placed on strategies to engage and support parents and opportunities for youth to connect trusted adults and with their culture.
 - Develop a timeline and assign responsibility for implementation of various plan components;
 - Define and measure community-wide outcomes;
 - Coordinate City and County efforts to prevent youth violence;
 - Facilitate cross-community partnerships and communication among various groups with a stake in project outcomes;
 - Identify gaps in services, policy and funding; advise the City Council, Mayor and other policy makers and funders on needs for resources, programs and policies.
- 11) The Executive Committee unanimously rejected the current terms of the proposed lawsuit settlement presented by Fire Chief Bleskachek's attorney and took the next steps in her removal as Chief. Our primary concern is keeping the excellent level of Fire Department service in Minneapolis, while also working to rebuild public trust and maintain the morale of Fire Department employees.
- 12) I worked with the Youth Coordinating Board on a Ward 2 roundtable conversation on December 11 about "out of school "opportunities for our youth. The meeting was a chance for providers and civic organizations to discuss how we best utilize the resources we have, and explore what else is needed. The intent is to identify what each of us – public and private sector – can do to give children what they need to learn and develop.
- 13) There are openings on the Housing Board of Appeals, the Minneapolis Empowerment Zone Governance Board, the Youth Violence Prevention Steering Committee Vacancy, the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee, the Minneapolis Private Industry/Workforce Council, the Latino Advisory Committee to the Mayor and City Council and the Minneapolis Arts Commission Vacancy . To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.