



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon
City Council Member
Second Ward

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 4-21-10

Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:
Tuesday May 4, 9:30-11:00am
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave

Items:

- 1) Traffic Calming on 6th St
- 2) Resurfacing Related to Bridge Collapse
- 3) Great Streets Grants
- 4) WBBA Successful on Banners
- 5) Dania Site Fence
- 6) 2010 Census
- 7) Honoring West Bank Safety Volunteers
- 8) Civil Rights Director
- 9) TOD Grant Applications for West Bank
- 10) Recycling in Multifamily Buildings
- 11) Community Gardens
- 12) Mobile Food Vendors
- 13) Emerald Ash Borer
- 14) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The WBCC has taken a position in favor of time-limited parking and speed bumps on 6th St S. My office has also heard from numerous residents of both Riverside Plaza and the Cedars that they would appreciate a safer crossing at the corner of old 17th Ave S and 6th St. Transit for Livable Communities and Sherman Associates may be in a position to help the neighborhood fund a holistic traffic calming project for 6th St. My office is eager to help organize around this opportunity. I am asking for a few volunteers from WBCC to help work on this project with my staff, TLC, and hopefully representatives from the Riverside Plaza Tenants Association and the Cedars over the next few months.
- 2) The City and County have both been funded by the federal government to resurface the streets that took additional traffic for a year due to the I-35W bridge collapse. The City will be resurfacing 19th Ave S from Seven Corners to the River, and the County will be resurfacing Cedar from the Washington Trench to Seven Corners, and Washington from I-35 to Cedar. The work will be completed sometime this summer, and is being coordinated both with the Central Corridor project and the Riverside reconstruction project.
- 3) The City's Great Streets program is slated to give a \$50,000 grant to the West Bank Business Association for their continuing work to support the West Bank's small business community. The City is also supporting the African Development Center's programs citywide, including on the West Bank, which provide technical assistance, business planning, and workshops on bookkeeping and accounting to immigrant entrepreneurs.
- 4) Congratulations to the West Bank Business Association on their victory at the Zoning and Planning committee next week. The committee voted to allow WBBA to put their City-funded website address on their banner signs. By taking this action, the Council has set the precedent that City-recognized neighborhood organizations and business associations may put their web addresses on signs in the public right of way. This was a great outcome not only for the West Bank, but for the whole city, and I thank the WBBA for bringing this appeal forward.
- 5) Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) staff and the First Police Precinct made a decision to install 2 cameras and fence off the Dania lot at 5th and Cedar, without first consulting with the community. When this came to my attention, I asked that they attend the West Bank Quarterly Safety Meeting and Community Coalition's Land Use Committee. They did so, and heard a very clear message from the community that they do not want to have the Dania site fenced, especially where it connects Cedar to 5th Street. I am working hard to find a way to address both the serious safety concerns and the need for pedestrian access between Cedar and 5th.

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact Matt Bower at (612) 673-2188 or Matthew.Bower@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

If you want help translating this call – Hmong– Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2188;

Spanish – Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame 612-673-2188;

Somali – Ogow. Haddii aad dooneysa in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' an wac 612-673-2188.

- 6) Please continue to encourage your friends and neighbors to fill out and return their 2010 Census forms. Remember – every **100** people we fail to count will cost the City **\$1 million** in lost State and Federal resources over the next 10 years.
- 7) I was proud to be able to present four hardworking West Bank volunteers with official certificates of appreciation for their efforts to improve safety in the neighborhood. They are: Russom Solomon, owner of the Red Sea bar and longtime chair of the neighborhood's Safety Committee; Dave Alderson, Executive Director of the West Bank School of Music, Safety Committee participant and co-organizer of the highly successful West Bank Safety Walks; Ciise Ali, Somali elder and regular participant in the Safety Walks; and Lynn Johnson, longtime safety volunteer in the Riverside Park area. Thanks to these great volunteers for making the West Bank a safer, more livable neighborhood.
- 8) The Mayor has decided to appoint Velma Korbel as our next Civil Rights Director. She has an impressive resume in the field, including serving as Commissioner for the Department of Human Rights since 2003, where she has enacted some significant improvements. I look forward to getting to know her better through the appointment process, especially the public hearing.
- 9) The City has applied for several Transit Oriented Development grants from the Met Council for projects on the West Bank. These include \$376,775 for pedestrian improvements on Cedar Avenue, \$500,000 for the Brian Coyle Community Center Expansion and \$500,000 for a substantial renovation of Riverside Plaza. I strongly supported all of these projects, and hope that the Met Council follows the City's recommendation and funds them at the requested level.
- 10) My amendment to the City's multifamily housing recycling mandate has passed the Regulatory Energy and Environment and Transportation and Public Works committees unanimously. This measure will clarify and increase the enforceability of the City's existing mandate, by laying out a defined fine schedule and removing the unused "waiver" system by which property owners can make the case that they cannot offer recycling services. I am confident that it will also pass the full Council tomorrow.
- 11) As part of the ongoing Homegrown Minneapolis process, the City has adopted a model lease for Community Gardens, taking the confusion and guesswork out of the process of establishing a new garden. We have also established a list of potential garden sites on City-owned non-buildable parcels. As the co-chair of the Homegrown Minneapolis Implementation Task Force, I was very supportive of this action, and hope that it leads to an increase in gardening.
- 12) The Council has unanimously approved a new ordinance allowing more types of food to be sold by street vendors in downtown. I strongly supported this new ordinance, though I believe that it could have done more to incentivize healthy, local food and sustainable practices (such as recycling, composting, and the use of batteries or renewable energy). I successfully amended the ordinance to allow these vendors to connect to the electrical grid when they are on private property, because I am concerned about the proliferation of small gasoline generators and the impact this could have on air quality. I view this ordinance as a good first step and a "pilot," and look forward to broadening it next year. I'm interested in allowing vendors to operate outside of downtown in certain commercial areas of the Second Ward, including the West Bank. I'm also interested in addressing the health and sustainability issues that were not adequately considered as part of this first step.
- 13) Emerald ash borer has been found in Minneapolis, right across the river from Longfellow in Prospect Park. It poses a threat to the 200,000 ash trees in Minneapolis, which make up more than 20 percent of the city's canopy. The Park Board's Forestry Department is working (only during cold months) to take down both the infected trees and any boulevard ash in the City that are unhealthy or that the nearby residents would like removed, so that we can get a head start on replanting. There are a few ways that you can help slow the spread of the disease and re-leaf our city:
 - Do not move ash wood for any reason between spring and fall
 - Plant a new tree on your property
 - If you have an ash tree either in your boulevard or on your private property, consider having it removed and replaced with a different species of tree (but only during cold months)

I have concerns about the pesticide treatments currently being advertised, for several reasons. These chemicals have not been proven to significantly increase the life of a tree, the injections will have to continue for the life of the tree, and these chemicals have been found in surface water in other cities that have been living with EAB for some time.

- 14) There are openings on the Charter Commission (closes 4/16), Ethical Practices Board, (closes 5/7), Heritage Preservation Commission (closes 4/16), Latino Advisory Committee (closes 4/16), Public Health Advisory Committee (open until filled) and Workforce Council (closes 4/16). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.