



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood, 10-24-11

**Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
Pratt School, November 15th, 9:30-11am**

Items:

- 1) 2929 University Ave SE
- 2) Central Corridor Housing Meetings
- 3) Asian Carp Meeting
- 4) Free Lead Tests for Toys
- 5) Farmers Market Ordinance
- 6) Twin Cities Urban Sustainability Conference
- 7) Neighborhood Funding
- 8) City Staff Changes
- 9) Pedicabs
- 10) New U Emergency Loudspeaker System
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) I understand from staff that all of the automobile repair businesses in 2929 University Ave SE have now been licensed. Many of the businesses had not renewed their licenses, and a significant number had never been licensed. In addition, there have been significant concerns – and considerable use of staff time – about the use of 4th Street SE as a storage area for vehicles related to this business, in violation of City codes. Staff took the time to work with the property owner and the business operators to address the licensing issues, and are proposing to install signage prohibiting overnight parking, to make enforcement easier. I know this was a difficult time for both the property owner and the businesses, but I hope that it will lead to better compliance with City regulations in the future.
- 2) The **Big Picture Project**, lead by the Twin Cities Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), is finalizing recommendations about preserving and building affordable housing along the Central Corridor. Two community meetings have been planned to help inform our final decisions. The first, hosted by, the District Councils Collaborative of Minneapolis and St. Paul, is a for the Minneapolis portion of the project and will be held on **Tuesday, November 1st, 6-8pm** at Prospect Park United Methodist Church, 22 Orlin Ave SE. The second, hosted by LISC, will be on **Tuesday, November 15th, 6-8pm**, at Ewald Consulting, 1000 Westgate Drive, Suite 252, St. Paul.
- 3) Asian Carp DNA has now been found in Minneapolis, near the Ford dam. Governor Dayton is calling for quick action to prevent invasive Asian Carp from moving up the Mississippi River into Minnesota. There seem to be two options for blocking the natural spread of this invasive species: closing the lock at the Ford dam, and closing the Upper Lock at St. Anthony Falls? Both options will have an impact on Minneapolis businesses and residents. There will be a presentation on this issue on **Tuesday, October 25**, from 5-7pm at Park Board Headquarters, 2117 West River Road.
- 4) The City is offering three free opportunities to get your kids' toys tested for lead: **Oct. 27**, 5:30-6:30pm, at the Minnehaha Academy north campus, 3100 W. River Parkway; **Oct. 28**, 1-3pm, at Room 300, Public Service Center, 250 S 4th St; and **Nov. 19**, 10am-5pm, at the Midtown Global Market, 920 E Lake St. The Longfellow session will have sign-up information for home lead checks. Although the number of Minneapolis children with elevated lead levels in their blood has been dropping in recent years, 79 more children were identified by testing last year.
- 5) I will be delivering the keynote address of the Twin Cities Urban Sustainability Forum on November 2nd. The Forum will highlight emerging outcomes of sustainability research and cutting edge trends in sustainability practice and policy. My remarks will focus on the strides Minneapolis has made on sustainability policy over the last

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, llama 612-673-2188;

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

five years, including the Homegrown Minneapolis initiative, our green purchasing policy, commercial recycling, natural landscapes, active transportation and more. For more information, go here: <http://www.tcusforum.umn.edu/>.

- 6) The amendments to the farmers market ordinance my staff has been working have passed the Regulatory, Energy and Environment committee unanimously. I expect them to pass the Council as well. These changes are driven in large part by the requests of farmers market stakeholders, and include several important pieces:
 - At least 60% of vendors at farmers markets will have to be food growers
 - The “mini markets” that were created by policy several years ago will be included in the ordinance, and will be allowed to have a more flexible vendor mix, with one distributor (selling fresh fruits and vegetables that don’t grow in Minnesota) and one home processor (selling baked goods, jams, jellies, pickles, etc)
 - Creation of a new “produce and craft” market type that can be up to 70% vendors of self-made arts and crafts, with the other 30% being food items
 - All markets other than mini markets will have to be nonprofits
 - Sampling by market vendors will be easier, and vendors other than those selling food for immediate consumption will be able to operate from unpaved surfaces

- 7) The Council and the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Policy Board continue to be on different tracks when it comes to NRP and the transition to a new framework. It is clear that the Council’s action last year to recapture NRP Phase II funds has created significant complications for the new Community Participation Program (CPP). In September, the Policy Board formally asked the Council to unfreeze and fully allocate the Phase II dollars to the neighborhoods most impacted by the tornados of last spring. The Council decided to study that request further and then voted to move forward with a new consolidation plan in order to use the NRP funds for future CPP funding. The Committee of the Whole endorsed a staff plan that would extend 2011 CPP contracts through June 30, 2012, and increase contracted amounts from \$3,000,000 to \$4,500,000 following the 2011 CPP allocation formula. The plan would also authorize staff to proceed with “any work necessary” for the transfer of administrative responsibilities and oversight duties by January 1, 2012; and direct staff to draft revisions to the CPP guidelines and NRP ordinance. These revisions are needed so that we can legally use the NRP funds in 2012-2013 for the CPP. The proposed changes will include the establishment of a restructured NRP Policy Board and inclusion of other NRP statutory requirements like the requirement that at least 52.5% of the funds be spent on housing. The new NRP Policy Board would be the body that would review 2012 and 2013 CPP applications as well as approve and monitor Phase I and Phase II NRP Action Plans and plan modifications. The role of the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission during these two years is unclear and would be re-evaluated in light of this. The ordinance changes are projected to return to the Council for review and possible approval in November.

- 8) There have been a number of high- and mid-level changes to the City’s staff. Community Planning and Economic Development department head **Mike Christenson** is leaving to work with the Minnesota Business Partnership on taking the Minneapolis Promise – an effort to help kids succeed in school and move on to college – to a regional scale. Planning Director **Barb Sporlein** has been named the Deputy Commissioner of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA). And budget director **Heather Johnston** is moving to the City of Burnsville to be their Chief Financial Officer/Director of Administrative Services. I will truly miss these great City employees, and wish them well in all of their future endeavors. The Mayor has announced his selection for director of the Regulatory Services department: **Greg Stubbs**. I’m very interested in this choice, as Mr. Stubb’s background is in planning.

- 9) Significant changes to the City’s pedicab ordinance have passed the Council. Though I’m supportive of much in these amendments – especially opening downtown to pedicabs during rush hour – I voted against the package, because it contained an unnecessary overstep into the decisions made by certain small operators. You can read more on my blog.

- 10) The University is adding a new emergency loudspeaker system on campus that will allow for both alert tones and/or voice instructions in the event of major emergencies. The loudspeakers, mounted on University buildings, are designed to be audible in outdoor spaces on the University campus and may also be audible at residences and businesses that are very close to campus. On Wednesday tests of the system will occur at East Bank locations and on Thursday, at 2221 University Avenue SE (near TCF Bank Stadium) and at the West Bank Office Building, located at 1300 South Second Street. For more info visit <http://www.umn.edu/prepared/>

- 11) In an effort to make it easier to learn about volunteer opportunities, ensure a more open process, and increase the diversity of the applicant pool, we now focus our appointments to boards and commissions once in the spring and once in the fall. **Applications are now being accepted for the over 80 open positions** on 16 boards and commissions that the City Council and Mayor will appoint this fall. Applications will be reviewed beginning September 30; however the positions are open until filled. For a full list of position descriptions see www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.