



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood, 9-27-11

**Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
Pratt School, October 18th, 9:30-11am**

Items:

- 1) Minneapolis "One Read"
- 2) 2011 Budget
- 3) 2012 Budget
- 4) Managed Natural Landscape Ordinance Passes
- 5) Minneapolis Food Policy Council
- 6) Farmers Market Ordinance
- 7) Stadium Village Study
- 8) Forums on Foot
- 9) Fay Thomson Center Hearing
- 10) 15th Ave SE Bike Lanes
- 11) New City Domain Name
- 12) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) This fall the City is sponsoring a "One Read" effort that I hope will unite people by having many of us read the same book and start deeper conversations about race, family and the history of our City. The book, *The Grace of Silence* by Minneapolis native and National Public Radio host Michele Norris, describes Norris's experience as a child of the first black family on their block in a south Minneapolis neighborhood. Michele Norris and MPR News host Kerri Miller will be at the Guthrie **Monday, October 3rd** at 7pm for a discussion followed by a dessert reception. Tickets: \$10 – general admission; \$5 – seniors, students, limited income. You can purchase tickets at www.GuthrieTheater.org or by calling the Guthrie at (612) 377-2224. You can find the One Minneapolis, One Read event schedule, information and resources at www.OneMinneapolisOneRead.com.

- 2) The process to amend the City's 2011 budget finally ended in September. Responding to cuts in funding from the state, the Council passed a plan that would have kept all current firefighters on the job until the end of this year. The Mayor vetoed that action, citing the fact that it was not balanced through the end of 2012. Last Friday, the Council failed to override his veto by an 8-5 vote. I voted for the initial motion, and voted to override the veto. A compromise budget solution that saved 4 of the 10 laid off firefighters through the end of 2012, by taking 2011 funding for 13 other unfilled City positions, passed unanimously. Council President Johnson moved a list of four other unfilled positions from other City departments, including the new bicycle and pedestrian coordinator. I voted against all of these additional changes. In my opinion, we should not make decisions about the 2012 budget before and outside of that budget process (this was my point of disagreement with the Mayor's veto as well). Two of Johnson's motions passed on narrow 7-6 votes, one failed on an 8-5 vote, and the bicycle and pedestrian coordinator motion failed on an extremely lopsided 11-2 vote. You can read more analysis on my blog.

- 3) The 2012 budget approval process is well underway. The Mayor's proposal for no property tax levy increase in 2012 was approved by the Board of Estimate and Taxation in early September. To accomplish this, the Mayor has proposed budget cuts in many areas. All budget hearings will be broadcast live (and rebroadcast) on City cable channel 79. You can find the rebroadcast schedule and also view the hearings online at www.minneapolismn.gov/webcasts. Final approval of the budget is scheduled for **December 14th**. Two public hearings will be held before the budget's approval, one on Wednesday, **Nov. 30**, 6:05 p.m. and one on Wednesday, **Dec. 14**, 6:05 p.m., both in City Hall, 350 South 5th Street, room 317. For more information on the Mayor's proposed 2012 budget, see www.minneapolismn.gov/mayor and <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/city-budget/2012recc/index.asp>.

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 tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' an wac 612-673-2188.

- 4) The Managed Natural Landscape ordinance I authored passed the Council unanimously. I see this as a major step forward in allowing and encouraging residents to use more ecologically sustainable plantings in their yards, with all the attendant improvements to storm water management, biodiversity, air quality and more.
- 5) The resolution I authored creating the City's first-ever Homegrown Minneapolis Food Policy Council has passed the Council unanimously. Now we need applicants to serve on it. Applicants may be people with experience working with one or more aspects of our food system or people who have strong interest in making the food system more healthy, sustainable and local. The council will develop policies and advise elected leaders on ways to expand access to healthy, sustainable, and locally grown foods and address other challenges, including food processing, promotion, distribution, consumption and composting. Applications available at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards-and-commissions>.
- 6) Earlier this year, the University and the City worked together on a study of the tree canopy in Minneapolis. The data from this study have now been made available via an intuitive and easy-to-use application on the City's website: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/mplsurbantreecanopymap.asp>. This application allows users to find the tree canopy percentages for individual parcels or for neighborhoods. The tree canopy coverage for Prospect Park is **29%**, just below the City's goal for citywide tree-coverage. The Minneapolis Tree Advisory Committee made five key recommendations for what the City can do with this data: study the effects of the recent north side tornado; make the data readily available; analyze it with other information to find the best places to plant trees for energy efficiency, storm water management and other City goals; do outreach to residents, neighborhood groups, businesses and others to encourage tree plantings in the most advantageous locations; and repeat the study at least every five years. I am very supportive of all of these recommendations, and pleased to report that progress has already been made on several of them.
- 7) The Farmers Market ordinance I have been working on will come before the Regulatory Energy and Environment committee on **October 24th**, at 1:30pm. This ordinance, if passed, will dramatically improve the regulatory processes for farmers markets, and require that most vendors at farmers markets be local growers.
- 8) The results of the retail and commercial market study, which is part of the Stadium Village planning process, are available for download on the city's Stadium Village study website at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/Stadium_Village.asp.
- 9) Please join the University Alliance for a "Forum on Foot" regarding the Discovery District and the SEMI area on Tuesday, **September 27th**, at 5:30pm, and for a University District Design Principles focus group on **Wednesday, October 5**, at 5:30pm, at Van Cleve Commons community room.
- 10) The Minneapolis Pollution Control Agency will host a community information meeting on **Thursday, October 13th**, 7-9:00pm at Van Cleve Park, on the re-permitting of the Fay Thompson Center. The Center, located at 501 23rd Avenue SE, is the University's hazardous waste management facility (www1.umn.edu/twincities/maps/ThompCtr/).
- 11) The City has unveiled innovative new bike lane treatments on 15th Avenue southeast. They include green bike lanes in the "conflict zones" approaching and in the intersections of 5th St SE, 4th St SE and University Ave. This is an important improvement, in part because the intersection of 15th and 4th is where University student Audrey Hull was hit and killed by a truck this April. This new lane striping will help raise awareness of bicyclists and let drivers know that they are legally required to yield to bikes, which I believe will help prevent future tragedies. 15th Ave SE carries more bicyclists on an average day than any other street in Minneapolis, at 3,500. That's a higher than 12% mode share, meaning that one in eight people on 15th are on bikes. I want to specifically thank Steve Mosing in the Minneapolis Public Works Department for making this happen, and the Hull family for their continuing, constructive engagement in making Minneapolis a safer place for bicyclists.
- 12) The City has switched to an easier, shorter domain name: www.minneapolismn.gov. All City emails have changed accordingly (although emails sent to the old email addresses should still reach us). My new email is cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov, my Policy Aide's is robin.garwood@minneapolismn.gov, and my Associate's is nancy.olsen@minneapolismn.gov.
- 13) 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.