



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 10-4-11

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:
Tuesday, October 11th, 9:30-11:00am
Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como Avenue SE

Items:

- 1) 2012 Budget
- 2) Neighborhood Funding
- 3) Farmers Market Ordinance
- 4) Proposed Changes to CUP Process
- 5) Food Policy Council
- 6) Fay Thompson Center Community Meeting
- 7) Improvements to Bike Lanes on 15th Ave SE
- 8) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) Mayor Rybak has submitted his 2012 budget and this year's budget approval process is now formally 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 and so there will be no levy increase next year. To accomplish this, the Mayor has proposed budget cuts in many areas. With another hard year because of the recession and changes made to tax policy at the state legislature, many homeowners may still see property tax increase. For a schedule of all departments' budget hearings, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/city-budget. 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 Dec. 14. 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>. My focus in the weeks ahead will be to better understand the proposed cuts and work to preserve those services and resources that provide the most benefits to residents and help target funds to the investments that will help most in making this a healthier, more sustainable and better city for the future.
- 2) 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.

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 dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' an wac 612-673-2188.

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- 3) The Farmers Market ordinance I have been working on will come before the Regulatory Energy and Environment committee for a public hearing on **October 24th**, at 1:30pm.
- 4) Council member Schiff has introduced a zoning code amendment related to the regulation and approval of new apartment buildings, condominiums, and mixed use development with a residential component. The amendment would remove the need for a Conditional Use Permit and public hearing for residential developments of five or more dwelling units. A public hearing on the amendment was scheduled for the September 19th City Planning Commission meeting but after getting requests for additional information and time for analysis the City Planning Commission postponed the public hearing until **October 17th**. Following the hearing the Planning Commission will forward its recommendation to the City Council for consideration. More information is linked on item #12 here: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/agendas/planning-commission/2011/CPC_Actions_09-19-112.asp. If the amendment passes, projects with five or more units would still be required to file an application for "Site Plan Review. Site plan review is done by staff and does not require a public hearing. It typically addresses issues such as building placement on a lot, exterior materials and windows, vehicle and pedestrian access, and landscaping and screening. As proposed, any project with 10 or more units would be required to go through the public hearing process for their site plan review application, which would preserve the existing public process and neighborhood notification. Buildings with between five and nine units—typically fewer than five projects per year, citywide—would become eligible for administrative approval as long as they are submitting no other applications such as variances, a rezoning, CUP to increase allowed height, etc.
- 5) We need applicants to serve on the new Minneapolis Food Policy Council. 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 are available at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards-and-commissions>. If you would be interested in being part of the exciting ongoing work to improve our local food economy, I encourage you to apply.
- 6) 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 is located at 501 23rd Avenue SE, and is the University's hazardous waste management facility. (Map at <http://www1.umn.edu/twincities/maps/ThompCtr/>).
- 7) 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.
- 8) 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. There are openings on the following: [Minneapolis Arts Commission](#), [Basset Creek Watershed Management Commission](#), [Board of Appeal & Equalization](#), [Civilian Police Review Authority](#), [Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights](#), [Minneapolis Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee \(CLIC\)](#), [Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities](#), [Minneapolis Ethical Practices Board](#), [Minneapolis Housing Board of Appeals](#), [Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission \(HPC\)](#), [Minneapolis Telecommunications Network \(MTN\)](#), [Minneapolis Planning Commission](#), [Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners](#), [Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Vacancy](#), [Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission](#). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.