



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 9-6-11

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:
Tuesday, September 13th, 9:30-11:00am
Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como Avenue SE

Items:

- 1) Como Cookout
- 2) 2011 Budget
- 3) 2012 Budget
- 4) New City Domain Name
- 5) "We Want You Back"
- 6) Minneapolis "One Read"
- 7) Managed Natural Landscape Ordinance Passes
- 8) Food Policy Council Created
- 9) Tax Increment Financing Policy
- 10) Welcome Week
- 11) SECIA and Green Village Honored
- 12) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) I look forward to seeing everyone at the 9th Annual Como Cookout is scheduled for **September 18th**, 2-5 pm, at Van Cleve Park.
- 2) The process to amend the City's 2011 budget is finally over. 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 of last Friday's actions on my blog.
- 3) On August 11th, the Mayor delivered a written budget message to the City Council outlining his intention to request that the maximum levy increase be set at 2%. The levy is the total amount of property taxes we collect from all property tax payers combined. Last year's levy increase was 4.7%. Other highlights of his message included proposing that there be no salary increases and that he is using a new budgeting approach called "priority-based budgeting" this year. The Mayor's full budget proposal is expected to be presented to the Council, and made available to the public, on September 12th, with the Mayor's Budget Address to the Council at 12 noon. On the 13th the Board of Estimate and Taxation will hold a public hearing and vote on the proposed levy. These meetings constitute the beginning of the budget setting season (or process) that runs from September to December here in City Hall.
- 4) 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.

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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- 5) Once again this year, The Minneapolis Public Schools, Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board and City of Minneapolis are coordinating a campaign to get un-enrolled students back in school. "We Want You Back" invites un-enrolled young people to come back to school, complete their credits and get their diploma. The campaign's strategy includes outreach at parks, libraries, and community events to generate awareness, culminating in a citywide door-knocking event on **Saturday, Sept. 10**. Minneapolis Public Schools staff will be available that day to help students with the re-enrollment process. To sign up to volunteer, or if you know a young person who would like to re-enroll, contact Jo Haberman with the Youth Coordinating Board at 612-673-2720.
- 6) This summer and fall the City is sponsoring a "One Read" effort that I hope will unite people by having us all 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. For more info visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/oneminneapolisoneread.asp>, email oneread@minneapolismn.gov or call Cheyenne Erickson: (612) 673-2052, or Jenny Chayabutr: (612) 673-2509.
- 7) The Managed Natural Landscape ordinance I authored passed the Council unanimously last Friday. 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.
- 8) The resolution I authored creating the City's first-ever Food Policy Council has passed the Council unanimously. This body will be a long term advisory committee that will be empowered to advise the City on all matters relating to food, especially local food issues. Formation of this group is one of the key recommendations of the Homegrown Minneapolis initiative, and it will take on the continuing work of Homegrown.
- 9) I again had the opportunity to join other City and University staff and Southeast Como residents to meet and greet new student renters in southeast neighborhoods last week, distributing welcome bags with resource information. This event was organized by the Student and Community Relations Office at the U of M.
- 10) The Council is considering making changes to its Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Policy. TIF is state established funding scheme that allows cities to borrow money and pay it back over time with the incremental increase in taxes after property improvements are made. The proposed amendment to the TIF Policy includes the following changes: added language encouraging proposals that accomplish objectives related to transit-oriented development, public infrastructure improvements, job creation and increasing the tax base; definitions of selected terms (transit-oriented development, public infrastructure improvements, job creation and increasing the tax base) and a new guideline stating the City may exercise the option to pool TIF revenue to assist qualified low-income rental housing anywhere in the city. You can read the full staff report here http://www.minneapolismn.gov/council/2011-meetings/20110902/Docs/TIF_Policy_RCA.pdf.
- 11) Congratulations to SECIA and The Como Green Village for being selected as one of 30 collaborations throughout the state being recognized for improving Minnesota's towns and neighborhoods. See <http://www.incommons.org/MCPS> for more.
- 12) 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.