



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Second Ward

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 1-18-12

Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:
Tuesday, February 7th, 9:30-11:00am
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave

Items:

- 1) Resolution on Remittances to the Horn of Africa
- 2) RFPs for Parking Lots
- 3) Death Near the River
- 4) New Second Ward Community Relations Intern
- 5) Bar Spacing Requirements
- 6) Currie Park Lofts
- 7) 2012 STEP-UP Summer Youth Applications
- 8) Central Corridor Trusted Advocate Program
- 9) Community Organizing in Public Housing
- 10) 2012 Budget
- 11) Bailey Building Loan
- 12) Ross Pharmacy Loan
- 13) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) A Council committee has passed a resolution calling on all those who have played a role in the stoppage of money transfers through Hawalas from Minneapolis residents to relatives in Somalia to find a way to reopen this absolutely critical financial link. As Somalia suffers one of the worst famines in the world in decades, it is vital that Minneapolis residents continue to be able to send remittances to their relatives. Read more on my blog.
- 2) CPED staff is preparing a timeline to issue a Request for Proposals for the management of the three City owned commercial parking lots on the West Bank (A, B, and C). Staff expects to issue the RFP in early to mid spring, with a decision this fall.
- 3) A man was found dead near Riverside Park last Friday. It appears that he may have been homeless, and though I have not yet heard from the Police Department about a likely cause of death, it has been very cold over the last several days. If you notice persons who seem to be homeless and in need of help, please call **Street Outreach**, a joint project of Hennepin County, the City of Minneapolis and Saint Stephens church, at **612-879-7624**.
- 4) In December we welcomed a new intern to the Ward 2 office, Farhio Khalif. Farhio will work on community outreach and neighborhood relations, with a focus on supporting neighborhood organizations in their community building efforts. I think she is a good addition to our team and To contact Farhio call the office or her directly at 612-702-4913 or Farhio@aol.com.
- 5) After hearing concerns from residents and neighborhood organizations and getting incomplete and inaccurate information from city staff I voted (with the minority) against lifting the restrictions on alcohol-serving establishments within 300 feet of religious places of assembly that make more that 25% of revenues from alcohol sales and/or advertise liquor on the outside of their buildings. I voted (with the majority) in favor of allowing breweries to sell on-sale within 300 feet of religious places of assembly.
- 6) The Council's Community Development committee has unanimously voted in favor of a resolution giving preliminary approval of up to \$27 million in tax exempt multifamily housing entitlement revenue bonds for the Currie Park Lofts project. The committee also authorized staff to continue analysis of the Currie Park Lofts project proposal to determine if tax increment financing (TIF) assistance is appropriate and justifiable.

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email Ahmed.Muhumud@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may call 311 or 612-673-3000. TTY users may call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

Attention: If you want help translating this information in language other than Hmong, Spanish or Somali, call 311

Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneysa in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

- 7) The City of Minneapolis Employment and Training Program (METP) has announced that applications are now being accepted for summer youth employment STEP-UP opportunities. The application deadline is February 3, 2012. STEP-UP serves youth ages 14-21 who live in the City of Minneapolis, are not enrolled and actively attending college and come from lower-income households (for example, the annual maximum income for a family of 4 is \$64,000). Applications are available at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/news/WCMS1P-085161>. For more information or if you are a Minneapolis business interested in employing a STEP-UP intern contact Tammy Dickinson at (612) 673-5041.
- 8) The District Councils Collaborative of Saint Paul and Minneapolis (DCC) and Metro Transit have formed a partnership to implement a pilot "trusted advocate" community engagement model to ensure all communities have a voice in the study. The trusted advocate project focus is to reach communities of color, new immigrant communities, people with disabilities and low-income families and individuals. The District Councils Collaborative of Saint Paul and Minneapolis (DCC) is accepting applications from individuals interested in being Trusted Advocates for their communities. Trusted Advocates are members of a community who have established themselves as leaders or advocates and have built confidence amongst their community.
- 9) On December 14, the City Council unanimously passed the 2012 budget. The Mayor and Council were forced to make a number of difficult choices because of cuts at the state and federal levels, and in order to avoid property tax increases. Some positive results include:
- The property tax levy was not increased.
 - The capital budget includes \$150 million for street repairs over the next five years, 60% more than expected.
 - The Mayor's proposed cut of \$240,000 to the Minneapolis Telecommunication Network was trimmed back to a \$90,000 cut.
 - There will be no layoffs of Community Crime Prevention Specialists, firefighters or police officers.
 - The Council approved \$50,000 (from the \$125,000 cut in the Mayor's proposed budget) to support the It's All About the Kids Collaborative that helps provide stable housing for families identified as homeless who have children at participating Minneapolis Public School.
- More disappointing outcomes include:
- Layoffs of roughly 25 city employees with another 50 (or so) from the Convention Center being changed from permanent, full time staff to temporary, as needed employees.
 - A cut of \$ 200,000 to the Neighborhood Health Care Network that helps community clinics, like the People's Center, the Community University Health Center, Neighborhood Health Source, Indian Health Board and Southside Community Services provide affordable health care services to uninsured Minneapolis residents.
- 10) The Mayor's proposed budget cut \$68,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars from community organizing in public housing communities. These funds pay for organizing resident councils, the crime prevention program Project Lookout, and helps fund the monthly *Highrise Lowdown* newsletter. These are essential services for the more than five thousand residents of public housing in Minneapolis. The City has devoted CDBG dollars to this essential work for the last 24 years. I worked with CPED and finance staff to find approximately \$67,000 in unspent CDBG community engagement funds from 2010 that we could dedicate to public housing organizing next year. This motion was tabled and will be taken up at the Community Development committee in 2012. I am hopeful that funding can still be found to support this work.
- 11) The Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) staff have sent a default notice to the West Bank CDC on the loan secured by the Bailey Building at Cedar and Riverside. The full amount of the loan, \$347,523, was due on November first of last year. The WBCDC made a partial payment of \$69,504.60, leaving an unpaid balance of \$278,018.40. The WBCDC requested that the City enter into a payment plan under which this unpaid balance would be paid off over the next five years. The City has expressed a willingness to enter into such a plan only if the WBCDC agrees to relinquish control of the City-owned commercial parking lot adjacent to 1927 5th St S (the African Development Center). To my knowledge, no response has yet been received.
- 12) CPED staff have also been in discussions with Phillip and Ann Kor, the owners of Ross Pharmacy, about forgiveness of a \$69,000 no-interest loan. Staff have agreed to extend the payment date from August of this year until 2017, or when the building is sold. An interest rate of 3.9% has been put on the loan.
- 13) There are openings on the Animal Care & Control Advisory Committee, Family Housing Fund (McKnight), Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Public Health Advisory Committee, Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners and Senior Citizens Advisory Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.