



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

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## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood, 2-27-12

**Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:  
Pratt School, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11am**

**Items:**

- 1) Central Corridor Construction
- 2) Temporary Signal at University and 29<sup>th</sup>
- 3) I-94 Sound Wall
- 4) Granary Road in 2012 Bonding Request
- 5) Funding Application for Boeser Site
- 6) Compost Ordinance
- 7) Redistricting
- 8) Urban Agriculture Zoning Code Text Amendments
- 9) Vikings Stadium
- 10) Community Garden Plots Available
- 11) City Council Formally Opposes Marriage Amendment
- 12) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) As you have almost certainly noticed, construction has begun on the private utilities on and under University Avenue in preparation for Central Corridor construction this year. My office heard multiple complaints in the last two weeks from residents about the poor quality of the pedestrian accommodations made during construction, and took an active role in communicating these concerns to the Central Corridor Project Office and the private utilities. It sounds like there has been some improvement on the avenue since that time. If you have concerns about the construction impacts on University, please do not hesitate to let my office know.
- 2) The funding for a temporary signal at 29<sup>th</sup> and University will be coming to the Transportation and Public Works committee tomorrow, February 28<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30am. The City will devote \$25,000, or 25% of the total project cost. Hennepin County will fund another 25%, and the Met Council will provide the rest. I hope and expect that this will pass the Council, and work can start on this signal soon.
- 3) I attended a meeting with residents who are concerned about the increase in freeway noise related to the new sound wall on I-94, and I continue to work with residents and Prospect Park's state representative and senator on this issue.
- 4) The City's 2012 bonding requests to the Legislature once again include funds for constructing Granary Road.
- 5) The Council has applied for grants from the 2012 Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Demonstration Account TOD Grants and Tax Base Revitalization Account Contamination Cleanup TOD Grants for the Boeser Site. The request to the Met Council is for \$720,306, and the project is ranked third. The Prospect Park 2020 Plan deserves much of the credit for this result, and it's great to see this community-led planning have an impact on the City's development decisions.
- 6) The ordinance amendments I have authored to the City's composting ordinance passed the Regulatory Energy and Environment committee earlier today. These changes would increase the allowable size for compost areas, clarify the requirements on compost bin construction and the types of materials that can be composted, require that compost areas be covered with a layer of odor-reducing material like dry leaves or straw, and authorize City staff to require people who violate the terms of the ordinance to take a course in composting. These amendments came from recommendations from the urban gardening community, have been vetted by City, County and MPCA staff, and are supported by both the Environmental Advisory Committee and new Food Council.

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact Matt Bower at (612) 673-2188 or [Matthew.Bower@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto: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.

- 7) As you likely know, the Redistricting Group of the Charter Commission is currently drafting new Ward maps for the City of Minneapolis. Public hearings on the first draft maps will be held **February 29** from 5-7pm at Webber Community Center, 4400 Dupont Ave N and **March 1** from 5-7pm at Hosmer Library, 347 E 36th St. See <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/redistricting2012> for more information. Various maps have been drafted both by the Commission and outside groups. The most recent map from the Commission (dated February 15), agrees in principle with a map put forward by the one developed by the "Committee for a Fair Redistricting," a group of primarily East African stakeholders. Both maps would create a minority opportunity ward, a proposed Ward 6 or a significantly altered Ward 2, which would have an African American population of around **40%**, a Hispanic population of around **20%**, a Native American population of between **4%** and **7%** and a White population of **33%**. The key difference between the maps from Prospect Park's perspective is that the Redistricting Group's map would keep Prospect Park in Ward 2, whereas the "Fair" map combine it and the east half of Seward in a new Ward 9.
- 8) On January 25, the City Planning Commission unanimously voted to approve the zoning code amendments I have authored to help implement the Urban Agriculture Policy Plan the Council adopted last spring. This is an exciting first step in changing the City's land use rules to make urban agriculture possible. You can see the draft text amendments here: [www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-083823.pdf](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-083823.pdf). The commission received 70 written comments and 13 people spoke at the public hearing and all were in favor of the amendments as proposed and recommended by staff. The amendments will now move to the Zoning and Planning Committee for consideration on **March 1**. Read more analysis on the Second Ward blog.
- 9) On January 26, the City Council discussed the Mayor and Council President's proposal for a new Vikings Stadium in Minneapolis. (See <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/cow/WCMS1P-084388> and <http://v.qwikcast.tv/view.aspx?q=PVG6> for more). I was glad to see that the plan includes a way to remove the costs of the Target Center from property taxes and that the preferred location is the current site of the Metrodome. This site has already been assembled at great cost in east Downtown and is currently served by a light rail station that will soon grant access to two light rail corridors. But I was very concerned about the use of public funds, the amount of debt that would be taken on by the City and the use of local taxes as a funding source. Under this plan, the City would take on over \$300,000,000 in debt to be paid back with local hospitality, entertainment and sales tax revenue over 30 years. I am also very concerned about the plan to ignore our Charter. I believe that no city resources over \$10 million dollars should be used without a referendum, in keeping with the Charter. The state legislature should not pass any proposal that undermines our City's most fundamental legal document, essentially our Constitution.
- 10) The City has 10 vacant lots available for qualifying groups to lease for community gardens. These City-owned lots were selected because they are not appropriate for development and will remain available for years of gardening even as the economy changes and redevelopment picks up. Lots are available first-come, first-served to qualifying groups. Experienced community garden groups may be eligible for three- to five-year leases, while groups gardening for the first time will start with one-year leases. A qualifying group will be a not-for-profit or a group with a not-for-profit sponsor. The garden will also need to have liability insurance. For more visit [http://www.minneapolismn.gov/health/homegrown/dhfs\\_gardeners](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/health/homegrown/dhfs_gardeners) or call [612-673-5051](tel:612-673-5051).
- 11) The City Council has voted unanimously to publicly oppose a proposed state constitutional amendment that would ban marriage for same-sex couples in Minnesota. This action will be officially approved at the City Council's February 10 meeting. In 2011, the Minnesota legislature voted to place the following question on the November 6, 2012 election ballot: "Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to provide that only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota?" If the measure is approved, the state constitution would be amended to add a new section that reads; "Only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota." I strongly oppose this ballot initiative, and am a proud Steering Committee member of Minnesota United for All Families, a broad coalition of organizations joined to defeat the proposed amendment. To learn more or get involved visit [www.mnunited.org](http://www.mnunited.org).
- 12) There are openings on the Animal Care & Control Advisory Committee, Capital Long Range Improvement Commission, 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](mailto:cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov).