

Cam Gordon

City Council Member Second Ward

350 South 5th Street - Room 301M Minneapolis MN 55415

Office 612-673-2202
Fax 612-673-3940
Cell 612-296-0579
TTY 612-673-2157

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, llama 612-673-2700;

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

cam.gordon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us Affirmative Action Employer

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 3-6-12

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

Items:

- 1) 2012 Budget
- 2) Redistricting
- 3) Urban Agriculture Zoning Code Text Amendments
- 4) Compost Ordinance
- 5) Vikings Stadium
- 6) Solar on Station 19
- 7) New Ward 2 Intern: Farhio Khalif
- 8) Taxis Forced to Take Credit Cards
- 9) New Staff in Public Works
- 10) Minneapolis Opposes Marriage Amendment
- 11) Openings on City Boards and Commissions
- 1) On December 14, the City Council unanimously passed the 2012 budget. This was an especially difficult budget for me to support because it included many layoffs and significant cuts to some very valuable programs and services. 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. Positive results of the budget 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.
 - The budget invests in the coordinated One Minneapolis initiative to reduce racial inequity in unemployment and a proposed position cut to Civil Rights, that could be central to this effort, was recovered.
 - Although proposed, there will be no layoffs of Community Crime Prevention Specialists, thanks to a budget surplus in the Police Department.
 - The Mayor's proposed budget was amended to keep the City Attorney's Domestic Assault Prosecution Partnership program and support the Domestic Abuse Project.
 - There are also no layoffs to firefighters or police officers.
 - The City will continue to support Restorative Justice, like the Seward Longfellow Restorative Justice Programs, to the tune of \$20,000.
 - 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 last minute amendment that narrowly passed despite my strong opposition that transferred \$125,000 from 311 to the City Council. This will likely mean the loss of two 311 operators.
- The closing of our Housing Services office (see details below).
- 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.
- No City funds for Senior programs like Southeast Seniors.
- The Homegrown Minneapolis coordinator position was not funded.

- 2) The Redistricting Group of the Charter Commission is currently drafting new Ward maps for the City of Minneapolis. 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 February 15th map would put the southern half of Southeast Como in Ward 2 and the northern half in Ward 1.
- 3) The zoning code text amendments driven by the Urban Agriculture Policy Plan will be coming to the Council's Zoning and Planning committee on March 1. Because that agenda also features fights about two controversial developments, and because some Council Members have signaled that they may attempt to make substantive amendments to weaken the Urban Ag Text Amendments, I expect the vote to be continued one cycle, until the next Zoning and Planning meeting on **March 22**nd. I support the staff recommendation, and will fight for the strongest possible changes to the zoning ordinance, in keeping with the Urban Agriculture Policy Plan that the Council unanimously passed last year. For more analysis, please see the Second Ward blog.
- 4) The composting ordinance I authored has passed the Council's Regulatory Energy and Environment committee unanimously with one abstention. I am hopeful that these amendments will pass the full Council on March 8th. The text of the ordinance, as well as a description, sample site plans and staff's power point presentation, are here: http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/ree/WCMS1P-087704 (item number 9).
- 5) I do not support using Minneapolis sales taxes to finance a new Vikings stadium without the referendum required by the City Charter. Read more at the Second Ward blog.
- 6) In February a new solar installation was put on Station 19 to provide electricity and hot water to the building. The station is one of six Minneapolis buildings that have new solar installations funded by a grant from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the Minnesota Department of Commerce, and using Xcel Energy rebates. The roof of Fire Station No. 19 features 58 new solar electric panels, which will provide 9.83 kilowatts of power, and three solar thermal panels, which will provide the fire station with 50 to 70 percent of its hot water needs.
- 7) 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.
- 8) Over my strong objections, the Council has forced taxis in Minneapolis to take credit cards. I opposed this action because it became clear that the credit card fees (amounting to 5-7% of each fare) will almost universally come out of the income of drivers. Taxi drivers tend to be some of the poorest members of our communities, and many are recent immigrants. I do not believe it is fair to place the convenience of taxi passengers and profits for Wall Street above the well being of taxi drivers. You can read more on my blog.
- 9) The Public Works Director has appointed **David Herberholz** as the City's new Director of Solid Waste and Recycling. He is currently employed by the city of Tampa, Florida, as the Residential Services Manager for their solid waste department. He has also had fifteen years of experience in solid waste in the private sector. He is originally from Michigan, so he is familiar with Midwestern winters. I want to thank Interim Director **Jeff Jenks** for his great work over the last few months. The Public Works Director has also appointed **Shaun Murphy** as the City's first Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator. You may be familiar with that name, as Shaun has coordinated the incredibly successful Non-Motorized Transportation Pilot since 2007, and has been one of the public faces of the City's bicycle program. I'm very excited to welcome Shaun into this new role.
- 10) The City Council has voted unanimously to publicly oppose a proposed state constitutional amendment that would ban marriage for same-sex couples 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
- 11) There are openings on the Civilian Police Review Authority, Minneapolis Ethical Practices Board, Family Housing Fund (McKnight), Public Health Advisory Committee, and Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.