



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

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Second Ward

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# Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 2-16-12

**Cam's next Cooper/Seward Office Hours:  
Tuesday February 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am  
Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St**

## Items:

- 1) Redistricting
- 2) Remittances Resolution
- 3) Compost Ordinance
- 4) Urban Agriculture Text Amendments
- 5) Vikings Stadium
- 6) New Ward 2 Intern
- 7) Community Garden Lots Available
- 8) Marriage Amendment
- 9) McDonald's on Lake
- 10) Congratulations Fartun Hassan
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) As you likely know, the Redistricting Group of the Charter Commission is currently drafting new Ward maps for the City of Minneapolis. Various maps have been drafted both by the Commission and outside groups. The Commission released their first draft plan yesterday, which would create two minority opportunity wards, one on the north side and one on the near south side. In most maps that have been released, the communities represented by the LCC are divided into wards 2, 9 and 12. There are public meetings scheduled for **February 29**, from 5-7pm at the Webber Community Center, 4400 Dupont Ave N, and **March 1**, from 5-7pm, Hosmer Library, 347 E 36th St. You can find more maps and information here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/redistricting2012>.
- 2) The resolution calling on all those who have played a role in the stoppage of money transfers through Hawalas to reopen this absolutely critical financial link has passed the full Council with my strong support. Read more at the Second Ward blog.
- 3) The ordinance amendments I have authored to the City's composting ordinance come before the Regulatory Energy and Environment committee on Monday, **February 27<sup>th</sup>**, at 1:30pm in Council Chambers. 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.
- 4) 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.

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](mailto: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.

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

- 5) 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.
- 6) 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. To contact Farhio call the office or her directly at 612-702-4913 or [Farhio@aol.com](mailto:Farhio@aol.com).
- 7) 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.
- 8) 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)
- 9) Despite my no vote, the Council majority voted to grant the appeal filed on behalf of McDonalds related to the site plan for the new store they plan to build at their 31st and Lake location. This includes a drive thru lane that wraps around the building. This overruled the Planning Commission's approved conditions that the building be relocated to comply with the more pedestrian friendly Zoning Code and be located within 8 feet of the property lines along Lake St and 31st Ave S.; and that the main entrances to the building connect to the sidewalks along E Lake St and 31st Ave S.
- 10) Second Ward seventh-grader Fartun Hassan has won third place in the 2012 Martin Luther King Essay Contest. Great work, Fartun! More information is available here: <http://civilrightsminneapolis.wordpress.com/2012/01/25/2012-mlk-essay-contest-and-the-winners-are/>.
- 11) 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](mailto:cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov).