

**News from Cam Gordon
Council Member, Second Ward
May 2012**

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/council/ward2>

Stadium Subsidy Plan Passes. On a razor-thin 7-6 vote, the City Council has given local approval to the stadium bill that passed the Legislature earlier in May. I strongly opposed this and repeatedly spoke out against it. I believe that redirecting more than ½ billion dollars in city sales tax revenue to primarily benefit a private company is fiscally irresponsible, unfair to Minneapolis taxpayers and violates the City Charter. The enormous size of the public subsidy is unacceptable and the long term debt of \$575 to \$850 million dollars, that Minneapolis would be responsible for paying off, is too big a burden to place on Minneapolis. The project takes over \$400,000 a year in property taxes off the tax rolls, exempts the Vikings from paying property taxes and, after 2020, puts funding to maintain the Convention Center and Target Center at risk. It also eliminates almost all hope of reducing future sales taxes or using them to help provide more basic services or support investments with greater public benefit. More fundamentally, however, I opposed this because I believe that any stadium deal that uses Minneapolis sales tax money should be put to the voters, as is required by our City's Charter. I believe that this Council, Mayor, Governor and Legislature have left a terrible mess for future generations to clean up and I am sorry I was unable to stop it.

Single Sort Recycling. The Council has approved changing our residential recycling program to a single (or no) sort system next year. According to a study that relied on recycling pilots in various Minneapolis neighborhoods and a study of similar cities, a single sort program will be easier for residents to use, significantly increase the amount of waste that is recycled (from the current 18% up to 32%) and cost the City less to administer. I am very supportive of this change, mostly because I believe we need to get as much recyclable material out of the standard waste stream as possible. For more information on the recycling collection, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/recycling

Bike Walk Week. Organizers of the annual Twin Cities Bike Walk Week are asking for your pledge to replace at least one car trip with biking or walking during this year's Bike Walk Week, June 2-10, in hopes that you'll develop a new, more active routine for getting around. Even if you already bike or walk to get around, sign up and be counted. Last year more than 10,000 people took the Bike Walk Week pledge, choosing active transportation over car travel. They discovered the benefits, starting with better health, money saved and a healthier environment. Join them this year for Bike Walk Week events. For details and a calendar of Bike Walk Week events, visit <http://bikewalkweek.org>.

Protests in Plazas. Council President Barb Johnson's resolution that would have severely restricted the rights of protestors on City-owned plazas in Minneapolis has been indefinitely delayed. I believe this is a good outcome.

Mayor Nominates Janee Harteau as Police Chief. As reported last month, Police Chief Tim Dolan is retiring. The Mayor has nominated Janee Harteau to be the City's first female Chief. I worked with Janee when she was Commander of the First Precinct (which includes the West Bank) and found her very capable and responsive to the community. I support this nomination, but I will be interested to hear whether she will

take the same approach to police accountability and the Civilian Review Authority as her predecessor, an approach that I do not believe has worked.

New City Coordinator: Paul Aasen. The Council has confirmed Paul Aasen as the new City Coordinator. Mr. Aasen has a background in science, government, and environmental issues, most recently leading the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. I am excited to have someone with such a clear environmental focus in this very important position, which oversees Sustainability, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology, Communications and more.

Help Water Boulevard Trees. Has a new boulevard tree been planted near your property recently? You can help it get a good start by ordering a tree watering bag from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board — at no direct cost to you. The Park Board will install it, and then you fill it up with water once a week. The Park Board will remove it later this fall. Contact the Park Board Forestry Division at 612-313-7710 or forestry@minneapolisparcs.org to get a request form. Your form must be returned by June 15.

Maximum Occupancy. As you may know, I support improving the City's Maximum Occupancy (MO) regulations. I have introduced the subject matter of an ordinance to do this, and it is currently near the bottom of the Planning Department's work plan. I consider the current ordinance to be unfair, outdated and very difficult to enforce. One problem with the current regulations, from my perspective, is that they apply only to "unrelated" persons, and that the definition of "family" is overly narrow. I know that in Minneapolis, there are numerous households that function as mutually-supportive family units for all practical purposes, but do not meet the City's definition of "family," and are therefore in violation of our MO ordinance. I also believe that the current MO regulations are not effective tools in addressing neighborhood livability concerns including parking, noise, and property upkeep and I am proud of the many successes the City has had in recent years to improve and protect livability in Southeast Minneapolis and I will continue to work hard to find fair and effective ways to do that. There are also interesting examples of regulations in other cities that might serve as models for regulations that protect neighborhoods without too narrowly and exclusively defining "family." I would like to work with all Second Ward neighborhoods, including Prospect Park, on a maximum occupancy reform that could gain broad based community support from longtime homeowners, student renters, LGBT families, and others. .

New Polling Places. Due to redistricting, the Council has adopted a new set of polling places for the new Ward 2 and the areas that have been in Ward 2. In Seward, Precinct 6-1, the area bounded by Franklin Ave on the north, Cedar Ave on the west, 24th St on the south and 25th Ave on the east, will vote at 2121 Minnehaha. Precinct 6-2, the area bounded by I-94 on the north, Cedar Ave or 25th Ave on the west, Franklin Ave or 24th St on the south and 30th Ave on the east, will vote at Seward Square Apartments, 2121 9th St S. Precinct 2-9, the area to the east of 30th Ave and the north of 24th St, will vote at Seward Tower East, 2910 E Franklin Ave. And Precinct 2-2, which includes everything in Seward south of 24th St, will vote at Anne Sullivan School, Sullivan Community School, 3100 28th St E. The Cooper neighborhood (precinct 2-8) will vote at Brackett Park (2728 39th Ave S), and the Longfellow neighborhood (precinct 2-1) to the east of Minnehaha will vote at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (2730 31st St E). The Howe neighborhood is split into two Ward 12 precincts, which vote at Longfellow Park (3435 36th Ave S) and Dowling Urban Environmental School (3900 River Parkway W). The

Hiawatha neighborhood is similarly in two precincts, which vote at St. Peder's Evangelical Lutheran Church, (4600 42nd St E) and Hiawatha Community School (4201 42nd Ave S). The portion of the West Bank west of 20th Ave S / 19th Ave S will be the new Precinct 6-3, and vote at the Brian Coyle Center. The portion of the neighborhood including Riverview Tower and Augsburg College will be in the Precinct 2-7 and will vote at Augsburg College's Christensen Center. And the portion of the neighborhood around Riverside Park will continue to vote at Seward Tower East at Riverside and Franklin. I want to flag a potential cause for confusion: the people who live in Seward Tower East will not be able to continue to vote in Seward Tower East – they will vote at Seward Square Apartments. However, there will be a polling place in Seward Tower East for people who do not live in the building. I attempted to change this polling place, to reduce this confusion, but was unable to find another good location on short notice. I will be interested to see how problematic this is for this fall's general election and plan to work with the Elections Department to find a different polling place for 2-9.

Bike Score. There's a new web-based tool called Bike Score (www.walkscore.com/bike/MN/Minneapolis) that gives a composite 'grade' for cities and neighborhoods on how bikeable they are. The score is based on bike lanes, hills, biking destinations and the number of bike commuters. Minneapolis tops the list as the most bikeable large city in the US, beating out cities like Portland, Seattle and San Francisco.

Minneapolis Falls to No. 2 in Best Bike Cities Rankings. Bicycling magazine, that ranked Minneapolis first two years ago, has ranked Minneapolis as the number two city in their biennial rankings of America's 50 Best Bike Cities. The complete rankings has Portland, Ore. reclaiming the title of the Best Bike City in America, and Boulder, Colo. (#3), Washington D.C. (#4) and Chicago (#5) rounding out the top five. For more information about bicycling in Minneapolis, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles.

Student Go-To Cards. Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS) in partnership with Metro Transit will offer Go-To Student Passes for most MPS high school students beginning in the 2012-2013 school year. Students at Edison, Henry, North, Roosevelt, Washburn and Wellstone will be able to ride transit buses and light rail trains Go-To Student Passes will allow high school riders access to buses and trains from 5 a.m. until 10 p.m. seven days a week for trips to and from school, as well as other destinations. The School District, Metro Transit and the Minneapolis Police Department are working collaboratively to ensure that students' riding safety is a top priority. Community informational meetings are being held throughout the spring. South and Southwest high schools will join the program in the 2013-2014 school year.

Low Benefit June 9. The indie rock group **Low** will headline the second annual benefit concert at Minneapolis' Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery on Saturday, June 9 with special guest Zoo Animal. Proceeds from the performance will help support the Friends of the Cemetery's efforts to restore the historic steel and limestone pillar fence that serves as the border of the cemetery along Lake Street and Cedar Avenue. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$16 at Electric Fetus, Hymie's Vintage Records, Treehouse Records, and online at www.friendsofthecemetery.org. Tickets will be sold at the show for \$20. Children 12 and under are free, however donations are accepted. Gates open at 4:30pm, with Zoo Animal performing at 5:30pm and Low taking the stage at 7:00pm.

Grants for Community-Based Clean Energy Projects. Is there an energy efficiency or renewable energy project in your community that needs a little help getting started? If

so, the Minnesota Clean Energy Resource Teams (CERT) provides funding for innovative, community-based clean energy projects. To have a project considered for funding, just fill out an application. Applications must be submitted no later than July 2nd, 2012 at 4:00pm. To get an application and find out more about the grants, go to <http://rfp.mncerts.org>.

Solar Workshop. Are you thinking about installing solar at your home or business? At a free workshop, you can hear from a panel of people who have had solar installed on their home or business, find out about incentives and rebates for installing solar and get resources to start your solar energy project. Solar works workshop: 6:30 to 8 pm, Thursday, July 5, Neighborhood Hub, Christ English Church, 3210 Oliver Ave N. To RSVP, visit <http://minneapolisnorthsolarworks.eventbrite.com>.

Housing Report. In May the City released a Results Minneapolis report on Healthy Housing that makes the case that the housing market in Minneapolis is beginning to show signs of rebounding after some very challenging years. For example, the number of foreclosures peaked at over 3,000 in 2008 and is now predicted to be half that amount in 2012. The report also shows that there are many more “cost burdened” households now when compared to 2000 and that the City has seen a significant reduction in owner-occupied single family homes in many neighborhoods and increase in rental property. While there have been relatively few foreclosures in the Second Ward the number of owner occupied homes being converted to rental property continues to be especially dramatic in some part of the ward. The full report is available here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@citycoordinator/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-093062.pdf>

2012 Neighborhood Survey. The Neighborhood and Community Relations Department has developed a survey to help assess the impact of neighborhood organizations, the NCR Department, the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) and the Community Participation Program (CPP). Leaders in neighborhood organizations are asked to complete the survey. It is confidential and will be analyzed by a third party consultant. The deadline is Friday, June 22. Results will be posted on line and emailed to all neighborhood groups and will be used as a tool for improving work with neighborhood organizations and as well as measuring the effectiveness of the CPP. Please forward this link on to other leaders and volunteers and to take the survey go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NCR2012>

Picturing Peace. A youth photography project that explores youth violence, peace, safety and community supports for young people will hold its opening celebration Tuesday, June 5 in the City Hall Rotunda Gallery from 5 – 6:30 p.m. This free, public event marks the start of the City Hall exhibit, which will be on display through June 18. City Hall is located at 350 S. Fifth St. Picturing Peace is a collaborative community engagement and photography project that explores youth violence, peace and safety, and community supports for young people. The exhibit provides an opportunity to raise awareness about youth violence and how residents can help make their communities safer for young people. Please RSVP to attend the opening online at <http://picturingpeace.eventbrite.com> or by calling 612-673-2729.

Mayor’s New Chief of Staff. The Mayor has named Jennifer O’Rourke as his new Chief of Staff, replacing Jeremy Hanson Willis. Jennifer has worked at the League of Minnesota Cities.

Digital Inclusion Report. The City recently completed a survey of residents to understand their use of and access to computers, mobile devices and the Internet. The results show that there is a gap, a digital divide, between certain individuals and groups. The City is taking a leadership role to help community members, the private sector, and groups interested in digital inclusion come together to address the digital divide in Minneapolis. The nearest meetings to Ward 2 neighborhoods are on Wednesday, June 13, 3:30-5pm at Northeast Library, 2200 Central Ave NE, and Wednesday, June 27, 4:30-6pm at Phillips Community Center, 2323 11th Ave S. To view the survey report, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/it/inclusion and click on "2012 Community Technology Survey."

MPCA Mississippi Water Pollution Report. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has released a "*South Metro Mississippi River Total Suspended Solids Total Maximum Daily Load Draft Report*" that proposes new standards for how cities should manage storm water runoff. Despite the fact that the primary source of pollutants for the area comes from agricultural sources, the standards proposed in the report are projected to cost cities (including Minneapolis) over \$843 million. . Cities are regulated, while agricultural land is not. On May 25 the city Council voted to submit both comments questioning the inconsistency of requirements between agricultural land and cities; and a petition for a contested case hearing to the MPCA. You can get information on the report here <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/minnesotas-impaired-waters-and-tmdl/tmdl-projects/lower-mississippi-river-basin-tmdl-projects/project-south-metro-mississippi-turbidity.html> and see press coverage at <http://www.startribune.com/local/155541495.html>

EPA Soil Clean Up Complete. The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency has completed its clean-up of the South Minneapolis Residential Soil Contamination Superfund Site. Since 2004, as part of the project, more than 470 homes have had arsenic contaminated soil removed and clean soil put in to replace it. There will be an event to mark this occasion at 1 pm Tuesday, June 5 at the East Philips Community Center, 2307 17th Ave. So. Everyone is welcome.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events. Minneapolis residents cleaning out their basements or reclaiming their garages can safely get rid of household hazardous materials at three collection events this summer. From paint, aerosol cans and pesticides to batteries and items containing mercury (for instance, thermostats and fluorescent bulbs), a lot of everyday products used at home cannot go in the trash. Hazardous wastes can harm humans and wildlife and pollute our air and water. Three collection events convenient for Minneapolis residents are: June 7 - 9 in St. Louis Park at the corner of Highway 7 and Louisiana Avenue; July 26 - 28 at Dunwoody College of Technology; August 16 - 18 at Pillsbury School. For details visit www.hennepin.us/collectionevents .

Celebrate Longfellow. The Longfellow Community Council (LCC) is hosting a Community Warming party and kicking off its "Take a Look at Longfellow" campaign Thursday, June 7th: 5-7 pm at the Longfellow Grill Patio, 2990 West River Parkway. There will also be a raffle featuring donations from local artists and businesses with all proceeds benefiting LCC. The event is free and open to everyone.

Pathways to a Peaceful Neighborhood. The Longfellow Community Council has put together a 3-part series of panel discussions on community-based approaches to crime and conflict. The first was on Restorative Justice. The next is on Conflict Mediation and will be held Tuesday, June 5, 6:30 pm – 8:30pm at Becketwood, Kensington Room (4300 West River Pkwy). The last will be on Court Watch on Thursday, June 28, 6:30 – 8:30pm at Holy Trinity Church (2730 East 31st St). Contact joanna@longfellow.org with questions or for more information.

Seward Concert Band Spring Concerts. The Seward Concert Band will perform on Monday, June 4, 2012 at 7:30 PM at the Lake Harriet Band Shell and on Friday, June 8, 2012 at 7:30 PM in the Auditorium of the Roosevelt High School, 4029-28th Avenue South. For info <http://www.sewardconcertband.org>

The Future of Stadium Village. A steering committee of representatives from the Stadium Village area neighborhoods and business associations, the City of Minneapolis, the University of Minnesota, Hennepin County, and the University District Alliance is finalizing a Stadium Village plan. Thursday, June 7, at the Argyle House Community Room (920 Delaware Street SE) people are invited to come learn more about the plan and recommendations, provide feedback and discuss priorities for implementation. Check in begins at 4:30 p.m. with a program from 5:00 to 6:15 p.m. You can see the draft plan at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/projects/cped_stadium_village and the Southeast Library.

The Pratt Ice Cream Social is this Friday, June 1, 2012, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m. Rain or Shine! This is the only day of the year that the Tower Observation deck is open to the public. There will also be food, games, entertainment and more.

West Bank Safety Center. The West Bank Safety Center officially opened this month. I want to thank everyone who helped make this happen: the West Bank Safety Committee chaired by Russom Solomon, the First Precinct, Sherman Associates and others. The number for the Safety Center is 612-333-9242, and the staff is Carla Nielsen with the Minneapolis Police Department.

Missing Young Man Found. Hassan Aden, the missing young Somali man from the West Bank, has tragically been found dead near the Franklin Avenue bridge in the Mississippi River. The County Medical Examiner has said that a report on the cause of death will be available in 4-6 weeks. My thoughts and prayers are with Hassan's family.

Stabbing on Cedar Avenue. This month, police responded to a stabbing call at 512 Cedar Ave S. They found Abdurahman Warfa dead from a stab wound to the neck. Minneapolis Police arrested and the Hennepin County Attorney's Office has charged his roommate, Abdirahim Hahmed Jama, with two counts of Second Degree Murder.

5th Street Greenspace. I facilitated a very productive meeting this past month between the African Development Center and residents of 5th St S regarding the new open space that will be created at the corner of Riverside and 5th St by the Riverside reconstruction project. It sounds like the ADC is open to setting up a "greening agreement" with the City, which would allow them to invest in and use the open space for additional seating for Afro Deli, among other things. I am supportive of this use of the new open space, and glad that the Riverside project has freed up some land that used to be pavement for this more community-serving purpose.

Minneapolis Ave and 33rd Ave. I have signed off on a proposal from City Public Works staff and supported by the Seward Neighborhood Group, to install a stop sign on 33rd Avenue where it crosses Minneapolis Avenue. This intersection is one of the only completely unsignalized intersections in Minneapolis.

33rd and 26th. Public Works has received a request to 'flip' the stop signs at the intersection of 33rd Ave S and 26th St E in Seward, from stopping 26th to stopping 33rd. This is an offset intersection, so these stop signs sometimes create confusion. However, this is one of fairly few stop signs on 26th St. The Seward Neighborhood Group Community Development Committee will be discussing this issue at their next meeting in June.

Stadium Good Neighbor Fund. The Stadium Area Advisory Group has announced the 2012 Good Neighbor Fund grant recipients. The Southeast Como Improvement Association will receive \$5,000 for their work on the Como Blueprint. The West Bank Business Association will get \$10,000 to support the West Bank Music Festival. The West Bank Community Coalition will receive \$9,600 for work on a crime prevention internship program, and \$10,000 for a West Bank beautification project. Congratulations to the grantees.

Summer Strong 2012. This summer the Minneapolis Public Schools, City of Minneapolis, the Minneapolis Police Department, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Hennepin County Library and the Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board are partnering to help provide families with resources to help them have a safe and strong summer. Four key areas are highlighted; summer school, youth and adult activities, basic needs and safety. Resources are accessible online at www.mpls.k12.mn.us/summerstrong. A resource guide will be mailed to homes across the city with children aged 0 - 18. In addition, the resource guides will be available for information racks and tables at our schools, parks, libraries and various community locations.

Foreclosure Forces Family Out of Home. I was disappointed to learn that the Minneapolis Police were again involved in removing people from a home due to a foreclosure. Apparently Freddie Mac got a court order to evict the Cruz family and despite evidence that the family was working with the bank that services the mortgage, the Hennepin County Sheriff's office and Minneapolis police and removed the family and later protesters who were trying to defend the home for the family in their home near 44th and Cedar. I support a freeze on foreclosures and finding a way to limit police involvement in enforcing evictions in these kinds of situations.

AchieveMpls 10th anniversary. AchieveMpls is an independent nonprofit partner of the Public School that manages Career & College Centers in the Minneapolis Public School high schools, leads the STEP-UP Achieve summer jobs program with the City of Minneapolis and engages the community to advocate for students as volunteers, community partners, funders, employers and advisers. It is hosting a public tenth anniversary party on Wednesday, June 6, 5:30 – 7:30pm. For more information see achievempls-10-year.eventbrite.com or call 612.455.1530.

Openings on City Boards and Commissions. There are openings on the Capital Long Range Improvement Commission, Civilian Police Review Authority, Family

Housing Fund (McKnight), Housing Board of Appeals, Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Neighborhood Community and Engagement Committee, Public Health Advisory Committee, Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, and Workforce Advisory Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.

Ward Office Hours. Every Tuesday morning I hold “Office Hours” in the Ward from 9:30-11:00am. Please feel free to call for an appointment or just stop by.

1st Tuesdays, Hard Times Café (West Bank/University);

2nd Tuesdays, Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como (SE Como);

3rd Tuesdays, Pratt School (Prospect Park);

4th Tuesdays, the Birchwood Cafe (Seward/Longfellow).

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