



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

## Cam Gordon

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Second Ward

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# Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 4-3-12

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:  
Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am  
Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como Avenue SE

### Items:

- 1) Redistricting
- 2) Urban Agriculture Zoning Code Text Amendments
- 3) Compost Ordinance
- 4) NRP Phase II Funding
- 5) Vikings Stadium
- 6) Earth Hour
- 7) New Yard Waste Rules
- 8) NCEC Elections
- 9) Spring Street Sweeping
- 10) Winter with No Snow Emergency
- 11) Homelessness Report
- 12) Hennepin County Solid Waste Master Plan
- 13) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) The Charter Commission has adopted a new ward map that you can view here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-090097.pdf>. This map leaves Southeast Como divided between Wards 1 and 2, with the blocks between 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Avenues north of Como being moved from Ward 2 to Ward 1. The new ward boundaries go into effect for the next City Council election next year. The current ward boundaries will remain the boundaries until January 2014 when a new Council takes office. I have been honored to represent and serve the people of the current ward. That will not change. I will continue to work to the best of my ability to support, serve and represent the all the people of the current Ward 2.
- 2) The Urban Agriculture Text Amendments I authored unanimously passed the City Council last Friday. Now, for the first time since 1963, people will be allowed to grow food commercially in the City of Minneapolis. Commercial growing will be allowed on a large scale at urban farms in industrial districts, and on a smaller scale at market gardens in low-density residential areas. People will even be allowed to grow food commercially in their own backyards. Aquaponics and aquaculture will be allowed at urban farms. Arbors, trellises, raised planting beds in front yards, cold frames and hoop houses will be allowed. This is a major step forward for the local food movement in Minneapolis.
- 3) The compost ordinance I authored has passed the City Council unanimously. These changes increase the allowable size for compost areas, clarify the requirements on compost bin construction and the types of materials that can be composted, and authorize City staff to require people who violate the terms of the ordinance to take a course in composting. These changes will increase the amount of food we can grow in the city, and help deal with our organic waste in the best way possible.
- 4) The Council has approved new guidelines and funding amounts for neighborhoods. The Council action included an additional \$860,000 for those neighborhoods that lost the most money from the December 2010 Council action that recaptured NRP Phase 2 funds. The total amount for Southeast Como is \$78,240.
- 5) The Council has taken a first step to finally and formally get the issue of the Vikings stadium before the council. I am hopeful that there will be at least one formal public hearing on the proposed public funding plan for a new Vikings Stadium. The Mayor is also hold 2 community meetings on the issue, Tuesday, April 10, 7:30-8:45 p.m. Lake Nokomis Community Center, 2401 E. Minnehaha Pkwy and Wednesday, April 11, 6:30-8:00 p.m. Logan Recreation Center, 690 13th Ave. NE.

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.

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- 6) Starting this spring, Solid Waste and Recycling will no longer pick up yard waste in plastic bags. Residents may use compostable bags, paper lawn bags, or sturdy reusable containers. This will result in an improved collection program with lower yard waste processing costs and higher quality finished compost. From **April 9 to May 7** there will be a four-week transition period for folks who have plastic leaf bags from last season. Through collection day the week of April 30, you may set out plastic bags of leaves from last fall or early spring for collection. Your yard waste crews will debag and collect your yard waste placing the empty plastic bags in your garbage cart and information about the new rules will be left behind. After May 7, 2012, all yard waste in conventional plastic bags will not be picked up but will be left and tagged to be repackaged. For more information, see: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/yardwaste/index.htm>.
- 7) Applications are being accepted starting April 2 for Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission candidates for the June 28, 2012 elections. This year, neighborhood district 8 (which includes Como) is up for re-election. In addition, 1 Mayoral and 3 City Council positions are up for appointment through the City's open appointment process. For more visit: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/WCMS1P-089624>
- 8) City-wide street sweeping begins **April 10**. From now through the week of April 30, sweepers will clean all 1,100 miles of city streets and parkways. Watch for temporary "No Parking" signs that should be posted at least 24 hours in advance to make sure streets and parkways are clear of parked vehicles. Residents need to follow street sweep parking rules or they may have their cars ticketed and towed to the Minneapolis Impound Lot. In addition to the "No Parking" signs the City will make about 3,500 automated phone calls each evening to let residents know their street will be swept the next day. People can visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping/index.htm> to find out when the sweepers are coming through their neighborhoods. Click on "street sweeping schedule lookup," to find out which week a street is scheduled to be swept. The weekend before that week, they can revisit the Web site to find out which day of the week the street is scheduled to be swept.
- 9) Now that this snow season has ended, 2011-2012 became the first snow season in Minneapolis without a Snow Emergency declaration in 15 years, or since the winter of 1986-'87. While this is good for the City's short-term budget (snow emergencies are expensive, after all), it is a troubling reminder that climate change will likely have significant and unpredictable local impacts. Because there was so little precipitation this winter, we are now at high risk for drought.
- 10) The Council recently received a 5-year update on Heading Home Hennepin, Minneapolis and Hennepin County's 10 year plan to end homelessness in Minneapolis by 2016. There is some good news: street homelessness has been decreased by **40%**. Better coordination between homelessness outreach workers and police is working. Together, we have developed **2,433** housing opportunities (new construction and tenant based rental assistance) between 2007 and 2011. We have opened two Opportunity Centers, co-locating over 25 agencies at each center. Still, homelessness continues to be a problem for too many in Minneapolis. The foreclosure crisis and recession have exacerbated the problem. We have had to open two new winter shelters the last two years and the need for permanent affordable housing options for low income families continues to outpace our ability to provide it.
- 11) The Hennepin County 2012 – 2030 Solid Waste Management Master Plan is available until April 3 for public review and comment. The plan details the waste management strategies the county will adopt in order to meet its new countywide recycling goals. I am glad to see the plan coming forward but I would like to see more aggressive goals, targets and strategies for increasing recycling and recovery of materials, especially food and yard waste (or organics) and for reducing, rather than increasing, the amount of materials burned at the waste recovery facility in downtown Minneapolis. For more information go to: [http://www.hennepin.us/files/HennepinUS/Environmental%20Services/Solid%20waste%20planning%20and%20report%20Solid\\_Waste\\_version8.pdf](http://www.hennepin.us/files/HennepinUS/Environmental%20Services/Solid%20waste%20planning%20and%20report%20Solid_Waste_version8.pdf)
- 12) There are openings on the Animal Care & Control Advisory Committee, Bicycle Advisory Committee, Capital Long Range Improvement Commission, Family Housing Fund (McKnight), Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Neighborhood Community and Engagement Committee, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC), 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](mailto:cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov).