



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 5-1-12

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:
Tuesday, May 8th, 9:30-11:00am
Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como Avenue SE

Items:

- 1) Como Blueprint
- 2) Funding for Neighborhoods
- 3) Vikings Stadium
- 4) Protests in City-Owned Plazas
- 5) Police Chief: Dolan Retiring, Harteau Appointed
- 6) New Elections Director
- 7) Second Precinct's Officers of the Year
- 8) Minneapolis Opposes Photo ID Amendment
- 9) Bike and Stroll Minneapolis
- 10) I-35W Public Meetings
- 11) Don't Prune Ash Trees
- 12) CPED Director
- 13) One Read: "Spirit Car"
- 14) Granary Corridor Study Meeting
- 15) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) I was inspired by the turn out and discussion at the Como Blueprint Kick-off event on April 25th. It is great to see the Como Neighborhood, under the direction of the Southeast Como Improvement Association and the skilled leadership of a group of committed volunteers, undertaking the creation of a neighborhood plan. I also congratulate them on getting a Good Neighbor grant from the Stadium Area Advisory Group to help support their efforts. This has great potential to manage neighborhood change in positive ways, guide improvements to build on Como's many strengths, and preserve what is best about this vital, diverse neighborhood.
- 2) The Council has approved new guidelines and funding amounts for neighborhoods. This includes up to \$5.7 million for the next 18 month cycle of neighborhood funding as part of the Community Participation Program. 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.
- 3) The City Council Intergovernmental Relations Committee held a public hearing and voted by a slim majority (7-6) to add support of a new stadium bill to our state Legislative Agenda. The Council is now on record supporting the Mayor/Council President/Governor's financial proposal that would cost the City an estimated \$675 million in sales taxes over 30-35 years in order to pay for a portion of the construction and operator costs of a new stadium. I voted against this. The fact that those at the hearing were so divided and the fact that support for this passed the Council by the slimmest possible majority demonstrates how weak and flawed the plan is in my opinion. I moved to "*Request that the Charter Commission review the stadium financing bill to determine if the proposal for funding a Vikings stadium complies with the Minneapolis City Charter and if it requires a referendum.*" This motion passed 7 to 6 and so more discussion by the Charter Commission may be forthcoming, especially if a bill passes. This Committee action will come before the full Council for a final vote on May 11, but will become a part of our legislative agenda now. If a stadium a bill passes that includes the use of City sales tax money, it will need City council approval within 30 days to become law.
- 4) Council President Barb Johnson has authored a resolution that would severely restrict the rights of protestors on City-owned plazas in Minneapolis, including the Cedar Riverside Plazas at 7 corners and near the May Day Book Store. I strongly oppose this resolution, and voted to send it to the Council's Public Safety, Civil Rights and Health committee, which met earlier today and set a public hearing for May 2nd.

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

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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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- 5) Police Chief Tim Dolan announced April 25th that he will not seek a third full term as chief and will retire at the end of 2012 after a 29-year career with the Minneapolis Police Department. Mayor Rybak first nominated Dolan to serve as interim chief in 2006. I am grateful to Chief Dolan for his years of service to the people of Minneapolis and despite some differences have enjoyed working with as Council Member. He has been especially helpful responding to crime concerns in Ward 2nd ward and has been an outstanding partner in our efforts to curb domestic abuse and prevent youth violence by addressing it as a public health, as well as a public safety issue. The Mayor has appointed Assistant Chief Janee Harteau to be the next Chief. I support this appointment, though I will be asking AC Harteau about her views on police accountability issues.
- 6) The Council has confirmed the City Clerk's appointment of Grace Wachlarowicz as the City's new Assistant City Clerk and Elections Director. I am confident that Ms. Wachlarowicz will help the City navigate the many upcoming opportunities and challenges facing the City on election issues: purchasing ranked choice compatible voting machines, responding to the Voter ID referendum, the first election with our new precincts and more.
- 7) The Minneapolis Police have recognized seven officers as 2011 Officers of the Year. Lieutenant Bill Whisney and Officer Adam Grobove, who have worked for the Minneapolis Police Department for more than 38 and 21 years, respectively, are the Second Precinct's Officers of the Year. In 2011, these officers collaborated with the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the Barbara Schneider Foundation to start the Second Precinct's Homeless Veteran's Backpack Program.
- 8) The City of Minneapolis formally opposes the constitutional amendment that would force elections administrators to ask for photo identification for all voters. This constitutional amendment would solve no real problem, as no large scale voter fraud has been proven, and would make it more difficult for Minneapolis residents to vote.
- 9) This spring and summer, the Minneapolis Bicycling and Pedestrian Program is hosting over 40 rides, walks and classes to help you get back on the streets and trails. Whether you are looking to explore new bikeways in your neighborhood or trying to get the whole family riding, there is something for you. <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/bicycles/WCMS1P-088472>.
- 10) Two more open houses will discuss strategies to address rush-hour congestion on Interstate 35W north of downtown. One is in Blaine's City Hall on **May 2** from 5-7pm, and the other is in the Minneapolis Central Public Library on Thursday, **May 10** from 11:30am-1pm. These open houses will look at ways to better utilize existing and future infrastructure investments; increase transit ridership and the use of high occupancy vehicles by providing travel time advantages; provide a choice for commuters during the peak periods; and reduce congestion and improve safety along the corridor. For more see www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i35wstudy.
- 11) The State Department of Agriculture is asking everyone not to prune Ash trees this time of year or move any part of an ash tree (firewood, branches, etc.). The Emerald Ash Borers are active and moving the pests helps them spread to uncontaminated areas. For more information on emerald ash borers, visit <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/saveourash.aspx> or <http://www.minneapolisparks.org/default.asp?PageID=1059>
- 12) In April Mayor Rybak announced that he will nominate his Chief of Staff, Jeremy Hanson Willis, to be the next director of the City of Minneapolis Department of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED). Hanson Willis has served as Mayor Rybak's chief of staff since 2009 and has been the Mayor's primary liaison with CPED.
- 13) Minneapolis has selected the next One Minneapolis, One Read book: "Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past" by local author Diane Wilson. It explores Wilson's Dakota roots and her own family's history, detailing the trauma of the Dakota War of 1862 and its aftermath. The selection of "Spirit Car" in the same year we recognize the 150th Anniversary of the Dakota War provides an unparalleled opportunity for us all to learn more about this tragic part of our history. One Read updates appear on Facebook and at www.oneminneapolisonearead.com.
- 14) There will be a community meeting to share the results about the Granary Corridor study on Wednesday, **May 9**, 4:30-6:30pm at Van Cleve Community Center, 901 15th Avenue SE. The Granary Corridor is a potential transportation link that would run north of 4th Street in Prospect Park and through the Dinkytown rail trench to near the Stone Arch Bridge in Marcy Holmes. There will be a presentation at 5pm, followed by time for questions and discussion. For more information see www.minneapolismn.gov/cip/all/cip_semi_index.
- 15) There are openings on the Capital Long Range Improvement Commission, Civilian Review Authority, Family Housing Fund (McKnight), Housing Board of Appeals, Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Neighborhood Community and Engagement Committee, Pedestrian Advisory 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