



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon
City Council Member
Second Ward

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Seward Neighborhood 4-25-12

Cam's next Seward Office Hours:
Tuesday, May 22nd, 9:30-11:00am
Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St

Items:

- 1) Increased Neighborhood Funding
- 2) Council Votes on Stadium Plan
- 3) Protests in Plazas
- 4) Police Chief to Retire
- 5) NCEC Openings
- 6) Police Officer of the Year
- 7) West River Road Parkway Paving
- 8) Park Board road Closures
- 9) Report on Homelessness
- 10) Lead Grant
- 11) CRA Weakened by State of MN
- 12) Don't Prune Ash Tress
- 13) New CPED Head Announced
- 14) One Minneapolis, One Read 2012
- 15) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) 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 Seward is \$98,740.
- 2) 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. In the meeting I attempted to amend the Resolution to have the Council oppose any legislation that includes any section or provision that would override the City Charter provisions related to the financing of professional sports facilities. This failed on a 7-6 vote and the original resolution passed by the same margin. I then 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.
- 3) 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
- 4) 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 2the 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.

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email

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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, llama 612-673-2700;

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

- 5) Applications are being accepted starting 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>
- 6) The Minneapolis Police have recognized seven officers as 2011 Officers of the Year. Officer Todd Harder has been selected as the Third Precinct's Officer of the Year. The Third Precinct includes Seward and Cooper. Since joining the Minneapolis Police Department in 1997, Officer Harder has spent the majority of his time patrolling the streets of the Third Precinct. He currently works the night shift. Officer Harder was recognized for consistently being a top performer and a veteran officer who leads by example and is a field training officer for our new recruits.
- 7) The West River Road Parkway paving project will begin on April 30. New asphalt will be placed on the roadway on West River Parkway from just west of the Washington Avenue Bridge near 2nd St. to 26th St. in Seward. The project will be completed in two phases with the first phase beginning in April and the second phase beginning in mid-summer. The work will be performed under full road closure. For more information contact Chris Trembath, chris.trembath@minneapolismn.gov 612-919-1196, or visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/all/WCMS1P-091565>
- 8) The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board now has available online a list of temporary road closures due to permitted events and other activities through 2011. The information will be updated regularly and provides a quick, at-a-glance guide to Park Board road closures throughout Minneapolis. Starting July 13, the Park Board is launching an email subscription service for a wide variety of topics including road closures. For more, visit http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/documents/mprb_road_closures.pdf#zoom=100
- 9) 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%**. 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.
- 10) The City will receive a nearly \$2.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to reduce the amount of lead in rental and low-income homes around the city. The money will help to reduce the lead in the paint in more than two hundred homes built before 1940.
- 11) The Legislature has passed, and Governor Dayton has signed, a bill that prohibits the Minneapolis Civilian Review Authority from making "findings of fact" in cases of police misconduct. This law seriously diminishes the effectiveness of the CRA, and was passed despite Minneapolis' strong stance against it.
- 12) 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.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1059>
- 13) 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.
- 14) 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.
- 15) There are openings on the Animal Care & Control Advisory Committee, Bicycle Advisory Committee, Capital Long Range Improvement Commission, Civilian Police Review Authority, Family Housing Fund (McKnight), Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Neighborhood Community and Engagement Committee, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC), Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Workforce Advisory Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.