



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Second Ward

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 4-25-12

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

Items:

- 1) Redistricting
- 2) Council Votes on Stadium Plan
- 3) Protests in Plazas
- 4) Police Chief To Retire.
- 5) Urban Agriculture Text Amendments Pass
- 6) Neighborhood Funding
- 7) NCEC Openings
- 8) West River Road Parkway Paving
- 9) Park Board road Closures
- 10) Homelessness Report
- 11) Lead Grant
- 12) Nice Ride Returns
- 13) CRA Weakened
- 14) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The Charter Commission has adopted a new city ward map, which you can see here: <http://www.minneapolis.mn.gov/redistricting2012>. I have represented the northern half of the Cooper neighborhood for the last six years, from Lake Street north. This map puts all of the Cooper neighborhood and the vast majority of the Longfellow neighborhood in Ward 2. I will be introducing myself to the residents and businesses in the new sections of Ward 2 over the next year and a half, and look forward to continuing to work with the Longfellow Community Council.
- 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 a council majority to approve it 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

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.

Attention: If you want help translating this information in language other than Hmong, Spanish or Somali, call 311

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 kaalmeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

- 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 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.
- 5) The Urban Agriculture Text Amendments I authored unanimously passed the City Council. 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.
- 6) 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 greater Longfellow is \$326,611.
- 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) 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>
- 9) 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.
- 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 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.
- 12) Thanks to our unusually mild winter, Nice Ride bikes have returned to Minneapolis streets earlier than in past years. Crews have reinstalled Nice Ride bike-sharing kiosks in Downtown and neighborhood commercial areas, including East Lake Street. For more information, see <https://www.niceridemn.org/>.
- 13) 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
- 14) 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.