



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

**Cam Gordon**  
City Council Member  
Second Ward

350 South 5th Street - Room 301M  
Minneapolis MN 55415

Office 612-673-2202  
Fax 612-673-3250  
Cell 612-296-0579

Email: [cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov)

[www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2)

## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 6-20-12

**Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:**  
**Tuesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:30-11:00am**  
**Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave**

### Items:

- 1) 4<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>
- 2) Vikings Stadium
- 3) RFP for Parking Lot A
- 4) Corporate Personhood Resolution
- 5) Single-Sort Recycling
- 6) Please Help Water Boulevard Trees
- 7) Student Go-To Passes
- 8) Neighborhood Survey
- 9) Digital Divide Meetings
- 10) Household Hazardous Waste Collection Events
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) As you likely know, the CHANCE students who studied 4<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Avenues and 6<sup>th</sup> Street have completed their report. It presents several scenarios for these streets and shares the outcome of the neighborhood focus group. Some decisions need to be made; for instance, there are two different scenarios for 6<sup>th</sup> Street, one of which can be done for the amount of money currently allocated to 6<sup>th</sup>, and one that would be more expensive. Which scenario should we pursue? At this point, it would be helpful to have the West Bank Community Coalition help determine which of the scenarios the neighborhood would support. I would be happy to help convene a community meeting, and ensure that there are representatives from Public Works and Community Planning and Development present. Once we have a clear neighborhood position, I can push the City to implement it.
- 2) On a razor-thin 7-6 vote, the City Council has given local approval to the Vikings stadium bill that passed the Legislature 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.
- 3) The City is working on a draft Request for Proposals for redevelopment of Parking Lot A and the nearby Hennepin County right-of-way that has been freed up by the removal of a freeway-style off-ramp as part of the Central Corridor project. This redevelopment is supported by the Cedar Riverside Small Area Plan that was adopted in 2008. Minneapolis Community Planning and Economic Development staff plan to hold a public meeting in August to gather input on items that should be addressed by the RFP. The RFP document will then be drafted and shared with community stakeholders for public comment.

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email [Ahmed.Muhumud@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Ahmed.Muhumud@minneapolismn.gov)

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

- 4) With my strong support, the Council has unanimously passed a resolution supporting a US Constitutional amendment that would make clear that corporations are not persons. This amendment would help regulate the toxic and out-of-control corporate spending in our political processes, spending that I believe directly threatens our democracy. The Council has also gone on record in our Federal Legislative Agenda supporting transparency in corporate political spending on elections.
- 5) 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](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/recycling).
- 6) 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](mailto:forestry@minneapolisparcs.org) to get a request form. Your form must be returned by June 15.
- 7) 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.
- 8) 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>.
- 9) 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. There is a public meeting on **Wednesday, June 27**, 4:30-6pm at the Phillips Community Center, 2323 11th Ave S. To view the survey report, go to [www.minneapolismn.gov/it/inclusion](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/it/inclusion) and click on "2012 Community Technology Survey."
- 10) 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: July 26 - 28 at Dunwoody College of Technology; August 16 - 18 at Pillsbury School. For details visit [www.hennepin.us/collectionevents](http://www.hennepin.us/collectionevents).
- 11) There are openings on the Civilian Police Review Authority, Housing Board of Appeals, and Senior Advisory Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email [cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov).