



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

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## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood, 6-25-12

**Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:  
Pratt School, July 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11am**

**Items:**

- 1) Vikings Stadium
- 2) Corporate Personhood Resolution
- 3) Funding for the Boeser Site
- 4) Central Corridor Transit Service Plan Meetings
- 5) Congratulations to the Cupcake
- 6) Single Sort Recycling
- 7) Please Help Water Trees
- 8) Rental License Revocation Ordinance
- 9) Temporary Expansion of Premises Ordinance
- 10) Digital Divide Meeting
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) 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 1/2 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.
- 2) 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.
- 3) The City has received more than \$2.7 million in outside funds for redevelopment of the Boeser site in Prospect Park. The Council voted last week to accept and appropriate a Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA) grant of \$2,000,000, a Metropolitan Council Tax Base Revitalization Account Contamination Cleanup (TBRA) grant of \$720,307, and a Hennepin County Corridors of Opportunity Challenge Fund grant of \$275,000 for redevelopment of the site. I am thrilled to see this important project garner these considerable resources, and enthusiastically supported this action. I look forward to seeing a catalytic development on the Boeser site, one which I hope will serve as a model for the SEMI area and University corridor.

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.

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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.

- 4) Metro Transit is holding public meetings about its Central Corridor transit service concept plans. You can read the plan here: <http://metrotransit.org/central-concept-plan.aspx>. Planners will make a presentation about the concept plan, respond to questions, and take comments. There are 2 remaining meetings coming up: **Tuesday, June 26** — 11am-1pm at the Hennepin County Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall; and **Thursday, June 28** – 4-4:30pm at the Rondo Community Outreach Library, 461 Dale St. N, St. Paul.
- 5) Congratulations to the Cupcake in Prospect Park, and its owner Kevin VanDeraa on winning the Food Network's "Cupcake Champions" competition and its \$50,000 prize! For more information, see the write-up in the Star Tribune: <http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/taste/157526785.html>.
- 6) 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).
- 7) 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@minneapolisparks.org](mailto:forestry@minneapolisparks.org) to get a request form. Your form must be returned by June 15.
- 8) The Council is considering changes to the ordinance regarding revocation of rental licenses. I am generally supportive of these and consider it a careful reorganization of our rental licensing ordinance. I believe that that the City will still have the tools we need to enforce our standards, but this will give us some more flexibility. I am especially supportive of the educational requirements, which will be a very good addition to the ordinance. Among the mandatory training requirements: Healthy Housing Training will be required when an inspector declares a property as substandard, owners with one revocation who own more than two properties will be required to attend a class on the fundamentals of property management, and if someone is seeking to have a license that was revoked reinstated, they will need to provide proof they have attended the fundamentals of property management.
- 9) The Council is considering an ordinance amendment by Council Member Schiff that would extend the twelve days of temporary expansions for alcohol-serving establishments that have been in place for the University stadium and downtown to the rest of Minneapolis. This would be an increase from the current eight days (or four two-day events) businesses may hold events. I am basically supportive of this idea. Every application for a temporary license is subject to review and approval. Failure to meet minimum standards during any event may result in restrictions on or denial of a future license. Requirements such as insurance, security, and mandatory permits, to name a few, must be completed in advance. The on-sale license holder is responsible for the activities and actions occurring at the event. I should note that since these new standards have been in place in Stadium Village, my office has heard no complaints. I have also received expressions of support from Ward 2 businesses, especially folks on the West Bank. Due to questions I've heard from neighborhood organizations, I supported delaying this ordinance for two weeks, to give residents a chance to weigh in. It will come back to the Council on **June 29<sup>th</sup>**.
- 10) 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."
- 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).