



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 7-18-12

Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:
Tuesday, August 7th, 9:30-11:00am
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave

Items:

- 1) 4th, 15th and 6th
- 2) Sewer Line Work Extended
- 3) Advertising for Central Corridor Area Businesses
- 4) City Supports DREAMers
- 5) Farmers Market Finder
- 6) Unisys Contract Audited
- 7) National Night Out
- 8) Temporary Expansion of Premises
- 9) Electric Assist Pedicabs
- 10) Vikings Stadium Implementation Committee
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Yesterday, the City's Public Works department held a community meeting to get input on the planned reconstruction of 4th Street and 15th Avenue. About ten people attended. I am still hoping that the West Bank Community Coalition will organize a community meeting about these streets, and would be happy to help convene and facilitate such a meeting.
- 2) The Metropolitan Council's sewer repair work along West River Parkway on the West Bank has been extended until September. The work was begun in February, and the Met Council believed it would be finished by June. However, the project was more difficult than they expected, resulting in this extension. If you have any questions, you can call or email John Hemming at 651-602-4517 or john.hemming@metc.state.mn.us, or Tim O'Donnell at 651-602-1269 or tim.odonnell@metc.state.mn.us.
- 3) The Central Corridor project is beginning a \$1.2 million advertising campaign to promote businesses along the LRT route during construction. Some West Bank businesses, including the **Acadia Cafe** and **Theater in the Round**, will appear on bus ads and billboards paid for by the Central Corridor. The project is also building a website called onthegreenline.com that will feature Central Corridor area business listings, profiles and coupons.
- 4) The City of Minneapolis is the first city in the US to go on record formally supporting President Barack Obama's policy directive to the Department of Homeland Security to defer deportation of undocumented children. I am very proud that the City has taken this action in support of a policy that will positively impact the lives of many members of our community.
- 5) The City now has an online interactive map at www.minneapolismn.gov/farmersmarkets that makes it easy to find one of the 29 convenient farmers markets now operating in Minneapolis. Clicking on the map pins will show the address, season dates and opening times for each market. Many Minneapolis residents can reach a farmers market on foot or by bicycle, which is good exercise and doesn't pollute. Seven of the markets accept "electronic benefits transfer" cards as payment to give residents on federal food assistance easier access to fresh, healthy food. Thirteen of the farmers markets are special small markets that the City licenses to make fresh and affordable produce available to low-income neighborhoods.

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

- 6) The City's Internal Audit department has conducted an audit of the City's information technology contract with the Unisys Corporation. The contract, which began in 2007 and ends in 2015, is currently valued at **\$86,363,655**. The audit found significant issues in our contract management with Unisys. First, quoting from the report, "While IT management reviews the invoices for accuracy and completeness, there is **no evidence to support the invoice itself was reviewed**. Also, the support documentation provided by Unisys only show total dollars **without adequate details** used to calculate the totals (i.e. rates and hours). Additionally, while there are written procedures on the IT invoice review process, the procedures are **very brief** and **do not include detailed steps**." Second, there are concerns about our contract monitoring: "IT management **does not receive relevant reports** from Unisys as stated in the contract. Also, there is currently **no agreed upon process** in place to validate that the City is receiving the most favored equipment prices and/or taking advantage of any special promotional rates or discounts." I continue to have serious concerns about the amount of money the City spends on this information technology contract, and the lack of oversight found in this audit compounds that concern. This seems like one of the clear consequences of outsourcing what had been – and arguably should still be – a core City function. In June the Council referred this report to the Ways and Means Committee for further review.
- 7) Registrations are now being accepted for the **August 7** National Night Out online or through 311. If you want to block off your street, you can do so for free through July 24. From July 25 through August 2, there is a \$100 fee. After August 2, no applications for blocking off a street will be accepted. Last year, more than 60,000 Minneapolis residents gathered during National Night Out to celebrate with a record 1,173 events in all 83 neighborhoods of the city. An improved, easier to use online registration process, the quality customer service from 311, and the hard work of the City's Crime Prevention Specialists were just a few of the reasons for the increased participation.
- 8) The Council has unanimously passed an ordinance amendment by Council Member Schiff that will 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 supported 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.
- 9) I have given notice of intent to introduce an ordinance that would allow electric-assist bicycles to be used as pedicabs in Minneapolis. The City had been prohibited from allowing this by state law, until Senator Scott Dibble included legislation in this year's transportation omnibus bill that clarified that electric-assist bicycles are a type of "bicycle," not a type of "motorized bicycle." The Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee has taken a position in favor of this ordinance change, and I look forward to working through the details with them, City staff, and the pedicab industry.
- 10) The City has appointed sixteen people to a new Vikings Stadium Implementation Committee, including three people with Ward 2 connections: Chris Ferguson, owner of the Stadium Village Dairy Queen; Russ Adams, Executive Director of the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability; and Hussein Ahmed, Executive Director of the West Bank Community Coalition. I continue to oppose this stadium subsidy, but I'm glad to see such good people working on its implementation.
- 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@minneapolisismn.gov.