



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 8-16-12

**Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:
Tuesday, September 4th, 9:30-11:00am
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave**

Items:

- 1) Meeting on 4th, 15th and 6th
- 2) Voter ID – It's Worse Than You Think
- 3) West Bank Infrastructure in Mayor's Budget
- 4) New Seven Corners Apartments at Grandma's Site
- 5) Currie Park Lofts
- 6) NRP Phase II Meeting
- 7) Xcel Proposes Scrapping Solar Rewards
- 8) Equity in Employment Resolution
- 9) Recycling at Major Events
- 10) Major Changes Proposed for Civilian Review Authority
- 11) Fire Department Agency Review
- 12) Coal Tar Sealants Banned
- 13) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) My office is working to schedule a public meeting about 15th Ave and 4th and 6th Streets on Tuesday, September 25 at 7 pm (at a location yet to be determined). My hope is that the meeting will help the neighborhood come to a consensus on the pedestrian, bicycle and parking improvements to be included in the reconstruction of 15th and 4th and pursued through separate funding sources on 6th.
- 2) The Council has received an informative and disturbing report from our City Clerk and Elections Department on the potential impacts of the proposed "Voter ID" Constitutional Amendment. You can read the report here: www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/elections/WCMS1P-094785. I have also written some analysis of this topic on the Second Ward blog. The bottom line is that this amendment will make it much harder for many Minnesotans to vote, and create significant difficulty and cost for the Minneapolis Elections Department. It is possible that the court will keep this question off the ballot this fall. If not, I urge you to **vote no**.
- 3) The Mayor's budget speech contained two significant infrastructure improvements for the West Bank. He has proposed funding the Bluff Street Trail connection between the East Bank and downtown via Bridge 9 and the tunnel that the City made sure was added under I-35W, and has proposed a major improvement to the 10th Avenue Bridge that connects 19th Ave S to Marcy Holmes.
- 4) With support letters from both West Bank community and business groups before them, the Council has reassigned development obligations with respect to the Seven Corners Parking Ramp site to a new single purpose entity, Grandma's Associates LCC, of which the former developer, Alatus, will be a 36.5% owning member. This moves the plans forward for a new LEED certified, 5-story, mixed use building with 214 rental housing units and approximately 3,000 sq. ft. of ground floor retail. A 76 space parking garage will be included on the ground level. The development would span the Grandma's restaurant site and a portion of the parking ramp site and calls for demolishing the easterly half of the parking ramp to accommodate the new development, retaining 329 of the 762 ramp stalls. The City Planning Commission approved the final project plans on June 25, 2012 and construction is expected to start by September 30, this year and completion by December 31, 2013.
- 5) The Council's Community Development committee has supported applications to the Department of Employment and Economic Development for \$350,000 and to the Metropolitan Council for \$993,229 for the Currie Park Lofts project on the West Bank. This project will include 260 mixed-income rental units in a new six-story building, along with 25,000 square feet of first-floor commercial space on a 2.4 acre site.

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

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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) There will be a community meeting to discuss the Cedar Riverside NRP Phase II Plan on **Thursday, August 30, 2012** at 6:00 PM at the Brian Coyle Community Center, 420 15th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55454. The NRP Phase II Plan defines goals and strategies for the use of roughly \$700,000 in funds for community projects. It was developed by collecting the comments of over 500 residents. Contact gaardere@puc-mn.org or call 612-876-9357 if you would like a copy of the Plan.
- 7) The City Council voted to require all large block events and all parades and races on Minneapolis streets to recycle. The changes are designed to reduce the amount of trash being generated at these events. Beginning Jan. 1, 2013, organizers of any block event with more than 2,500 people in attendance and any parade or race that uses City streets will need to provide recycling of all paper, cardboard, plastic, glass and metal containers.
- 8) A resolution *Supporting Equity in Employment in Minneapolis and the Region* that I am authoring will be coming for approval to the Public Safety, Civil Rights and Health Committee on **August 22** at 1:30pm. Time for a staff presentation, public comment and committee discussion will be provided. The resolution declares that institutional racism, discrimination and racial employment disparities in Minneapolis are serious problems that must be solved. It commits the City government to lead by example and better incorporate racial equity into all City policies and, if approved, it would direct the City Coordinator, CPED Director and Civil Rights Director to engage with other department heads and staff to develop and implement an Equity Assessment Toolkit to inform City decisions, including those related to the budget, hiring, promotion, contracting and purchasing. It also directs staff to assess and implement, where appropriate, the recommendations of the Equity in Employment Task Force, and recommend fair hiring provisions to be added to the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances. Additionally it would authorize the City to formally join the Ramsey County Blue Ribbon Commission's *Everybody In* regional collaboration to reduce racial employment disparities throughout the metropolitan area.
- 9) The Civil Rights Department, in conjunction with the Police and City Attorney's Office, has proposed a major change to the Civilian Police Review Authority (CRA). If passed, the CRA would essentially cease to exist, and be replaced by an advisory board to the Police Department. Internal Affairs and the Civilian Review investigatory functions would basically be merged. The current CRA board is not supportive of this proposal, and has recommended its own improvements to the civilian review process. I have serious concerns about merging the police department's internal affairs with the civilian review authority and making the citizen/civilian component advisory only. It also removes the residency requirement and focuses more power with the chief. Public meetings will be held **August 16, 7-8:30pm** at **Shiloh Temple** International Ministries, 1201 West Broadway Avenue, and in **City Hall room 319** on **Tuesday August 21 7-8:30pm**. The proposal is set to return to the committee on **September 12** for a public hearing. You can find more information here (under item 9) www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/psch/WCMS1P-094889. I will be following this very closely, and strongly encourage anyone who cares about police accountability to do the same.
- 10) Emergency Services Consulting International, a firm hired by the City to evaluate the Minneapolis Fire Department, has presented its final report to the Council. This independent, comprehensive evaluation of the Fire Department will help us see how the department compares to similar departments and consider recommendations to improve effectiveness, increase efficiency and potentially raise additional revenue through cost recovery strategies. The report includes recommendations about facilities, equipment and staffing. It does not recommend adding any new stations but identifies 13 stations in need of renovation or replacement. It also cautions about aging trucks and engines and recommends that the City allocate \$1,046,667 annually to fund vehicle replacement. Related to staffing the report indicates that our levels are slightly lower than regional and national averages, but that many of the other departments also provide ambulance service and Minneapolis does not. It also notes some concern with overtime costs and sick leave and recommends a minimum staffing of 94 firefighters per shift on duty to respond to emergencies and fight fires. Staffing is currently based on having 92 fire fighters on duty per shift. You can find all 3 sections of the report and the presentation slides here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/psch/WCMS1P-096367>.
- 11) The Council has passed an ordinance, supported by the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee, which bans coal tar-based sealants from being sold or used on any driveway or parking lot in Minneapolis. The purpose of this ban is to keep Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons – toxic chemicals present in coal tar sealants but not alternative sealant products – out of our lakes, streams and river. I enthusiastically supported this ordinance, and commend Council Member Colvin Roy for taking the lead on it.
- 12) There are openings on the Arts Commission, Capital Long Range Improvement Committee, Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee, Civil Rights Commission, Civilian Police Review Authority, Disabilities Advisory Committee, Heritage Preservation Commission, Housing Board of Appeals, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, Planning Commission, Public Health Advisory Committee, Senior Advisory Committee, Mpls Telecommunications Network, ThincGreen Advisory Committee and Youth Violence Prevention Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.