



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon
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Items:

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Seward Neighborhood 8-22-12

Cam's next Seward Office Hours:
Tuesday, August 28th, 9:30-11:00am
Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St

- 1) 2013 Budget
- 2) Coal Tar Sealants Banned
- 3) Equity in Employment
- 4) Police Accountability
- 5) Fire Department Agency Evaluation
- 6) Xcel Proposes to Scrap Solar Rewards
- 7) Summer STEP UP Wrap Up
- 8) One Read Kick Off
- 9) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) In the Mayor's 2013 budget address he proposed increasing the total property tax levy by 1.7%, with the increase to pay for additional police and fire personnel. One major change proposed by the Mayor in his address is the dismantling of the Regulatory Services department. As I understand the proposal, Environmental Health (food inspection and healthy housing) would be moved to the Health Department, a move I strongly support. Business Licensing would move to the Economic Development area of CPED. Environmental Services would move to the Coordinator's office. Housing Inspections would be its own stand-alone department. I look forward to seeing more specifics on this major change, and the budget as a whole.
- 2) 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.
- 3) A resolution *Supporting Equity in Employment in Minneapolis and the Region* that I am authoring was unimously supported by the Public Safety, Civil Rights and Health Committee on August 22 following over an hour of public comment, staff presentations and committee discussion. 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.

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.

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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) The Civil Rights Department 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 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. 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.
- 5) Emergency Services Consulting International, a firm hired by the City to evaluate the Minneapolis Fire Department, has presented its final report to the Council. 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 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>.
- 6) The Council has gone on record opposing Xcel Energy's proposal to scrap the popular and effective Solar Rewards program. I am disappointed at Xcel's lack of commitment to renewable energy, and to solar in particular, and this strengthens my interest in establishing a municipal power utility to keep our energy options open.
- 7) This summer 230 businesses and organizations employed 1,850 youth as part of the City's STEP UP internship program. At a celebration I attend on the 16th special awards went to STEP-UP employers Wells Fargo and Project for Pride in Living. Through a public-private partnership with local businesses and organizations, the STEP-UP program significantly benefits low-income youth and youth of color by helping them gain valuable work-readiness skills and long-term professional skills, and connecting them with business and community leaders. The STEP-UP program—which is managed in collaboration with AchieveMpls—has created valuable workplace experiences for nearly 18,000 Minneapolis youth, ages 14-21, since 2002 and was recognized as an outstanding model for youth employment and public-private partnerships at a White House conference in 2012.
- 8) This fall we will be launching the second year of One Minneapolis One Read, a citywide "read" where the entire community is encouraged to read the same book and join in a community conversation. One Read week – the beginning of months of conversations – will culminate in an evening with Garrison Keillor and author Diane Wilson at 7 p.m., Monday, Sept. 24 at the Minneapolis Convention Center Auditorium. Tickets are \$10; \$5 for seniors, students and limited income (for those tickets, select the \$10 option and choose "apply discount" before purchasing). Tickets are available at www.ticketworks.com or 612-343-3390. The book is "Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past," a book of vignettes Wilson created to honor the lives of her Dakota family. "Spirit Car" is available in paperback at local independent and chain bookstores, online booksellers and www.mhspress.org. It's also available through Hennepin County Library and as an e-book. For more information and to get involved, visit www.OneMinneapolisOneRead.com , www.facebook.com/OneMinneapolisOneRead , www.twitter.com/minneapolisread or email oneread@minneapolismn.gov .
- 9) 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.