

News from Cam Gordon
Council Member, Second Ward
December 2012

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/council/ward2>

Como Homebuyer Assistance Program. I am delighted to report that the Southeast Como Neighborhood is now offering \$5,000 forgivable Homebuyer Incentive Loans towards down payment and closing costs. Ten loans are available. The main eligibility requirement is that the buyer be an owner-occupant of the home purchased. The loans are forgivable in annual increments over 7 years. Details are at <http://secomo.comogreenvillage.info/home/programs/housing-programs>.

2013 Budget. The City Council and Mayor unanimously approved the City's \$1.085 billion 2013 budget in December. This is 3 percent less than the 2012 budget, but still includes a 1.77 percent increase in the total property taxes we will collect next year. Because of changes in property values and a growing tax base, however, 70 percent of taxpayers will not see any increase in their property-tax bill. The budget includes more money for streets and other infrastructure and invests in public safety. It adds \$2.5 million to the Police Department with the aim of having 10 more officers on the force by next summer and \$1.1 million to the Fire Department.

Budget Amendments. Before the budget was passed, the Council made several adjustments to the Mayor's proposal. Among the most important ones were amendments that provided funds to retain six Community Crime Prevention Specialists; added two 911 operators, fully funded the City's Domestic Abuse Prosecution team, added \$46,000 to support the Minneapolis Television Network (MTN) and provided \$40,000 to support Restorative Justice programs in Minneapolis. All of these amendments were accomplished without increasing the total budget, and most will use unexpended revenues from the 2012 budget. I supported all of them and co-authored, with Council Member Colvin Roy, an amendment that increased restorative Justice funding to \$40,000.

Regulatory Restructuring. The most significant change made through this budget process involved the restructuring of the Regulatory Services Department. Licensing and building inspections have been moved to the Community Planning and Economic Development department, where they will work more closely with our economic development, zoning and planning staff. Environmental Health has moved to the Health Department. A smaller, more focused, Regulatory Department will remain and will include Housing Inspections, Animal Care and Control and Traffic Control. This restructuring did away with some management positions, which is projected to save the City between \$300,000 and \$400,000 annually. I supported this restructuring, especially reuniting the Health Department with our health inspectors. This is where they had been prior to the late 1990s, and I have long advocated within City Hall for moving them back, for two major reasons. First, the Health Department has been doing fantastic work on food issues, including Homegrown Minneapolis, the healthy corner store initiative and more. Their focus on access to healthy foods and fighting obesity and diabetes will have a positive impact on the work of our health inspectors. Second, this move will give the Health Department a fee-based funding stream, making them less vulnerable to cuts from the general fund and less dependent on grants. This will, in my view, help put the Health Department – which has spearheaded many of the initiatives that have most benefited the City in the past decade – in a more sustainable position for the long term.

Applications for New Firefighters. For the first time since 2006, the Fire Department will accept applications for new firefighters beginning January 31, 2013. Accepting applications is the first step in creating a new firefighter eligibility list that will be used to hire firefighters as positions open up in anticipation of expected retirements. Applications will only be accepted in person and only on Jan. 31, and Feb. 1-2, 2013 at the Northeast Armory, 1025 Broadway St. NE. More details can be found here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/fire/jobs/WCMS1P-099477>. Applications will be available at any Minneapolis Fire Station or the Minneapolis Human Resources Office, 250 South 4th St. - Room 100, beginning Jan. 24, 2013.

Regulating Firearms. I have been taking a serious look at improving the regulation of ammunition and firearms in Minneapolis for several years now. One of our challenges is understanding where the guns come from that are used in crimes here. When a crime is committed that involves the use of a gun, police work not only to solve the crime but also to trace where the gun came from. Based on this, it looks like we need to do more to restrict so-called "straw purchases" (when someone buys a gun for someone else who is legally barred from doing so), and to require people to report to law enforcement when their guns are lost or stolen. Unfortunately, even if the entire

City Council and a majority of Minneapolis residents supported enacting a law that would require this in Minneapolis, we would be unable to do so. Because, in 1985, the state legislature took away Minneapolis' authority to regulate guns, except those regulations specifically related to their "discharge." I believe it is time for the legislature to restore that authority and to give us more flexibility in determining how best to regulate handguns in Minneapolis. I also support changing federal law and hope that Congress and the President will do so next year. I am glad that Mayor Rybak has joined Mayors Against Illegal Guns (<http://www.mayorsagainstillegalguns.org/html/home/home.shtml>), an organization founded by New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Reforms they support include reinstating the assault-weapons ban (which Congress let lapse in 2004), banning high-capacity magazines, fixing the national gun-checks system, closing the gun-show loophole and repealing congressional actions that restrict the ability of local law enforcement to work with federal officials in solving gun violence.

Regional gun summit. Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett and Mayor Rybak are putting together a regional gun summit in Minneapolis that will take place on January 10th. At this event, I expect to join Mayors, police chiefs and others from Minnesota, Wisconsin and elsewhere in the Midwest as we learn about best practices for reducing gun violence and explore new initiatives to stop the proliferation of gun violence in our cities.

MN ASAP Resolution. The Council has unanimously adopted a resolution calling for a reduction in military spending as part of any federal budget deal. This resolution was brought to my attention by the Minnesota Arms Spending Alternatives Project (MN ASAP, <http://www.mnasap.org/>), an organization led by Second Ward constituent Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer. The City's position on the federal budget is now aligned with House Resolution 733, which is authored by Fifth District Congressman Keith Ellison. You can read the full resolution here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-101329.pdf>

The Year of the Dakota: Remembering, Honoring, and Truth-Telling. On December 26, 1862 the mass execution of 38 Dakota, the largest in the history of the United States, occurred in Mankato, Minnesota. On December 14, 2012, the City Council unanimously passed a resolution I helped draft that will help us move one small step closer to addressing the grave injustices done to the Dakota people in Minneapolis and Minnesota over the years. It calls for a year of remembering, honoring and truth-telling to help us understand and rectify the wrongs that were perpetrated during, and since, 1862 on the Dakota People and designates "The Year of the Dakota: Remembering, Honoring, and Truth-Telling," from December 26, 2012 to December 26, 2013. My sincere thanks go to Chris Mato Nunpa for helping and inspiring us to get this done.

New Police Chief. This month Janee Harteau was sworn in as Minneapolis' 52nd chief of police. In her remarks at the swearing-in, Chief Harteau pledged that her key values, and the key values of what she termed "MPD 2.0," will be commitment, integrity and transparency. I am encouraged by the new Chief's willingness to share her core values and address the importance of public confidence and trust. In her address to the public when she was inaugurated she said, in part,

"As Police officers--Public trust is essential. I believe the public actually decides how much authority we as police really have and our ability to be effective. Do they trust and believe in us to do the right things? Do they trust and believe in us enough to call 911 and let us police their neighborhoods? Do they trust and believe in us to tell us 'Who did it?' As your chief, I will be asking every officer to use one same guiding principal during each encounter with the public, no matter how big or small, -- a simple question-- "Did my actions reflect how I would want a member of my family to be treated?" The answer should always be yes. It is a simple question, but it has a strong ethical and consistent guiding rule. This doesn't mean we will be soft on crime or we won't take proper action or use force when necessary-- Force is a necessary component of law enforcement. But it does mean, 'Our actions should be reasonable and appropriate for the situation.' We WILL make mistakes, but we must act in good faith, always trying to do the right things. We must hold ourselves to a higher standard."

Harteau joined the Minneapolis Police Department as an officer in 1987, at age 22. From 2006–2009, she served as inspector of the 1st Precinct in downtown Minneapolis, where she advanced public/private partnerships that led to the formalization of the Downtown SafeZone Collaborative and the Downtown Courtwatch program. Harteau, who is of French Canadian and Native American descent, is the first woman to lead the Minneapolis Police Department. I joined all Council members in supporting her appointment as Chief.

New Police Executive Management Team. The new Chief has already made changes to her leadership team. Part of this included moving some current Ward 2 precinct inspectors (top supervisors at the precincts) into her citywide management team. Former 3rd precinct inspector, Lucy Gerold, has taken over the position of head of the new Leadership and Organizational Development Division. This Division will focus on employee engagement and professional development. Eddie Frizell who most recently commanded the 1st Precinct in downtown Minneapolis will become Deputy Chief of the Patrol Bureau which includes comprehensive police services such as 911, crime prevention, traffic control and some emergency services as well as the neighborhood Precincts, and the Special Operations Division and its Police Athletic League and Community Crime Prevention. Additionally, Matthew Clark is the new Assistant Chief, Kristine Arneson is the new Deputy Chief of Investigations, and Travis Glampe is Deputy Chief of Professional Standards.

New Leadership in all Ward 2 Police Precincts. Chief Harteau has announced the appointment of new Inspectors for each of the city's five police precincts. The new **1st Precinct Inspector** (Downtown and Cedar Riverside) will be **Bryan Schafer**, who has been with the Minneapolis Police Department for the past 21 years and most recently commanded the 2nd Precinct. I have worked with Inspector Schafer during his leadership in the 2nd Precinct, and believe he'll do a great job in 1st. The new **2nd Precinct Inspector** (Southeast Como, University and Prospect Park East River Road) will be **Bruce Jensen**, who has been with the department since 1993 and most recently worked in the 2nd Precinct Investigative Unit as its commander. In that role, he was responsible for the Precinct Investigative Unit, the Community Response Team and the Crime Prevention Specialists. The new **3rd Precinct Inspector** (Seward, Cooper and Longfellow) will be **Michael Sullivan**, who started with the Department in 1991, was promoted to Lieutenant in 2007 and was assigned to the 3rd Precinct as a Sector Lieutenant, acting as a community liaison for several neighborhoods. He then served as Lieutenant of the Juvenile Division overseeing Investigations, the School Resource Officer program, and the Juvenile Diversion program and in 2011 he was assigned to the Twin Cities Safe Streets Violent Gang Task Force, coordinating investigative efforts with the FBI and other federal agencies.

2012 Election Report. City Clerk Casey Carl presented a report on the 2012 general election to the Council's Elections committee. You can read the full report here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/elections/WCMS1P-100838>. The 2012 election had the highest voter turnout since the 1940s, along with the largest number of same-day voter registrations in Minneapolis history. Some polling locations were insufficient to the demands of election day, including precinct 6-2, Seward Square Apartments. There were problems with technology as simple as pens and as complicated as the voting tabulation machines. The Council directed staff to: 1) work with key community stakeholder groups as part of the proposed Elections Accessibility Plan to review all polling place locations to identify and address potential barriers and challenges and identify potential new locations for the most problematic precincts that were identified in the analysis of the 2012 Presidential election; 2) meet with the County officials to clarify the timeline and process for the purchase of new equipment for the 2013 election and report back to the Elections Committee no later than February 22 of 2013, and 3) develop budget recommendations for funding the Elections Division for the elections after 2013 that would provide adequate resources for outreach, judge recruitment and training, and other necessary improvements. It will very important for the City and County to get Ranked Choice Voting-capable voting machines in place before the next election.

Elections Legislative Reforms. The Elections committee also reviewed and supported several potential changes to state law regarding elections. These include Early Voting, Vote Centers, and Electronic Poll Books. Early voting refers to a period of time prior to the election during which voters can cast a ballot, by mail or in-person at designated early voting centers. Currently, 32 states and the District of Columbia offer some form of early voting. Vote centers are locations where eligible voters in a given election jurisdiction (county or city) are allowed to vote on Election Day, regardless of precinct. Electronic poll books function like the paper poll books that are currently used, but with additional capabilities. The implementation of these recommendations is interrelated. Vote centers rely on the technology of electronic poll books to provide city-wide data to poll workers and to ensure there is real time updating of voter status across all centers. Early voting is generally deployed within a limited number of vote centers, and can require some form of electronic poll books to ensure election integrity if more than one voting location is in use.

Election Calendar. The City Council has approved the following dates for the 2013 Municipal Election calendar:

Candidate Filing - **July 30 – August 13**, 1st Campaign Finance filing - **September 3**, 2nd Campaign Finance filing - **October 29**. The General Election date will be **November 5**.

Open Streets. The Council has unanimously voted to accept a \$50,000 grant from the Partnership for a Healthier America to organize four Open Streets events in 2013, along with a resolution formally cosponsoring these events and committing the City to \$50,000 worth of in-kind services (not paid for by the grant). This is a great step forward for Open Streets in Minneapolis, and I'm happy my office played such a key role in applying for this grant. If you have a route on the east side or in south Minneapolis (east of I-35W) that you would like to have considered as one of the new Open Streets events in 2013, please let my office know.

Central Corridor LRT Construction Update. The most intense year of construction on the Central Corridor LRT is nearing completion. University Avenue in Prospect Park, Washington Avenue on the East Bank, and the Washington Avenue trench on the West Bank are essentially complete. Next year, construction activities will be less impactful to nearby residents and businesses, and will consist of traction power work and testing. The Hiawatha LRT Trail will be reopened to bicyclists and pedestrians as soon as the Central Corridor systems contractor is finished with its work.

On the Green Line. The Met Council has put together some great promotional materials for businesses along the Central Corridor – or “Green Line” – that you can find here: <http://onthegreenline.com/>. Many Second Ward businesses are featured prominently in these materials, which include a catering and delivery guide and promotional booklet complete with coupons. I encourage everyone to eat and shop at Green Line businesses, both during the remainder of construction and after the Central Corridor opens in 2014.

Southwest LRT. The Council has unanimously adopted comments on the Southwest Light Rail project's Draft Environmental Impact Statement. You can read the comments here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-101281.pdf>. Some key comments include the City's absolute opposition to co-locating freight, light rail, and the Kenilworth trail. That co-location could require the taking of homes along the corridor or the elimination of Burnham Road, and the City opposes both of those outcomes. The City is also clear that all five stations proposed for Minneapolis must be constructed to provide access to both North and South Minneapolis, thereby helping provide economic benefits to low income and minority residents. The deadline for written comments extended through Monday, December 31. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), documenting the potential impacts of the Southwest Transitway project, was released on October 12. To learn more about the Southwest LRT project and the DEIS visit <http://www.southwesttransitway.org/>

2013 Legislative Agenda. In December the Council approved several additions to our legislative agenda that will help focus our efforts at the state legislature next year. Our bonding request includes three items: \$25 million for the Nicollet Mall rebuild, \$4.5 million for a 35W storm tunnel rehabilitation, and \$2.2 million for the Pioneers and Soldiers Cemetery rehabilitation. In area of **Transportation** we added support for the Bus Rapid Transit access project and increased funding for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and implementation of Complete Streets policies. We also added support for more local flexibility regarding pedestrian and bicycling safety efforts, a state-level study of the economic impact of bicycling, clarification about yielding to bicyclist in a bike lane and adding bike lanes to the list of locations where vehicles are prohibited from stopping, standing, or parking. In our **Housing** section we now support expansion of the Tenant Remedies Action law to permit cities to seek a court appointed administrator to manage rental properties in cases where the owners have failed to comply with rental licensing standards and continued funding for the Homeless and Runaway Youth Act. In the **Energy** section we call for changes to utility franchise law to increase flexibility for municipalities to meet federal, regional, state and local public health and environmental goals and legislation directing state energy efficiency and renewable energy goals to be incorporated into municipal energy franchise agreements. We also added support for legislation clarifying and reforming the municipal utility formation process. I was glad to see a new section on **Sewer Access Charge** that would support a program that emphasizes equity, simplification and lower rates and is supportive of the recent efforts by Metropolitan Council and Metro Cities to improve SAC rules and processes around “net” credits, “grandfathered” credits and customer services. Other new items of interest include:

- Legislation for gender-neutral marriage law, providing the freedom to marry for same-sex couples
- Establishing rules for the licensing of facilities to accept mixed co-compostable organic materials.

- Expanding urban composting rules to include the licensing of facilities to accept co-collected mixed yard waste and source separated organic materials.
- Support allowances for small composting sites.
- Passage of a Low-Carbon Fuel Standard to reduce carbon impact of transportation fuels in Minnesota at least 10% by 2020.
- Efforts to prepare for the impacts of climate change on infrastructure, natural systems and human health.
- Efforts that will to remove regulatory barriers and provide incentives for expanding local food production, processing and distribution.
- Efforts to ensure a more equitable distribution and access to healthy local food for people with low incomes.
- Efforts to remove barriers to establishing rooftop gardens/farms.
- Policies that identify and replace toxic chemicals in children's products with safer alternatives.
- Legislation and other state efforts that to addresses the spread of Asian Carp in a timely manner.
- Support efforts to increase the monitoring of air quality in the City of Minneapolis.
- Policies to eliminate racial and gender disparities in employment and create employment opportunities for communities of color and women.
- Policies that reduce access to and use of credit information and criminal records by employers.
- Legislation creating employment and contracting guidance for state capital transportation projects and state bond funded projects regarding the recruitment, training and engagement of individuals and companies from communities experiencing high rates of unemployment, including from communities of color.

CLIC Appointees. I have reappointed Alex Tsatsoulis from Cooper and Ann Jaede from Prospect Park as the Second Ward representatives on the Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee. I thank them for their outstanding work and continued willingness to serve.

Recreational Fires. After receiving the recommendations from the Environmental Advisory Committee and Public Health Advisory Committee, I have given notice of intent to amend the City's ordinance regarding recreational fires. My intent is to prohibit recreational fires on air quality alert days, in keeping with those recommendations. Recreational fires are already prohibited on high-wind days and after 10pm, and can be discontinued if they become a nuisance. I hope to have formal language drafted for a public hearing early next year.

Trap Neuter Return.. In 2013 I will be bringing forward a proposal that would allow the City to coordinate and participate in Trap Neuter Return programs to address the problem of Feral, or wild, cats in Minneapolis. I believe that this offers us For information about a program in New Jersey that might be a model for ours visit <http://www.aplnj.org/projectTNR.php>

Safe Routes to School. The Public Works Department and Minneapolis Public Schools exploring ideas submitted from the community for Safe Routes to School projects. Ideas were sought in advance of a grant deadline from the Minnesota Department of Transportation. This program provides funding to local communities to make improvements to the routes children use to walk and bike to school, making biking and walking to school a safer and more appealing transportation alternative, thereby encouraging a healthy and active lifestyle from an early age. For more see <https://bikewalktwincities.wufoo.com/forms/safe-routes-to-school-project-ideas/>

Homegrown Minneapolis Open House. The Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council, on which I serve as the City Council's representative, held a highly enjoyable Open House in early December, which was attended by more than 100 residents. It's clear that the local food movement has momentum and generates great interest from a large swath of our community. I am committed to continue to work on changes to the City's laws, policies and purchasing practices to support the local food economy. At the event, my Aide and I were honored with "2012 Homegrown Minneapolis Hero" awards for our work on the Urban Agriculture zoning code text amendments, compost ordinance and more.

Health Safety Fee. After some consideration of proposed new fees to health safety inspections, the request for the new fee has been withdrawn. Alternative funds have been found to fund the 7 new inspectors needed to keep

up with the growing need for timely inspections of the many restaurants, hotels and other businesses that need regular health inspections.

Report on Homelessness in Minneapolis. In December the Council's Community Development committee heard an in-depth report on homelessness in Minneapolis and learned that homelessness continues to increase, despite the best efforts of the City and County through the Heading Home Hennepin collaborative. Demand for single adult and youth shelter spaces outstrips the supply of shelters. Heading Home Hennepin is recommending that we use the federal government's Emergency Solutions Grants to fund outreach that can help people find housing without going to shelters, that we bring more youth-specific shelter beds online, and that we continue to invest in affordable housing, especially for families. You can read the report here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-101008.pdf>.

Youth Homelessness. The Committee report indicated that on an average night over 400 homeless youth are without housing, while there are less than 75 shelter beds available to them. One promising new program, the **Minneapolis Host Home Program**, was highlighted in the report. The program is intended to connect homeless youth (16-21) with caring adults from their own community who are willing to provide safe housing and support. Youth are matched with willing adults who voluntarily share their home and themselves. Avenues for Homeless Youth will manage the program for Minneapolis. In 2013 the program will recruit and train adult volunteers to be host homes, then match homeless youth with those volunteer host homes, so that the youth may continue to live, attend school, and work within their respective Minneapolis communities. For more info: <http://www.avenuesforyouth.org/programs-minneapolis-hosthome.html>

Building Boom. More than \$1 billion of construction projects have been approved in Minneapolis, based on the value of building permits issued for the year. This is an increase of nearly \$500 million over 2010. Over 12,160 building permits have been issued in Minneapolis this year. Through Nov. 27, the City has issued building permits for 3,530 new housing units (single or multifamily), compared to the previous high of 2,732 units in 2004. As a comparison, there were 972 units permitted in 2011 and 1,048 units permitted in 2010. The new housing units permitted so far in 2012 include 2,888 apartment units in 22 new buildings plus 562 units added through building conversions and additions to existing buildings. Building permits were also issued to 74 new single family homes, four townhouses and one new duplex.

Snow Emergencies. Please follow Snow Emergency parking rules and avoid getting a ticket and tow. A Snow Emergency will always be declared before 6 p.m. Once that happens, 17 electronic message signs above Downtown streets and 12 digital billboards in Minneapolis outside of downtown will be used to alert people that a Snow Emergency is in effect. To stay informed call 612-348-SNOW to find out if an emergency has been declared and where to park. (with information available in English, Somali, Hmong and Spanish) or visit www.minneapolismn.gov/snow. Minneapolis also uses a phone automated notification system that can place thousands of calls per hour. You can add your cellphone or unlisted landline number to the alert system by [signing up](#) on the City's website. You can sign up to get Snow Emergency alerts [automatically emailed to you](#). Snow emergency and other winter weather videos in English, Hmong, Somali and Spanish can be found at: www.YouTube.com/cityofminneapolis and at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/tv/14>

Sidewalks are a critical part of our city's transportation system. City ordinances require sidewalks to be cleared after a snowfall within 24 hours for houses and duplexes and four daytime hours for apartment and commercial buildings. To help yourself and neighbors who are walking, pushing strollers and using wheelchairs, please clear ice as well as snow from your sidewalk. If you use salt or other chemical deicers, please use as little as possible because they release harmful chlorides into our lakes and river. Check your local hardware store for safer alternative products. Please also clear a path three feet wide from your garbage and recycling containers for collection crews. To report a sidewalk that is not shoveled, you can file an online complaint, call 311 or use the new 311 mobile app. If the City finds that a sidewalk is not properly cleared, Public Works will send a warning letter and give the property owners a chance to clear it. If the sidewalk does not get cleared, the property owner may be issued a citation with a fine and crews will remove the snow and ice from the sidewalk. The property owner will be billed for this work, and unpaid bills will be added to the owner's property tax. For more information on healthier sidewalk snow and ice removal, visit www.minnehahacreek.org/education/keep-our-water-clean-home/snow-removal-and-salt

CSL Plasma Center. The Planning Commission has unanimously recommended that the Council deny the proposed rezoning of the parcel at 315 27th Ave SE from I1 to C4 to accommodate a move of the CSL Plasma Center from its current site. This move was requested as part of the WaHu development. I plan to vote against this rezoning, and I expect it to fail. However, I believe that the City's zoning code may too severely limit the places where plasma centers may be located; currently, they can only be built on the highest-intensity commercial zone. Blood plasma is a necessity – it saves lives. It does not make sense to me that the City would essentially regulate plasma centers out of existence. I have given notice of intent to introduce an ordinance amendment to allow plasma centers in more zoning districts. I will be looking to the City's professional planning staff to help identify which districts may be appropriate.

University Library Agreement. In December the city authorized entering into an agreement with the University of Minnesota Library and the Minnesota Historical Society for the digitization of aerial photographs of Minneapolis. Under state law the City Clerk is designated the custodian of the City's official records. In that capacity, the Clerk is in possession of a series of aerial photographs spanning approximately six decades documenting the physical development of Minneapolis. In an effort to better preserve these and make them more available the City is entering into an agreement with, the State Historical Society, and the U of M Library, so that the U's Borchert Map Library will be responsible for scanning and providing digital copies of these photographs to the City at no charge. The City then can make these digital images broadly available to interested parties and the general public. The City will transfer the aerial photographs to the Borchert Map Library for permanent preservation and those original photographs would then be accessible by the public as a part of the University's archival collection.

Cedar Riverside NRP Phase II Plan. In December the City Council approved the Cedar Riverside NRP (neighborhood Revitalization Program) Phase II Neighborhood Action Plan and authorized \$704,577 in NRP Program Funds to implement this plan. The plan allocates 74.3% (\$523,226) of its Phase II allocation to housing related activities. Other priorities include safety, community building, culture, public infrastructure, community space, economic development, education and training. I commend the Cedar-Riverside Neighborhood Revitalization Program (CRNRP) and their work with the University of Minnesota's CHANCE program and the West Bank Community Coalition (WBCC) to conduct an extensive community engagement project, including over 15 focus groups and a community wide survey. This work will help inform me, other city departments and others in our future work for the community.

Arrest in Riverside Park Sexual Assault. The suspect in November's sexual assault in Riverside Park has been arrested and charged with the assault. The suspect's name is Louis Richard Oliver. He was arrested near Region's Hospital in St. Paul, after having been reported "approaching females" near their parking lot. He matched the sketch from the victim's description, and was interviewed by Minneapolis police prior to the charges being filed. This is good news for the Riverside Park area, and I hope it will bring some closure to the victim.

Toddler Killed in Ward 2. A Second Ward two-year-old named Neejnco Xiong was accidentally shot to death earlier this month by his four-year-old brother. I cannot begin to express how tragic this is and how devastating it must be the child's family. My thoughts and prayers go out to them all. It seems that this child's father brought a handgun into his home for "personal protection." It sounds like the gun was stored loaded and unlocked, which is against state law. There was a vigil for Neenjco on December 8th. If you have a handgun in your home, please consider getting rid of it, especially if there are children in the home. The police are available to take and properly dispose of handguns. To turn in a gun, please call 311. If you decide to keep it, please follow the law and store it unloaded (no rounds in the chamber or the magazine, and bullets stored separately from the weapon) and locked.

Shooting on Cedar. There was a non-fatal shooting on the 500 block of Cedar at approximately 4am on the morning of Sunday, December 16th. The victim is a 22-year-old male who lives in St. Paul. He is expected to recover. He has told investigators that he does not know the identity of the shooter, as he was intoxicated at the time of the shooting. I have asked the First Police Precinct to inform me when we have any further information.

Cedar Ave Sidewalks. As you may know, the City and County have allocated funds to redo the sidewalks on Cedar Avenue between 7th Street S and the new Central Corridor light rail station. At a site visit on November 19th, it became clear that, to meet the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act, most or all of the curb and gutter on the west side of Cedar between 4th and 6th Streets will have to be replaced. This presents an opportunity to potentially widen the sidewalk as part of this project, if a) Hennepin County agrees to change Cedar

between 4th and 6th from a four-lane to a three-lane roadway and b) additional funding is allocated to the project. In order to have a functional sidewalk on the east side of Cedar, it may be necessary to do the east side in 2013 and the west side in 2014 or later. I will be hosting a public meeting on the Cedar Avenue sidewalk project on **Tuesday, December 18th** from 6-8pm at the Brian Coyle Center.

The Station on 4th. The Council has approved the rezoning of 2635 4th St SE from I1 to R6, to allow for the Station on 4th development to go forward. This is one of what I hope will be many developments spurred by the Central Corridor LRT project. The project keeps open the future right of way for the Grand Rounds Missing Link, which is to align with 27th Ave SE.

Birchwood Café. The City Council has unanimously voted to rezone the Birchwood Café to C1. This action had the support of the Seward Neighborhood Group, the Seward Civic and Commerce Association, City Planning staff and the Planning Commission. I will continue to listen to the concerns of the near neighbors and encourage the Birchwood, other nearby businesses, and the City to do what we can to address the issues that have been raised.

Seward Café Rezoning. The City Council has unanimously granted the Seward Café's request to rezone their parcel to C2, to allow them to request a beer/wine license that can include general entertainment.

Currie Park Lofts/515 on the Park. Because of the building's potential historic significance, in December the City's Historic Preservation Commission denied the developer's request to demolish the last building standing on the site of the new proposed apartment building Fine Associates hope to build at 6th Street and 15th Avenue in the Cedar Riverside Neighborhood. This decision was appealed to the City Council where the appeal was granted in part but will require the developer to move the Gluek Brewing Tied House/old Rainbow Gallery instead of tearing it down. The owner/developer was also required to submit a site plan application for the new location, 1527 6th St, subject to administrative approval by staff.

Red Sea Liquor License. The Council has voted to approve a Class B Liquor License for the Red Sea bar on the West Bank. I want to thank the owners and licensing staff for their work to craft a mutually agreeable set of operating conditions. I hope and expect that the new license will allow the Red Sea to be successful and a positive force in the community.

Apply to Serve on a Boards or Commission. There are openings on the Arts Commission, Charter Commission, Environmental Advisory Committee, Civil Rights Commission, Disabilities Advisory Committee, Heritage Preservation Commission, Housing Board of Appeals, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, Public Health Advisory Committee, Senior Advisory Committee, MTN Board, ThinkGreen Advisory Committee, Youth Violence Prevention Committee and Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.

Ward Office Hours. Every Tuesday morning I hold "Office Hours" in the Ward from 9:30-11:00am. Please feel free to call for an appointment or just stop by.

1st Tuesdays, Hard Times Café (West Bank/University);
2nd Tuesdays, Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como (SE Como);
3rd Tuesdays, Pratt School (Prospect Park);
4th Tuesdays, the Birchwood Cafe (Seward/Longfellow).

I thank you all for the opportunity to serve you and all the people of Minneapolis and I wish you a New Year filled with peace, good health and happiness for you and your families.

In peace and cooperation,

Cam Gordon
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