

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 10-2-12

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:
Tuesday, October 9th, 9:30-11:00am
Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como Avenue SE



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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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.

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.

Items:

- 1) Surly Brewing Company
- 2) Civilian Review Authority Dismantled
- 3) Utility Franchise Work Group
- 4) One-Sort Recycling Contract
- 5) Bike Lanes on Johnson Street NE
- 6) Eastside Urban Agriculture Community Forum
- 7) City Retains Top Bond Ratings
- 8) Free Energy Assessments
- 9) Bulk Buy for Insulation and Solar
- 10) 2PAC Personal Safety Workshop
- 11) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) As you have likely heard, Surly Brewing Company is seriously exploring locating their brewery and taproom in the Second Ward, one block north of University Avenue and just east of Malcolm Ave SE. They will be applying for environmental remediation grants to deal with significant soil contamination of this land. I am very supportive of this idea, and have encouraged City Economic Development staff to help in any way we can. If Surly moves to the SEMI area, it will bring a large number of good paying jobs to the area, increase the vitality of the area, and represent one of the first major employers attracted by the Central Corridor LRT.
- 2) I voted against the proposal created by the Civil Rights Department to merge the current Civilian Review Authority (CRA) with the Police Department's Internal Affairs Unit. The proposal sharply divided the Council, finally passing 8-5. In my view, this new ordinance essentially dismantles civilian police oversight in Minneapolis, and I am very sorry that I could not stop it. On a 7-6 margin, the Council rejected an amendment I crafted – which had the support of staff – to increase the number of civilians on the Review Panels from 2 to 3, so that there will be more civilians than police officers on each panel. I am disappointed not only in this outcome, but in the process that led to it. The Civil Rights Department did not seek the input of the existing CRA Board, outside police accountability advocates, the Police Federation, or Council Members as they put the proposal together. The final plan was opposed by the Star Tribune, in addition to five Council Members, and drew sharp criticism from the National Association for Civilian Oversight of Law Enforcement. For more analysis, please see my blog.
- 3) The Council has voted to create a new Utility Franchise Work Group to assist the City in preparing for negotiations regarding its electric and natural gas franchise agreements with public utility companies. I am one of the four Council Members who have been appointed to this Work Group. Among its tasks, the work group will develop a set of policy principles that will guide the city in its franchise discussions; review and consider potential legislative and/or other regulatory changes and consider formal support for these changes on the City's state legislative agenda; and develop a community engagement program. I am very supportive of having this conversation, and exploring all of our options: renewing the franchise agreements, renegotiating them to include more green energy and energy efficiency, or starting the process to become a municipal power utility. For more, see: http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wc_ms1p-098575.pdf.
- 4) On September 25th Transportation and Public Works Committee recommended approving the selection of Waste Management, Inc. for the processing and marketing of Minneapolis one-sort recyclable materials and authorizing the negotiation and execution of a contract with them for a three-year term, with the option to extend annually for two years (2012-2017).

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- 5) Minneapolis Public Works staff have installed new bike lanes on Johnson Street Northeast, north of East Hennepin. I strongly supported this new connection between Southeast and Northeast, which the Bicycle Advisory Committee fought to include on the City's bike map as part of the Bicycle Plan that passed last year. The next step on these lanes will be to figure out how to connect them to the streets south of East Hennepin. There are two options for a northbound facility to connect the bike lanes on 10th Ave SE and Como Ave SE to the new northbound Johnson lanes: continue the lanes straight up via 11th Ave SE, or install some sort of signed route or bicycle boulevard facility on 12th Ave SE, with a short connection on East Hennepin. I look forward to working on this
- 6) First Ward Council Member Kevin Reich is holding a community forum on the Urban Agriculture Policy Plan and related Zoning Code text amendments I authored to support and expand our community's ability to grow, process, distribute and eat more healthy, sustainable, locally grown foods. This forum will look at the current broad spectrum of urban agriculture and the local foods movement in Eastside Minneapolis, from community gardens to urban farms to the retailing of food and gardening items. The panel of guest speakers will include Homegrown Minneapolis coordinator **Jane Shey**, the people behind two local urban farms – Buchanan Street Farm and California Street Farm, **Karen O'Connor** and **Paige Pelini** from the Eastside's newest garden center Mother Earth Gardens, representatives from local community gardens, local farmers markets and more. Join your neighbors for the panel presentation, open discussion and a light meal from a local establishment. When: **Wednesday, October 17**, 6-8 pm, Where: Eastside Co-op's Granite Studio, 2551 Central Avenue NE.
- 7) The three main credit rating services, Fitch Ratings, Moody's and Standard and Poor's have assigned the City of Minneapolis their highest, triple A, ratings again this year. As a result, the City was able to finalize \$91.42 million of bond sales and refunding in September, leading to an interest savings of \$13 million in the coming years. The City sells bonds periodically to finance capital projects, including sewer and water system improvements, street paving, lighting and traffic signal improvements. The refunding work is similar to the way a person might refinance a home, meaning the City refunds bonds it sold years ago by selling new bonds at lower interest rates. Moody's praised the City's "well-managed financial operations" while Fitch said that Minneapolis "benefits from conservative financial management resulting in stable financial performance," and noted that "management has prudently dealt with potential budgetary challenges."
- 8) A pilot program to reduce pollution is looking for Minneapolis organizations (businesses, schools, nonprofits, etc.) to sign up for free energy efficiency assessments. The assessments put knowledge in consumers' hands to help them make decisions that will save them money. The Retiree Environmental Technical Assistance Program (RETAP) and the City - in a partnership called Green Business Benchmarking – will help businesses monitor their energy use from year to year and to learn how to reduce energy, water and waste. Organizations interested in signing up or finding out more can email MPLSefficiency@minneapolismn.gov.
- 9) Cooperative Energy Futures (CEF) is a Minneapolis based community energy cooperative that is helping neighbors and businesses save money on insulation and solar panels with unique bulk buying programs. The programs CEF offers are Neighborhood Insulation, Grow Solar, Weatherization Work Parties and Make Mine Solar. Working together as a community and buying in bulk makes the process easier, cheaper, and fun. Would you like to find out more? Attend a free community workshop: **Tuesday, October 9**, 6-8 pm, at Powderhorn Park (3400 15th Ave S) or **Wed, October 17**, 6-8 pm, at the Midtown Global Market. If you are interested in saving money, reducing emissions, or building energy generation, then contact Cooperative Energy Futures to begin shoring up our communities' electrical futures. More Info: www.cooperativeenergyfutures.com.
- 10) The 2nd Precinct and the 2nd Precinct Advisory Council are sponsoring a Personal Safety workshop on **Monday, October 15th**, from 6-7:30pm, at Budo Martial Arts at 1101 Stinson. At this class, you will learn how distance awareness, body language, eye contact and tone of voice can play a role in preventing a physical assault. Simple physical self-defense techniques are also presented. This workshop is free, paid for by the 2nd Precinct Advisory Council, with space donated by Budo Martial Arts. This may be the only Personal Safety Workshop in 2nd Precinct this year. These classes have been very popular. Save your place by contacting Sean at Courtwatch2PAC@gmail.com or calling [612-781-2299](tel:612-781-2299).
- 11) There are openings on the Arts Commission, Capital Long Range Improvement Committee, Charter Commission, Citizen Environmental Advisory Committee, Civil Rights Commission, Dinkytown Special Service District, Disability Advisory Committee, Heritage Preservation Commission, Housing Board of Appeals, Public Housing Authority, Planning Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Public Health Advisory Committee, Senior Advisory Committee, Stadium Village Special Service District, Telecommunications Network, ThincGreen Advisory Committee, Youth Violence Prevention Committee and Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.