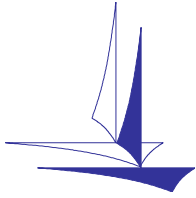


Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 12-4-12

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:
Tuesday, January 8th, 9:30-11:00am
Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como Avenue SE



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon

City Council Member
Second Ward

350 South 5th Street - Room 301M
Minneapolis MN 55415

Office 612-673-2202
Fax 612-673-3940
Cell 612-296-0579
TTY 612-673-2157

cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov

www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2

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

Ahmed.Muhumud@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

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 tarjammada macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

Items:

- 1) Thanks for Voting
- 2) Voting Results
- 3) Como Downpayment Assistance Program
- 4) 2013 Budget
- 5) Janeé Harteau Approved as Police Chief
- 6) Airport Noise
- 7) Recreational Fires
- 8) Citywide Compost Collection Study
- 9) Winter Street Reconstruction
- 10) Sherco Plant
- 11) Food Council Open House
- 12) MPCA Composting Rules
- 13) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) Thanks to everyone for voting on November 6. Your participation in our democracy is vital to health of our city, state and country. Gratitude is also due to the many election judges and elections professionals that worked hard throughout a long day to ensure the best election possible. Turnout of registered voters in the Second Ward was **81.11%**, citywide it was 80.84%, both higher than the statewide turnout of 76%. Over 200,000 Minneapolis residents voted in person and, of those, 50,668 registered on Election Day. I know that many people waited in long lines in the cold and rain. As Chair of the Elections Committee I am helping coordinate a full review of this election. This will include a report to the Council's Elections Committee on **December 3rd**, at 11am, that will outline the challenges we faced and a precinct-by-precinct analysis of all polling place issues. I welcome your feedback your voting experience and on how well polling places worked in your area.
- 2) I am very pleased that both of the constitutional amendments – to ban same-sex marriage and require voters to have a photo ID – failed on November 6th. I'm proud that the City Council took a strong, unanimous stand against both amendments, and that the Second Ward voted so conclusively against them. **84%** of Ward 2 residents voted against the marriage amendment, and **81%** voted against the voter ID amendment. These percentages mean that the Second Ward had the fourth-highest percentage of the vote against both of these two amendments of all thirteen Minneapolis wards.
- 3) 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. Up to 10 loans are available to anyone who buys a home in Como Neighborhood. The only 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>.
- 4) The City Council will have one final public meeting before a final budget is approved on **Wednesday, Dec. 12, 6:05 p.m.** Both will be held at City Hall, 350 South 5th Street, in room 317 Visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget/WCMS1P-097420> for more information on the Mayor's recommended budget.
- 5) Janeé Harteau was sworn in Dec. 4 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 joined all Council members in supporting her appointment as Chief. 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.

- 6) The Metropolitan Airport Commissions (MAC) has been considering a new navigation system that could expose some people to more noise. This system, called "Area Navigation" or "RNAV," puts planes on more precise routes and they fly the same routes continually. The hope is that by having planes take the most direct route possible there will be savings to fuel (and money) and reduced emissions. Concerns have arisen related to increased aircraft noise over certain areas and insufficient community engagement regarding the tracks, so the City provided comments calling for more time and a better community engagement process. At its meeting on November 19th the MAC voted to not to proceed with new flights path plan proposed to go over Minneapolis.
- 7) This Friday, I plan to give notice of intent to introduce changes to the City's recreational fire ordinance. The amendments I will put forward will be in keeping with the recommendations of the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee and Public Health Advisory Committee. Both groups advocate for the Council to amend the recreational fire ordinance to prohibit fires during air quality alert days.
- 8) Responding to a recommendation by the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee, the Council has directed Solid Waste and Recycling staff to study City collection of Source Separated Organics and report the findings to the Council by April of next year. This study will answer the cost, co-collection, processing and hauling questions, and allow the Council to adopt a clear goal for when the City should begin to collect organic waste in addition to recycling, yard waste and garbage. I view this as a major step towards making our city more sustainable. It does not make sense to send our compostable organic waste to the garbage burner and lose all of the nutrients in it – including fixed nitrogen, phosphorous and more – when we could be turning it back into soil.
- 9) The Council has voted to reconstruct Winter Street and nearby numbered streets north of East Hennepin Ave in Southeast Como. These streets are some of the last "oiled dirt" streets in Minneapolis, and were never actually constructed in the first place. There will be a public hearing on the proposed assessments for this project on **January 29th** of next year.
- 10) I testified at a Public Utilities Commission hearing in favor of requiring Xcel Energy study how clean energy options can replace the dirty Sherco coal plant. I am very pleased to say that the PUC has ruled in favor of my position. I view this as a major win for clean energy, and a possible phase-out of a coal plant that pollutes our air and water.
- 11) The Minneapolis Food Council is holding an Open House on **Wednesday, December 5**, from 5:30-9pm at East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center, 2307 17th Ave S. Participants will hear an update on Minneapolis' progress with urban agriculture initiatives, hear from two urban farmers and weigh in on possible future policies and programs. The open house will include an information fair with organizations that support urban agriculture; lessons on composting, gardening and bee keeping; and a discussion on the future work of the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council. Sisters Camelot will serve a light dinner from 6-7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, but please RSVP to jane.shey@minneapolismn.gov
- 12) The City Council has unanimously adopted comments on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's draft amendments to their composting rules. These comments were drafted by members of the Minneapolis Food Council, my office and City Sustainability and Solid Waste and Recycling staff. The City supports the general direction of these amendments, which will allow more large-scale compost sites in the state and will also make it easier to do neighborhood-level or small business composting in Minneapolis. In addition, the City called on the MPCA to:
 - Finish the rulemaking process as soon as possible
 - Allow more flexibility for municipalities to decide what sorts of materials (including non-recyclable paper and chicken litter from chicken permit holders) can be composted in small compost sites
 - Use newly available experimental findings about the very limited impacts compost sites have on storm water when determining how far above the water table a compost site must be
 - In general make it easier to build new composting capacity while still protecting the environment and nearby property owners.
- 13) 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, ThincGreen Advisory Committee, Youth Violence Prevention Committee and Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.