



**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.

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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.

# Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 10-18-12

**Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:  
Tuesday, November 6<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am  
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave**

## Items:

- 1) Election on November 6<sup>th</sup>
- 2) Please Vote No Twice
- 3) Resolution for Margot Imdieke Cross
- 4) Community Recommendations on 15<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>
- 5) Lucky Dragon Entertainment License
- 6) Public Funding for Currie Park Lofts
- 7) Zombie Pub Crawl
- 8) Civilian Review Authority Dismantled
- 9) Utility Franchise Work Group
- 10) Gun Violence in Minneapolis
- 11) Garbage Collection Contract
- 12) City Keeps Top Credit Rating
- 13) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Election day is **November 6**. Please remember to vote! Voter registration applications can be picked up at the Minneapolis Elections Office in City Hall or at the Hennepin County Government Center or online: [www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=204](http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=204). You can find a sample ballot here ([mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx](http://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx)), or here ([pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/](http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/)).
- 2) As I have mentioned in the past, the Minneapolis City Council has voted to formally oppose both of the constitutional amendments on the ballot this November 6. The first would enshrine anti-gay bigotry in the state constitution, and the second would make it much more difficult to vote in Minnesota elections, with the aim of disenfranchising certain types of people – the elderly, recent immigrants, students, and people living in poverty. I urge you to **vote no on both**.
- 3) Tomorrow, I will be sponsoring a resolution honoring West Bank resident Margot Imdieke Cross for her years of service to the City as a member and chair of the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities. Margot has had an important positive impact on the lives of people with disabilities through her work and volunteering, and I'm proud to have her as a constituent.
- 4) The community meeting about 15<sup>th</sup> Ave and 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets made several recommendations for WBCC positions on what should happen on these streets, and I hope that the WBCC will adopt a formal position so I can push for a set of broadly agreed upon improvements to these streets.
- 5) The Lucky Dragon restaurant has applied to upgrade their class of entertainment from a Class E On-Sale Wine and Strong Beer to a Class B On-Sale Wine and Strong Beer. This upgrade will allow Lucky Dragon to offer live bands, DJs, and dancing for special events, private occasions and weddings to be held on the second floor of the restaurant. There will be a public hearing on this application on **Monday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>**, at 1:30pm at City Hall, 350 S 5<sup>th</sup> Street, in Council Chambers, room 317.
- 6) The City has applied for \$390,000 in Hennepin County Transit Oriented Development funds for the Currie Park Lofts development.
- 7) The Zombie Pub Crawl was on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. I have received an update on the event from its organizers, and have received some complaints from residents. I will work with the organizers and bar owners to address these concerns for next year's event.

- 8) 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.
- 9) 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.
- 10) Six people were killed on September 27 in a hand gun shooting in a Minneapolis business. Another four people were wounded in a separate shooting on the same day when someone shot into their home. My thoughts and prayers go out the victims, their families, co-workers and other community members devastated by these terrible crimes. These are all too common and should remind us that we need to work harder to prevent acts of violence and address this epidemic of gun violence head on. I believe that we need the best and the brightest minds to unite to look at how science, education, regulation and technology can help address this public health crisis. As Heather Martens, executive director of Protect Minnesota: Working to End Gun Violence said, "Public policy matters. It is time for our public officials to acknowledge that gun violence is a problem, that they can do something about it, and that they are morally obligated to work to solve the problem. Homicide is not an acceptable price to pay for political expediency, for blind ideology or for gun industry profits -- there is no excuse for failure to act." It is clear that this is a national, as well as local problem, according to David Hemenway from the Harvard School of Public Health, the United States has a rate of homicide 7 times that of other wealthy nations, driven by a 20-times higher rate of gun homicide. For more you may want to see this new investigation by Mother Jones has found a national trend of rising mass shootings since 1982. Mother Jones also reported a nationwide rollback in gun regulations since 2009 <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2012/09/mass-shootings-investigation>.
- 11) The Transportation and Public Works Committee has held a public to consider and formally announce the City's intent to potentially begin a 180-day process to evaluate options and discuss with the solid waste, garbage and recycling contract, the current contractor and other options for a future contract for collection of garbage, recycling, problem materials (metals and mattresses), and yard wastes for one-half of the City's dwelling units currently served by the private company, Minneapolis Refuse Inc.(MRI.) The contract is set to end in January of 2014 and this will keep us on track to maintain competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) process for solid waste collection services on a 5-year cycle, as was started in 2007 and provides the opportunity for the city to obtain competitive market pricing.
- 12) There are more than 186 open positions on 24 boards and commissions that the City Council and Mayor will appoint this fall. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City. Boards/Commissions with open positions include: Arts Commission, Citizen Environmental Advisory Committee, Civil Rights Commission, Civilian Police Review Authority Vacancy, Dinkytown Special Service District, Disabilities, Mpls Advisory Committee, East Lake Special Service District, Heritage Preservation Commission, Housing Board of Appeals Vacancy, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, Planning Commission, Public Health Advisory Committee, Senior Advisory Committee Vacancy, Stadium Village Special Service District, Telecommunications Network, Minneapolis ThincGreen Advisory Committee, Youth Violence Prevention Committee and the Zoning Board of Adjustments. Applications will be reviewed beginning Friday, October 19, however the positions are open until filled. For a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/index.htm> To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email [cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov).