



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

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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, 1-17-13

**Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:  
Tuesday, February 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am  
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave**

## Items:

- 1) Guns in the Legislative Agenda
- 2) Self-Managed Special Service Districts
- 3) Sign Up for STEP-UP
- 4) New Book on Somali Immigration to MN
- 5) Parking Lot next to ADC
- 6) 2012 Report
- 7) Bicycle Crash Report
- 8) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) In response to the Sandy Hook shootings, the death of a Cedar Riverside two-year-old and the increased national and statewide attention to the issue of guns, the Council will be considering updates to the City's legislative agendas on guns. I am pushing for those updates to include undoing the state preemption of local action on guns, a ban on semi-automatic weapons, a ban on high-capacity magazines, more discretionary power to municipalities to grant or deny gun permits, better background checks, a gun violence commission, changing the age for purchasing guns from 18 to 21, mandatory reporting of gun theft or loss, renewing the prohibition on people convicted of felony domestic abuse owning guns, and explore including violent misdemeanors in background checks.
- 2) Yesterday, the Council's Transportation and Public Works (TPW) committee passed a motion directing staff to develop a strategy for self-managed special service districts. This policy is on a very tight timeline. Starting with today's staff direction, there will be just under three months to get the policy through the Council. The reason for this fast timeline is that the policy must be in place by April 1 at the latest in order to allow the West Bank - and all other districts that are interested in transitioning to self management or forming as self-managed service districts - to proceed with the actions they need to take in order to get up and running at the beginning of 2014. Council Member Lilligren and I insisted that we meet this timeline, in order to avoid pushing the West Bank off another year. They have already been delayed at least one year by the City's lack of a clear policy, and making them wait two years is just not acceptable, from my perspective. None of this presupposes that the West Bank will form a special service district. There are some property owners who strongly support the idea, and some who oppose it. But whether it goes forward or not, the West Bank should be given the opportunity to finally go through the process. There will be several opportunities to learn more about and comment on these questions. First, Public Works staff have organized a meeting on **Thursday, January 31<sup>st</sup>**, starting at 3:30pm at the Hiawatha Maintenance Facility, 1901 East 26th Street. Then staff will present a draft policy to TPW at its meeting on **February 26<sup>th</sup>**. A final recommendation will be presented to TPW on **March 19<sup>th</sup>**, and finally passed by the Council on **March 29<sup>th</sup>**.
- 3) The deadline to apply for a STEP-UP internship is **March 4<sup>th</sup>**. This year, all youth must apply online. If a youth requires assistance with their application, they can contact Tammy Dickinson at 612-673-5041 or they can visit the STEP-UP page for agencies that offer staff and/or computer assistance. All applicants must: live in Minneapolis; Be 14-21 years old by June 1, 2013 (no exceptions); Not be currently enrolled in college (PSEO is ok); Be eligible to work in the US by June 1, 2013 and have proper documentation; Meet guideline incomes or have a substantial barrier to getting a job (for example IEPs, English language learners, or pregnant and parenting teens).

- 4) There will be a local book launch at on **January 24<sup>th</sup>** at the African Development Center, 1931 S 5th St, from 6:00-8:00 pm. The book, by Ahmed Ismail Yusuf, is called "*The People of Minnesota: Somalis in Minnesota*." It charts Somalis' path to Minnesota, Minneapolis and the West Bank, and I encourage residents to attend the event and read the book.
- 5) The Community Planning and Economic Development department has negotiated a settlement with Riverside Homes regarding the contested parking lot next to the African Development Center headquarters. After nearly five years of protracted negotiations, and a lawsuit initiated by Riverside Homes against the City, earlier this week at a court-mandated mediation hearing, the two parties finally hammered out an agreement to extract the parking lot property from the parcel leased for affordable housing by Riverside Homes. According to the terms of the agreement, the City will pay \$50,000 to extract the property and all of the transactional costs related to establishing a separate parcel. The settlement agreement is contingent on City Council approval from the City's side and the Partner, Lender, and Bond Trustee approval on the Riverside Homes' side. The City expects to recoup the costs through the lease or sale of the property.
- 6) It has been a busy year for the Second Ward office, with a number of legislative achievements and specific developments and infrastructure improvements in the ward. Major legislative achievements include the **Urban Agriculture** Zoning Code amendments, the **composting ordinance**, a new City commitment to reducing **racial disparities in employment**, and victories on the **marriage amendment** and **voter ID** amendment. Here is a partial list of the developments on the West Bank that we have worked on in 2012:
  - Approval of an upgraded liquor license at the **Red Sea** bar and restaurant on the West Bank.
  - Completion of major **Riverside Avenue** reconstruction activities.
  - New **parking contract** for City-owned parking lots on the West Bank. Robin participated on the contract review committee.
  - Requirement that the old **Rainbow Gallery / Gluek Tied House** at 15<sup>th</sup> Ave S and 6<sup>th</sup> St S on the West Bank be moved to a new location, rather than torn down.
  - Approval of redevelopment of old **Grandma's site** near Seven Corners into rental housing.
  - "**On the Green Line**" support for small businesses along the Central Corridor LRT line during construction.
  - Community work to define a vision for **Parking Lot A** on the West Bank, in advance of a City Request for Proposals.
  - Greening agreement for the **new plaza space** at 5<sup>th</sup> and Riverside, to be maintained by the African Development Center.
  - Completion of the **Riverside Plaza renovation project**.
  - Final design approved for the **pedestrian improvements to Seven Corners**.
  - More public funding secured for **Currie Park Lofts** project.
- 7) Yesterday, the Council's Transportation and Public Works committee received a very informative report and presentation from Simon Blenski in the Public Works Bicycle and Pedestrian Office on bicycle crashes in Minneapolis. The report is drawn from ten years of crash statistics in Minneapolis, and provides three key takeaways:
  - Most crashes are occurring at intersections along major arterials.
  - Motorists are not seeing or yielding to bicyclists.
  - Bicyclists are not riding in a predictable manner.

Item 1 is very interesting, and speaks to a need to do more projects like Public Works did on 15th Ave SE, where we clearly identified conflict areas between bicycles and turning vehicles. Most of the motor vehicles involved in crashes are making turns, especially left turns. This confirms my interest in the "Copenhagen Model" of cycle track facilities, in which bicyclists are physically separated from cars and intersections are treated very carefully to reduce conflict. In some cases, bicycle and vehicle traffic might need separate signal phases. The worst intersection in Minneapolis for bike/car crashes is **East Franklin Ave and Cedar Ave**, just south of the West Bank. Currently, this intersection has no formal accommodation for bicyclists; I'm hoping that the Native American Community Development Institute's (NACDI) project will help extend the bike lanes from where they end at Minnehaha over to at least 16th Ave or Bloomington. Other conclusions from the report are worth noting. The per-capita crash rate has declined as the number of bicyclists has increased. My hope is that this effect will intensify as we build better, more comfortable facilities like cycle tracks, and attract more riders. Other cities have shown that there is a real "safety in numbers" effect: as more people bike, there are fewer and fewer per capita crashes.

- 8) There are openings on the Arts Commission, Capital Long Range Improvement Committee, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, Senior Advisory Committee, Telecommunications Network, ThinkGreen Advisory Committee, Youth Violence Prevention Committee and Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email [cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov).