

Second Ward May 2013 E-newsletter

News from Cam Gordon
Council Member, Second Ward
May 2013

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

Roundtable Discussion: History of the Dakota. Please join me for a roundtable discussion about the history the Dakota in Minneapolis and Minnesota on **Wednesday, May 29th**, 7-9pm, at Augsburg College in the Oren Gateway Center Room 100, 2211 Riverside Avenue. 150 years ago, in December of 1862, the mass execution of 38 Dakota, the largest in the history of the United States, occurred in Mankato, Minnesota. It was part of the genocide of the Dakota people in Minnesota and the United States. In December of 2012, the Minneapolis City Council unanimously passed a resolution I coauthored, that I hope 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. It also designates "The Year of the Dakota: Remembering, Honoring, and Truth-Telling," from December 26, 2012 to December 26, 2013. At the Roundtable/Teach In we will be joined by historians and activists including Dakota historian Professor Chris Mato Nunpa, cultural leader of the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Community Jim Anderson, City Council Member Robert Lilligren, State Representative Susan Allen and others while we learn more about this important, and too often hidden, part of our state and city's history.

Car Sharing. The Council has voted to allow a company called Car2Go to use City right-of-way for its car sharing program, as part of a two-year pilot. The Council also directed staff to expand this pilot to include the other vendors of car-sharing services that submitted proposals, including the local nonprofit HourCar. Staff will make recommendations on how these additional companies will be included in the pilot in June of this year. I see this as a major step forward for car sharing, which the draft Climate Action Plan calls out as one of many ways that Minneapolis residents can reduce our carbon emissions. I think there is room in the market for multiple car sharing companies, especially since they have different models. HourCar has identified exclusive spots for its cars, and most often HourCars are used for round trips. Car2Go has a more point-to-point model, in which users find cars online or with smartphone apps, drive from where they are to where they'd like to go, and simply leave the car there. I'm excited to see the growth of this environmentally friendly industry, and hope that the pilot will prove a success.

Ranked Choice Election Ordinance Amendments. I have authored, and the Council has approved, an amendment to our Ranked Choice Voting ordinance to better account for voter intent in our tabulation method. The changes will better align us with St. Paul's methods as well and clarify how we determine voter intent when there is a skipped ranking, undervote, overvote or repeat candidate ranking. It will also clarify how we can use of Election Night machine totals to determine winners in cases where the winner can be determined from the first-ranked choices only and requires a write in candidates who wants the write-in votes to be individually recorded file a written request with the chief election official no later than seven days before the election.

Minneapolis Creative Index. The Minneapolis Arts Commission hosted a presentation of the 2013 Minneapolis Creative Index report published by the Arts, Culture and Creative Economy program on May 20 at the Minneapolis Central Library. The Minneapolis Creative Index is an annual report on the scale and impact of Minneapolis' creative sector. The report uses data commissioned from Western States Arts Federation (WESTAF) to measure the economic impacts of the city's creative sector and provide a baseline for annual reporting. For the first time it also allows the city to view the development of Minneapolis' creative sector apart from the greater metropolitan area in greater scope and detail by measuring creative employment, retail and non-profit revenue. For more information and to view the report prior to our meeting please go to: www.minneapolismn.gov/coordinator/arts.

Beekeeping Ordinance Passes. The City Council approved an ordinance on keeping honeybees that removes the requirement for signatures of 80% of neighbors for any hive that is one or more stories off

the ground. When honeybees leave their hives, they tend to fly upwards and quickly disperse, so a hive on a rooftop is likely to have very little effect on near neighbors. Before this passed I successfully moved an amendment that changes the City's honeybee permitting process from an annual \$50 permit to a one-time City approval with a recurring free renewal.

Recreational Fire Ordinance Passes. My amendment to the City's recreational fire ordinance has passed the Council unanimously. This ordinance prohibits recreational fires during Air Quality Alert days for small particulate matter. The rationale is that when the air is already bad, folks should not add to the problem with unnecessary fires, but instead postpone to another time. I am hopeful that this ordinance will help reduce conflicts between residents about recreational fires. But the best way to deal with these conflicts is for neighbors to communicate and use common courtesy. If you're planning to have a fire, please inform your neighbors and be sensitive to any health conditions they might have, as well as following the ordinance. Air quality ratings are posted at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php>. The Air Quality Index is updated on an hourly basis (during the daytime hours) by the MPCA. You can sign up for alerts at <http://mn.enviroflash.info>

Blood/Plasma Collection Facility Ordinance Passes. The Council has unanimously passed the zoning code amendment I authored that will allow blood/plasma collection facilities in the highest-density Office Residence districts, as well as the highest-density Commercial zones. It is my hope that this will allow the CSL Blood/Plasma facility in Prospect Park to find a new site and allow the WaHu project to move forward.

Flea Market Ordinance Passes. The Council has passed an ordinance amendment that will allow and regulate Flea Markets in Minneapolis. It provides for the City to license (previously prohibited) temporary markets/flea markets for the sale of arts, crafts, antiques, and/or secondhand goods by any person, partnership, corporation or association to be sold at tables, stalls, or booths at a fixed location in Minneapolis. You can find the full ordinance here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-105719.pdf>.

Rental License Ordinance Passes. The Council has amended our ordinances to allow the City to impose conditions on rental license holders with significant and documented violations of the housing code. We also approve a set of operating procedures that clarify when and how the conditions would be imposed. Owners of rental properties were already required to have rental licenses for each of their properties and the City has the authority to conduct inspections and issue fines or even revoke licenses if license holders do not meet rental housing standards. Now, when a rental property owner is in violation of a rental licensing standard/s, the City could also place specific operating conditions on the rental license. Property owners must adhere to these conditions in order for their rental license to remain in good standing.

Bike Walk Week. Twin Cities Bike Walk Week is **June 9-15**. Activities include commuter pit stops for bikers and walkers during peak commuting hours (7-9am and 4-6pm), offering free bike lights, bike repair, information and literature, and other fun stuff on Monday 6/10, Wednesday 6/12 and Friday 6/14, from 7-9am and 4-6pm. Locations in and around the Second Ward include Sabo Bridge, Washington Avenue Bridge, the intersection of 4th Street and 15th Ave SE in Dinkytown, and the Hiawatha LRT Trail at Cedar Ave. On Monday the 10th, from 7-9pm, you can get your bike fixed for free while you enjoy a free outdoor concert and movie at Van Cleve Park. On Wednesday the 12th, there will be free breakfast at the Greenway Building, 2801 21st Ave S, from 7am until they run out of food. The Hennepin County Bar Association is offering free classes on the basics of bicycling for transportation and riding with traffic. The activities culminate in a Bike Walk to Work Day celebration at Government Center Plaza on Thursday the 13th, from 7-9am. There are many more activities planned – find out more at <http://bikewalkweek.org>.

Staple Food Ordinance. I have introduced the subject matter of an ordinance that will, if passed, broaden the types of stores that sell food that will be covered by the City's requirement to sell staple foods, and raise our standards to be similar to the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program's requirements. In 2007, I led the effort to require more fresh fruits and vegetables in the City's "staple food" ordinance, which was at the time more stringent than WIC. Since then, WIC has adopted a more

robust standard, and my office is working with the Health Department and Licensing to improve our ordinance. I am hoping this will come forward for a public hearing in July.

Mobile Grocery Store Ordinance. I have introduced the subject matter of an ordinance that will, if passed, broaden the allowed sites for mobile grocery stores or “Groceterias.” Currently, these mobile stores are allowed only at senior high-rise residential buildings. My hope is that we can allow mobile grocery stores at parking lots controlled by many other types of uses, including other types of housing and commercial buildings. The ordinance amendment will also allow mobile stores to sell produce that is not packaged, require a certain amount of healthy food, and likely establish a time limit for mobile stores to be in a particular parking lot. There are currently three prospective mobile grocery stores that would like to operate in Minneapolis: a store with a strong local food focus called Honeybee, a mobile farmers market operated by the Hmong American Farmers Association, and a food-access nonprofit called the Twin Cities Mobile Market.

Regulations for Farmstands. The Council has referred my ordinance amendment related to farmstands to the Zoning and Planning Committee for staff review and a public hearing. I am working to allow market gardens and urban farms to sell produce together at one stand and to lift the limit on the number of days they can operate a farmstand at their garden or farm.

Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis. Metro Transit hosted two open houses on May 21 and May 23 on the Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis, a project that aims to determine the benefits, costs and impacts of creating a new transitway along either the Midtown Greenway or Lake Street in Minneapolis. At the open houses, project staff reviewed initial results of possible transit mode/alignment combinations with the goal of advancing top alternatives for more detailed study this summer. The two alternatives that appear to be going forward for further study are a streetcar down in the Greenway and Enhanced bus service on East Lake Street. A combination of the two may also be part of the study. To learn about the options ruled (including a streetcar on Lake Street) and see all the information shared visit <http://metrotransit.org/midtown-corridor>.

Marriage Equality. The Marriage Equality bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 14 on the front steps of the Capitol. This makes Minnesota the twelfth state, and the first Midwestern state to legalize same-sex marriage by legislative action. The law goes into effect August 1, 2013. I thank and commend the Minneapolis delegation to the legislature and Governor Dayton for their incredible work to extend the rights and responsibilities of marriage. Minnesota is now the first Midwestern state to allow gay marriage by legislative action. The House and Senate authors, Karen Clark and Scott Dibble, deserve special recognition. I am proud to be a Minnesotan and proud to live in a city in which all of our elected leadership, both on the Council and in the legislature, supported equal rights.

City Hall Opens Early for Marriage. At 12:01 a.m. on August first historic Minneapolis City Hall will be open and available for couples wishing to tie the knot. Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak will be on hand and happy to officiate weddings that night. What better place to celebrate an historic occasion than at one of Minnesota’s historic crown jewels. Minneapolis City Hall is a striking example of Romanesque architecture, with a 345 foot clock tower and a dramatic six-story Rotunda adorned with 37 stained glass windows, a skylight and Italian marble. For more information on holding your wedding ceremony at Minneapolis City Hall contact the Municipal Building Commission at 612-596-9518 or e-mail tracey.mclaughlin@co.hennepin.mn.us.

Washington Avenue. Hennepin County is working on a design to reconstruct Washington Ave S in downtown between 5th Ave and Hennepin Ave. They have created an online survey that I encourage you to take: www.surveymonkey.com/s/WashingtonAveDesignConcept. There are four possible road configurations: no bike facility, bike lanes, a cycle track next to the nearest car lane with green space separating it from the sidewalk, and a cycle track next to the sidewalk with green space separating it from the nearest driving lane. All designs currently call for six travel lanes (two eastbound, three westbound, and one center turn lane). Pedestrian and bicycling advocates are questioning the need for the sixth lane, which only appears to be necessary in 2030, if traffic increases .5% every year. Traffic has not

increased at that rate for years. To find out more, go to www.co.hennepin.mn.us and search for “road 152 Washington Avenue.”

Filing Fees. The Council has unanimously voted down a Charter amendment I authored at the suggestion of Clerk’s office staff that would raise filing fees for municipal office. I continue to support this idea, and believe the Council will take it up next year.

“Ban the Box” Passes Legislature. The state legislature has passed a bill that prohibits employers from having a question regarding criminal convictions on an employment application, widely known as “ban the box.” I commend the Second Chance Coalition for their hard work to win this extremely important victory for equity in employment. I also want to point out that Minneapolis Intergovernmental Relations staff and Council Member Glidden did a lot of work to get this bill passed. This is one important step towards addressing the unconscionable disparities in employment and poverty between blacks and whites in Minnesota, and I’m excited to see it pass.

Affordable Housing Production. The Council has approved affordable housing production goals for 2013 and 2014 that would align the goals of the Minneapolis Unified Housing Plan with Metropolitan Council Goals. The yearly Affordable Housing Production Goals are 250 stabilized (renovated) affordable housing for people earning less than 50% of the metro area medium income (AMI), 250 new units for people making less than 50% AMI and 250 for people making between 50 and 60% of AMI. This brings the total for 2012-2014 to 2,225 units of new or stabilized affordable housing at or below 60% AMI with at 1,500 units below 50%AMI. AMI for a family of 4 is \$79,659.

STEP-UP Jobs Program. The City has accepted a grant award of \$75,000 from the Otto Bremer to help fund the STEP-UP summer youth jobs program. This is a great program, and I thank the Bremer Foundation for their support.

Great Streets Grants. The Council has voted to give Great Streets grants to several business associations in the Second Ward, including the Lake Street Council (\$28,366 for a marketing partnership with the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and for bike- and environment-related marketing), the Latino Economic Development Center (\$28,250 for a Lake Street Taco Tour), Longfellow Business Association (\$1,964 for a clean-up crew, member drive and meetings), Seward Civic and Commerce Association (\$8,240 for a member drive, meetings, energy marketing and a newsletter), Seward Redesign (\$43,000 for marketing and promotion technical assistance, property investment promotion and business recruitment), Stadium Village Commercial Association (\$45,575 for event/game marketing, funding strategy development, RailVolution marketing, customer attraction/revenue growth, and partnership and green space planning), and the West Bank Business Association (\$27,890 for a newsletter, a loyalty card program and information sessions). I strongly support the Great Streets program, and I’m thrilled to see these investments in the West Bank, Seward, Stadium Village and East Lake.

Healthy Housing Policy. The Council has voted to adopt a new healthy housing policy. Under this policy, the Community Planning and Economic Development department will use the healthy housing criteria of the Green Communities program as one criterion for future affordable housing projects, including both new construction and significant rehab. I moved a staff direction for CPED staff to come back to the Council in February of 2014 with a report on what effect this policy has had. I am more than open to strengthening it if necessary. This policy was made possible by the hard work of Cherie Shoquist in CPED and the Minneapolis Health Department, which funded its development through a grant from the State Health Improvement Program.

Appointed Employees’ Salaries. The Council has approved salary increases for appointed and non-union employees. They will be receiving 2.4 and 2.3 percent pay increases in 2014 and this is consistent with previous labor contract agreements made so far this year. This indicates that the years of salary freezes is over and we will likely see modest increases, around 2%, for contract coming forward this year and next.

7th Street Exit Ramp. The Council has voted to authorize Public Works staff to apply for federal funding for construction of a new 7th Street exit ramp from westbound I-94 into downtown Minneapolis. If funded, this project will also have a significant impact on connectivity from the West Bank into downtown, because the current 5th Street off-ramp will be closed to freeway traffic and can then be used to connect from the intersection of 15th Ave S and 6th St S into downtown.

Youth Violence Prevention Strategic Planning Community Dialogues. As part of a yearlong effort to update and refresh our Youth Violence Prevention Plan the city is hosting three community dialogues. Interested people are welcome to come for dinner, live performances and an evening of engaging community conversations about how Minneapolis residents can work together to prevent youth violence. We need your creative solutions, workable proposals, and innovative ideas for the next phase of the City of Minneapolis' youth violence prevention strategic plan - The Blueprint for Action. The first meeting will be held Wednesday May 29th with dinner at 5:00 and a discussion starting at 6:00 at the Waite House, 2323 13th Ave S. The second will be held Wednesday June 5th dinner at 5:00, dialog at 6:00 at UROC 2001 Plymouth Ave N. The third will occur in Ward 2 at the Brian Coyle Center later in June or early July. Please visit <http://minneapolisblueprint.eventbrite.com/> to register online or call Diane Haugesag 612-673- 3548 or diane.haugesag@minneapolismn.gov.

How Children Succeed. The Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board (YCB) invites you to hear national renowned author Paul Tough, participate in a discussion, and learn about the YCB's Call to Action to help make Minneapolis the best city for children and young people. Join me on May 30, 4-6pm at the Minneapolis Convention Center, Room 101E. Paul Tough, author of How Children Succeed: Grit, Curiosity, and the Hidden Power of Character will discuss why some children succeed while others fail? Attendance is free, but advance registration is required at www.ycb.org.

New Director of Regulatory Services. The Council has unanimously recommended approval the mayor's nomination of Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde to be the next director of the new, smaller, Department of Regulatory Services for the City of Minneapolis. After the restructuring we approved last year, Regulatory Services is responsible for Housing Inspections, Fire Inspections Services, Traffic Control, Minneapolis Animal Care & Control, and the Problem Properties Unit. I had the opportunity to meet with Ms. Rivera-Vandermyde and was impressed with her 15 years of executive experience in compliance and regulation in both the public and private sectors. Before moving to Minnesota in 2006, where she now resides with her husband and 3 year old daughter, Ms. Rivera-Vandermyde worked in various roles with the government of Puerto Rico. She has a B.A. from Amherst College and a J.D. from New York University and has also worked as an attorney in Boston. She is joining the department in a time of restructuring and has already committed to increase outreach and communication efforts with residents, businesses and neighborhoods.

Data Practices Omnibus Bill. I am glad to see that the data practices conference committee report passed at the state legislature earlier this month, and now awaits the governor's signature. Included in the final legislation is policy language related to contact information collected by cities. Information collected for notification purposes is classified as private data this includes; email addresses, phone numbers, and any online account information. Crime prevention security data is also classified as private data including; email addresses, mailing addresses, phone numbers, and any online account information. Crime preventions security data is defined as information collected for block clubs for crime prevention purposes. It is my hope that this will allow the city to improve its outreach and communication efforts without having to fear contact information is public information. I am particularly interested in seeing how this new policy might help us use our great block club organizing efforts to support our great neighborhood organizations and their efforts and networks within communities.

Register Your Bike. The Minneapolis Police Department has created an easy, on-line way to [register](#) your bicycle. You will need to include your bike's serial number, a description of the bike--make and model--and your contact information. In the event a registered bike is lost or stolen, and the MPD, other agencies or city departments recover it, we will be able to return it to you quickly. You can register online here http://311.minneapolismn.gov/Ef3/SS031_Bicycle_Registration.xml ,call 311 or use 311's app: minneapolismn.gov/311 to register using your smart phone.

Bike Police on the Greenway. The Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) 3rd Precinct has again added bicycle patrols along the Midtown Greenway starting in May. Police officers will use their bicycles during their regular patrol activities and there will be additional bike patrols on Friday and Saturday nights throughout the summer with officers from the Bike Rapid Response Team (BRRT). They will help support the work of the Trail Watch safety patrol, and others who help keep the greenway safe. The MPD Bike Patrol is a voluntary position that officers undertake in addition to their normal duties within the department. Officers of the MPD Bike patrol undergo a 1 week training course and must successfully negotiate a challenging obstacle course in order to become certified Bike Patrol Officers for the Minneapolis Police Department. The officers who participate in police bike activities are certified through the International Police Mountain Bike Association (IPMBA) police cyclist course. In addition to the Bike Patrol, the MPD Bike Rapid Response Team (BRRT) officers are selected from current MPD bike patrol officers and have several years of experience as a bike officer. BRRT also responds to large events and provide crowd control around the city.

Boards and Commissions Diversity. A Council committee has approved moving forward with new procedures for appointments to advisory boards and commissions. These will mean that recommendations to the full City Council for appointments to individual boards would be made by the City Council Committee to which that board reports, that the Chair of each Committee would organize a panel to review applications and make recommendations and that the panel would consist of no more than three members of the Council Committee as well staff of the Clerk's Office and the staff of the board or commission under consideration. In recommending candidates for appointment, a key consideration of the review panel will be achieving the City's goal of increasing diversity of the boards and commissions. The Committee also directed the Clerk's Office and Neighborhood and Community Relations Department to improve the website and conduct orientation sessions for new appointees to boards and commissions.

Planning for Seniors. In May the Council received a progress report about effort to ensure that the city serves our older residents well. Through the Neighborhood and Community Relations department the city developing a Strategic Plan to make Minneapolis attractive place for seniors to age in place. Since December 2012, the City has hired a Senior Community Specialist, set up the Strategic Plan Steering Committee with membership from city departments, community leaders, older adults, senior serving organizations and other partners was identified and commitment established and conducted research to identify best practices, reports, statistics, studies, surveys and local, national, global community planning models. The Steering Committee met May 1, 2013 established a vision, identified priority areas for goal setting. The visions calls for "Minneapolis premier city for older adults" and the mission statement identifies housing, transportation, meaningful engagement and socialization, economics, health and wellness as priority areas. A plan draft will be brought to the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee as well as community groups for input by July, 2013 and to the Council for potential approval in the fall. For more visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-108160.pdf>.

Lawsuit Settled for \$3 Million. On May 24, the Council approved paying close to \$3 million to settle a lawsuit filed by the family of a David Smith, who died after struggling with police who used an electronic shocking (Taser) weapon on him at the downtown Minneapolis YMCA in 2010. In the settlement the family will receive \$1.1 million and their attorney will get the rest. While I supported the settlement as a responsible way resolve the case, it has refreshed long lasting concerns I have had with the use of Tasers by the police. Even if, as it appears, the Taser use in this case was consistent with current police policy, I believe the policy should be reviewed. In 2006 I was part of an effort to create a more careful policy that was drafted by the Civilian Review Authority only to see it later weakened and modified by the department. In the weeks ahead I will be looking for more information about how often, when and how Tasers have been used in the last 5 years and how many others have died or been hospitalized after being electroshocked by police in Minneapolis.

Redevelopment in New Stadium Area. In May, Ryan Companies revealed a plan for a \$400 million redevelopment of a five block area that includes the Star Tribune headquarters and several blocks of surface parking. The project would include two 20 story office towers surrounded by 300 units of housing.

In June I expect the Council to be asked to approve the initial formwork of the plan by designating the area an industrial overlay district. One of the most intriguing parts of the proposal is the inclusion of a new downtown park that would encompass the two blocks between Park and 5th Avenues South and 4th and 5th Streets South. The City is involved because it would borrow (through general obligation bonds) money to finance the costs of a new large parking ramp that would serve the development and some of the stadium needs as well as the purchase of the two blocks for the park. The revenues from the parking ramp would be used to pay back the debt. In the weeks ahead I will be researching this proposal carefully. The benefits of a full service public park downtown to serve downtown, West Bank and other residents could be enormous. Currently, however, there are no funds to actually build anything on the park land or to operate programs at it. The role of Park Board is unclear and the current terms being discussed would exempt the development from any Park Dedication Fees. Some more information is available here <http://www.minneapolis.org/article/downtown-east-be-transformed-ryan-companies%E2%80%99-proposal>.

Street Lighting Policy. The Council has approved major changes to the City's Street Lighting Policy. Before the change, street lights on pedestrian corridors that are being reconstructed were 100% assessable, and could only be prevented by 70% or more of the affected property owners opting out. Under the new policy, the City will pay the whole cost for street lights on pedestrian corridor reconstruction projects. This is likely to add approximately \$1 million to the City's annual Capital Improvement budget. The change is retroactive to recent projects, including the Riverside Avenue reconstruction. The funding that was to come from assessments to Riverside property owners and institutions will instead come from the City. I supported this change, which I believe will make it likelier that we will have consistent street lighting on all pedestrian corridors after reconstructions.

Stadium DEIS Comments. The City Council has formally submitted over 100 comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Minnesota Multi-Purpose Stadium Project to the Minnesota Sports Facilities Authority. You can find the presentation, staff report and the comments here <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/meetings/tpw/WCMS1P-108452>

National Public Works Week. The Council has passed a resolution declaring this week National Public Works Week. You can read it here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-108959.pdf>.

LGBT Pride Month. The Council has passed a resolution declaring this June "Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month" in the City of Minneapolis.

The **2013 One Minneapolis One Read book is "A Choice of Weapons" by Gordon Parks**, with a forward by Minneapolis artist Wing Young Huie. Parks' autobiography, first published in 1966, describes his coming of age in St Paul Minnesota. Parks, the first Black photographer for Life magazine, as well as a writer, composer, artist and filmmaker, said, "I saw that the camera could be a weapon against poverty, against racism, against all sorts of social wrongs. I knew at that point I had to have a camera. For more information and to get involved, visit: www.OneMinneapolisOneRead.com, www.facebook.com/OneMinneapolisOneRead, www.twitter.com/minneapolisread.

Emergency Solutions Grant. The City is soliciting development funding proposals for an Emergency Solutions Grant, which may be used to renovate, rehabilitate, and convert buildings for use as emergency shelters for people who are homeless. There is approximately \$400,000 available. Proposals are due no later than 4pm on Friday, June 28. Questions about the ESG program should be directed to Tiffany Glasper at (612) 673-5221 or tiffany.glasper@minneapolismn.gov. Questions about obtaining the application materials or about any technical difficulties with the on-line materials should be directed to Scott Ehrenberg at (612) 673-5067 or Scott.Ehrenberg@minneapolismn.gov.

31st Street E Reconstruction Project. The City is poised to reconstruct 31st Street East from Minnehaha to a little past 28th Ave S. There will be a public hearing on this proposed project on June 18th at the Transportation and Public Works Committee, at 9:30am in Council Chambers.

East Seward Resurfacing. The Council's Transportation and Public Works committee has voted to resurface the residential streets in east Seward. I expect this to pass the Council on May 24th. Work is to start in August. Each street will face about two days of construction, one to mill the street and the second to put down a new layer of asphalt (these two days may not be in a row – the milled condition may exist for a few days on some streets).

West River Parkway Repaving. West River Parkway is being reconstructed from 4th St S to Franklin Ave. This includes the ramps leading to and from Franklin. Road closures are scheduled to start on April 29th and will go for approximately 5 weeks. Bike paths and pedestrian walkways will be open and accessible. For questions contact me or Tracy Lindgren at tracy.lindgren@minneapolismn.gov from Public Works. You can also look for more information at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/all/WCMS1P-102050.

Congratulations to Peter Kelsey. Congratulations to New French Bakery owner Peter Kelsey on being named the US Small Business Administration's "Small Business Person of the Year" for the state of Minnesota. I am proud that we have such a successful, expanding, high-quality business in Seward, and that the City and neighborhood have been able to foster the extraordinary growth of New French.

Traffic Fatality Involving MPD Vehicle. A young man named Ivan Romero was killed in a crash involving his motorcycle and a Minneapolis Police SUV, which was responding to the shooting of two Minneapolis Police officers on the 2700 block of Bryant Ave S. Romero worked at New French Bakery in Ward 2. His girlfriend, who was riding on the back of the motorcycle, survived the accident. I am following this story very closely, and expect to hear more about the details of this fatal crash.

Five15 on the Park Project. The Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the Five15 (formerly known as Currie Park Lofts) development project has been completed. Copies of the EAW are available for review at the downtown Minneapolis Central Library located at 300 Nicollet Mall, and in the office of the City's CPED, Land Use, Design and Preservation Section at 250 S 4th Street, Room 300. Public comments on the EAW must be made within the 30-day comment period, which ends at 4:30pm on Wednesday, June 12, 2013. On June 20, 2013, or at a subsequent meeting, the Council's Zoning and Planning committee will receive a report and recommendation from City staff, hear comments from all parties and consider the adequacy of this EAW and the need for an Environmental Impact Statement for this proposal. The EAW and supporting information will also be available for review on the City of Minneapolis web site: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/planning/cped_eaw. Copies of the EAW can also be provided to individuals by email. For further information or to submit comments on the EAW, contact Becca Farrar-Hughes at 612.673.3594 or rebecca.farrar@minneapolismn.gov.

Man Pleads Guilty of Assault Near West River Parkway. The man, (Louis Richard Oliver, age 47 from Hastings), who was arrested for the sexual assault that occurred on November 19 near Riverside Park has pled guilty. He was sentenced to nearly 22 years in prison by Hennepin County District Judge Daniel Moreno on May 16. After the assault occurred, police issued a composite sketch of the suspect to the media. On November 27, 2012, security officers at Region's Hospital in Saint Paul stopped a suspicious male that resembled the sketch. That male turned out to be Oliver. He was held on an unrelated outstanding warrant and was later identified by the victim. Sergeant David Mattson of the Minneapolis Police Department Sex Crime Unit handled the case and presented his findings to the Hennepin County Attorney's Office.

Reconstruction of 8th St SE. City Public Works staff are in discussions with the University of MN about reconstructing the stretch of 8th Street SE just east of 15th Ave SE. It is still unclear how far east the new road may go, but it will reach into the U of M campus past Beirman field and possibly as far as 23rd. Under the terms being discussed a new, and much needed, roadway would be constructed. This is in a small area of Como that has seen development in recent years but has never seen the road constructed to city standards. Once the final terms of the agreement are worked out, Public Works staff will be reaching out to the community for feedback on a design and construction timeline. I am hopeful that a new road can be built this summer or fall, but it may be delayed until next year.

Funds for Boeser Site. The Council's Community Development committee recommended the application to the State Department of Employment and Economic Development for one million dollars in Livable Communities Transit Oriented Development funds for the Boeser site. With these funds, the vacant, blighted commercial building at 2901 4th Street SE, adjacent to the 29th Ave LRT station, will be demolished and redeveloped into 200+ units of transit-oriented, mixed-income housing. At least 20% of the units will be affordable. As part of the Prospect Park Plan to create a walkable arts-centered cultural district with a vibrant mix of uses, The City of Minneapolis will rebuild 4th Street SE, which is in need of major reconstruction. "Green Fourth" will be a pilot project for a Green/Living Street that is pedestrian/bicycle focused, integrating connecting elements, stormwater management, and potentially district energy and shared parking to attract people and other investment to the project area.

Funding for Surly Site. The Council's Community Development committee has recommended the application to Hennepin County for \$500,000 in Transit Oriented Development funds, to clear the proposed site at 5th and Malcolm of structures and abandoned utilities and construct public improvements. Surly plans to develop this large blighted industrial site into a nationally recognized destination brewery in the Prospect Park neighborhood. The site has specifically been selected for its urban location, redevelopment potential, and connections to multiple sources of sustainable public transportation, including nearby light rail, bus routes, and bike trails.

Added Parking on Hennepin in SE Como. The Council has approved rezoning Nina Wong's property at the southwest corner of the intersection of E Hennepin Avenue and 16th Avenue SE to add a Transitional Parking Overlay to her residential lot. This will allow for a surface parking lot with 22 spaces and hopefully better support the present and future business develop on her properties on Hennepin Ave.

Wetland Habitat Restoration Company in Seward. The Council has approved the application from Wetland Habitat Restoration to establish a contractor's office in the building at 2521-23 27th Avenue S and to add the Industrial Living Overlay District (ILOD) to the property. The property was currently zoned I1 Medium Industrial District and contains a mixed use building at the front of the property with two (2) residential units on the second floor and two office tenant spaces on the first floor. The back half of the property contains a commercial garage. The property has been used as major auto repair facility with office space and included the two existing residential dwelling units. The applicants intend to use the garage space and one of the office spaces for a landscaping business and requested the rezoning to add the Industrial Living Overlay District (ILOD) to allow more flexibility in the range of uses permitted at the subject site and to bring the two existing dwelling units into conformance with the zoning code. The applicants intend to lease out the second office space to another business.

Apply to Serve on a Boards or Commission. There are openings on the Arts Commission, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, and the Minneapolis Telecommunications Network. 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).

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