



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, llame 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 Southeast Como, 12-3-13

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:
Tuesday, December 10th, 9:30-11:00am
Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como Avenue SE

Items:

- 1) TCE Contamination Study Underway
- 2) Safety Issues in U Area
- 3) Snow Emergency Information
- 4) 10th Ave Bridge Open House
- 5) 2014 Budget
- 6) Vikings Stadium Deal Rationale Undermined
- 7) Massage and Bodywork Ordinance
- 8) Council Presidency
- 9) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) So far, almost a hundred parcels in the TCE contamination area have granted access to the General Mills contractor to test their properties. Some of these parcels have already had their tests, and are waiting on results. A few results have been released: of the eleven parcels that have been tested, nine have been found to have levels above 20 micrograms per cubic meter. The other two have levels between 2 and 20 micrograms per cubic meter. You can see updates here: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/waste/waste-and-cleanup/cleanup/superfund/investigation-into-tce-soil-vapor-in-the-como-neighborhood-of-minneapolis.html>.
- 2) A recent surge in serious crimes has raised concerns in and around the U of M campus. Crimes have included robbery, sexual assault and attempted kidnapping. One incident apparently involved someone impersonating a security or police officer. As a result the University and City police departments, the Southeast Como neighborhood association and others are increasing safety efforts in the area. The Minneapolis Police Department's (MPD) Second Precinct is providing additional marked and unmarked squad cars to patrol in the SE community and other additional officers to ensure directed patrol through violent crime suppression details. Portable cameras have been placed in a variety of locations since September. Collaboration efforts with the U of M and MPD investigative units are more focused and Transit Police and Minneapolis K9 (police dog) teams continue to support the neighborhoods surrounding the U of M. Educational efforts throughout the community are also underway including door knocking, e-mailing, flying the area (include at bar close time) and presenting at a variety of meetings. Weekly meetings with the U of M and city police as well as with U of M staff have also been helpful. University resources, including the [Campus Escort Service](#) (612-624-WALK) and the [Gopher Chauffeur](#) (612-388-6911) are in place specifically to help keep students safe. There will be a **safety walk on Friday, December 6 starting at Van Cleve Park at 7 pm**. Please feel free to join us.
- 3) Let's all work to prevent anyone from getting towed this winter because of Snow Emergencies. Snow Emergencies are declared when there is enough snowfall to warrant a complete plowing of City streets. If people follow the parking rules and move their vehicles so crews can plow it helps all users of the street. Vehicles parked on the street in violation of Snow Emergency rules can be ticketed or towed and that can be very upsetting and expensive for car owners and costs the city money. To learn when Snow Emergencies are declared people can use these options: the Hotline - 612-348-SNOW, for information regarding parking rules in English, Spanish, Somali and Hmong; the Website www.minneapolismn.gov/snow.
- 4) A reminder: Minneapolis Public Works has scheduled an Open House for **Wednesday, December 4**, from 6pm-8pm with a presentation at 6:30, at the University Lutheran Church, Fellowship Hall, 601 13th Ave SE, to discuss the rehabilitation of the 10th Avenue Bridge over the Mississippi River.

- 5) On **December 11** the City Council is scheduled to approve the City's 2014 budget. Due primarily to the increase in local government aid the Board of Estimate and Taxation has approved a 1% decrease in the total property taxes the city will collect. As a result, we are expecting about 2/3 of residential property tax payers to see the city portion of their taxes drop in 2014. The mayor's proposed budget is about \$1.12 billion, a \$24 million increase from 2013. There are no significant layoffs anticipated and service levels should be maintained or enhanced. Among the changes proposed for next year there could be additional funds to: 1) hire new police officers and fire fighters in preparation of many expected retirements; 2) enhance our STEP-UP and Urban Scholars programs to help address racial employment gaps and enhance our workforce diversity; 3) invest in needed equipment and 4) invest in infrastructure like street and bridge reconstruction and repair. Some areas where I think funding increases would be helpful include our Affordable Housing Trust Fund to keep it fully funded, for Animal Care and Control to implement more low- or no-kill practices and in our Minneapolis Television Network (MTN) to make sure the community has access to modern equipment as part of this important public communication tool. To see the complete Mayor's recommended budget go to www.minneapolismn.gov/finance and click on "2014 Mayor Recommended Budget." You can also go to www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget.
- 6) A recent court ruling has rejected an effort by Doug Mann to have the court require voter approval of city funding for the Vikings stadium. But the judge in this case also made clear that one of the key rationales used by stadium deal backers – that the sales taxes imposed for the Vikings stadium are not "local resources" subject to the referendum requirement of the City Charter – was not true. This rationale was used by stadium backers in the legislature and on the City Council to justify approving the deal without the referendum that is required by our Charter. The failure of the City and the legislature to abide by our Charter was one of the key reasons I opposed the deal. The court case lost primarily because the state legislature exercised its power under the state constitution to override the city charter. You can read more, and find the full decision here: <http://blogs.mprnews.org/stadium-watch/2013/11/13/judge-rejects-legal-challenge-to-vikings-stadium-funding-in-minneapolis/>.
- 7) The Regulatory, Energy and Environment committee has sent forward with recommendation a new license type for Massage and Bodywork Establishments. You can read the ordinance here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-116817.pdf>. This ordinance ensures that therapeutic bodywork establishments will continue to thrive in Minneapolis, and help residents live healthier, more pain-free lives. It also draws the right distinction between bona fide therapeutic massage and sexually-oriented businesses that also use "massage" to describe their activities. I want to commend Council Member Glidden for her leadership on this and helping licensing staff and the community of therapeutic bodywork practitioners come forward with a consensus proposal that was supported by nearly every person who testified at the public hearing. I look forward to voting in favor of this ordinance when it comes to the full Council.
- 8) On January 6, the new Council is schedule to vote on who will be Council president and vice preident as well as the committee leadership and membership for the next two years. While Council President Johnson has served the Council well for the past 8 years and I am grateful for her consistent, steady style, I believe a change in leadership at this important transition time in our city's history is the healthiest thing for the Council and in the best interest of the future of Minneapolis. **I am supporting Council Member Glidden for Council President**, and urging my colleagues – both returning incumbents and the seven new members – to join me in doing so. I support Elizabeth because I believe she offers both valuable stability, as a proven Council leader, and needed change, as someone who more closely embraces the progressive vision for our City shared by a growing majority of Minneapolis residents. This vision will help us tackle the biggest issues facing our city, issues that many, if not all, of the newly elected Council Members and our new Mayor campaigned on: closing the racial gaps in employment, education and health; fighting climate change and improving our environment; preventing foreclosures and ensuring decent, affordable housing for all residents; moving away from huge subsidies to the wealthiest people and corporations; improving police and community relations and creating a fairer justice system; and investing in infrastructure to make walking, biking and transit a bigger part of how people get around in our city. I have had the opportunity to work with Elizabeth for eight years and am confident that she also has the vision, experience and skills we need to for the future. She offers a leadership that will be inclusive of all viewpoints, transparent both within the Council and to the outside, and empowering of individual Council Members, community stakeholders, professional staff and everyone in our city.
- 9) There are openings on the Board of Appeal and Equalization, Ethical Practices Board and Mpls Telecommunications Network (MTN). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.