



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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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 the West Bank, 6-20-13

**Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:
Tuesday, July 2nd, 9:30-11:00am
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave**

- 1) Five15 on the Park Project
- 2) Minneapolis Energy Options
- 3) Natural Gas Pipeline Work on the West Bank
- 4) Ranked Choice Voting Ordinance Amendments
- 5) West Bank Music Festival
- 6) Climate Action Plan
- 7) Washington Ave Reconstruction
- 8) Man Pleads Guilty in Riverside Park Sexual Assault
- 9) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Tomorrow, June 20, the Council's Zoning and Planning committee will receive a report and recommendation on the Five15 on the Park project from City staff, hear comments from all parties and consider the adequacy of this EAW and the need for an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for this proposal. The EAW and supporting information will also be available for review on the City of Minneapolis web site: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/planning/cped_eaw. Planning staff is recommending that the Council adopt a finding of fact that the project "does not have the potential for significant environmental effects," and that an EIS is not required. In other news related to this project, Public Works staff have agreed to provide 3' of planting area on the building side of the sidewalk adjacent to the Fine development so that Fine Associates' proposed landscaping can be installed. The sidewalk will be 7' wide, which will leave approximately 5.5' in the boulevard, which is adequate for trees to be planted.
- 2) In the next few weeks, I will be working with my colleagues to begin the process to place a question on this fall's general election ballot regarding the City's energy future. If passed by the voters of Minneapolis, this question will authorize the City to form a municipal power utility. I view this as a necessary step to meeting the City's aggressive climate change mitigation goals. Approximately two-thirds of the greenhouse gas emissions in Minneapolis come through our existing electricity and natural gas utilities. A vote to authorize the creation of a municipal utility will not *require* the City to form one, but will give us that option – which I think will help in the ongoing electrical and natural gas franchise negotiations with Xcel and Centerpoint. Minneapolis will only form a municipal utility after we make certain that we can provide energy services as or more affordably and reliably as the incumbent utilities, and with a greater focus on renewable energy, energy efficiency and local generation. For more information, visit: <http://www.minneapolisenergyoptions.org/>.
- 3) This summer, Centerpoint Energy is replacing a natural gas main on the West Bank. They are installing 1.4 miles of new steel pipe under 19th Ave S from the 10th Ave Bridge to I-94, and 20th Ave S down to Franklin. Work is planned to occur until August. After construction, streets, sidewalks, boulevards and lawns will be restored to their original condition, typically within five to seven business days after construction is completed. You can find out more on the Second Ward Blog or at Centerpoint's construction website: www.centerpointenergy.com/community/inthecommunity/constructionzone/MN/. If you have particular questions or concerns, you can contact Centerpoint's Construction Activity Information Hotline at 612-321-5329. For restoration inquiries, call 612-321-5042. Area Manager Kevin Joyce is available at 612-861-8572.
- 4) I have authored, and the Council has approved, an amendment to our Ranked Choice Voting ordinance. The changes clarify how we determine voter intent when there is a skipped ranking, undervote, overvote or repeat ranking. It also clarifies how we can use election night machine totals to determine winners in cases where the winner can be determined from the first-ranked choices only, and requires write in candidates who want the write-in votes to be individually recorded to file a written request with the chief election official no later than seven days before the election.

- 5) City staff are reviewing the application for the West Bank Music Festival. This is not a decision that comes before the Council, but rather is dealt with at a staff level. My understanding from staff is that the application was complete – which includes a requirement that the street closure is agreed to by at least three-quarters of affected businesses – and has several of the departmental approvals that are necessary to ultimately approve it.
- 6) On Monday, the Regulatory Energy and Environment committee unanimously passed the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan. It is set to come to the full Council on Friday June 28. The Plan, subtitled “a roadmap to reducing citywide greenhouse gas emissions,” offers goals and potential strategies to help achieve a 15 percent reduction in emissions by 2015 and a 30 percent reduction by 2025 from 2006 levels. The strategies are grouped into four categories:
- **Significantly improving the energy efficiency of our commercial, residential and public buildings.** Strategies are identified to improve energy efficiency in commercial and residential buildings 20 and 15 percent respectively from a baseline of growth by 2025. City and other public buildings should continue to lead the way by aggressively pursuing cost-effective energy efficiency strategies.
 - **Increasing our use of local, renewable energy.** The plan calls for increasing our use of local or directly purchased renewable energy to 10 percent of the total electricity consumed in the city by 2025. The purchase of green power, and new approaches that make renewables more accessible and widespread, like solar gardens, will be pursued. Regulatory changes will be pursued to appropriately value and incentivize renewable energy.
 - **Reduce vehicle miles traveled in Minneapolis while improving accessibility and building walkable, safe, and growing neighborhoods that meet the needs of all residents.** Improving access to transit, making walking and biking inviting and safe, and building diverse neighborhoods are priorities. We will identify and promote cleaner fuels for our transportation system.
 - **Reduce our waste stream by reducing waste, encouraging reuse, and increasing recycling of both organic and inorganic material.** Improving recycling performance in the city, and expanding composting and the collection of organic material are priorities, with the goal of increasing our recycling rate to 50 percent by 2025. Residents will also have more information about the lifecycle impacts of their purchasing decisions, and we will strive for more efficient processing of our wastewater.

The Plan includes many intriguing recommendations for reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Among those that

- Use of property-assessed and on-bill financing to fund energy efficiency and renewable energy retrofits for residential and commercial building
- Encouraging net zero buildings
- Planning for more walkable “complete neighborhoods”
- Constructing 30 miles of on street, protected bike facilities by 2020
- Identifying products and packaging that are neither recyclable or compostable

This plan is a great step in the right direction and I look forward to helping implement many of its ideas and strategies in the years to come.

- 7) Hennepin County is working on a design to reconstruct Washington Ave S in downtown between 5th Ave and Hennepin Ave. 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.”
- 8) 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 pleaded 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.
- 9) Applications are now being accepted for open positions on the following City boards and commissions: Animal Care and Control Advisory Board, Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Minneapolis Workforce Council, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, Seniors Advisory Committee and Telecommunications Network. For a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings.