



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Seward Neighborhood 5-22-13

Cam's next Seward Office Hours:
Tuesday, May 28th, 9:30-11:00am
Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St

Items:

- 1) Roundtable Discussion: History of the Dakota
- 2) Street Resurfacing in East Seward
- 3) Marriage Equality
- 4) Ranked Choice Voting Ordinance Amendments
- 5) Recreational Fire Ordinance
- 6) Car Sharing
- 7) Healthy Housing Policy
- 8) Traffic Fatality Involving MPD Vehicle
- 9) Wildlife Habitat Restoration Rezoning
- 10) Bike Registration Now Available
- 11) Police Patrols on the Greenway
- 12) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Please join me for a 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 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 Lillgren, 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.
- 2) 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).
- 3) The Marriage Equality bill was signed into law by the Governor on May 14 on the front steps of the Capitol. 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.
- 4) I have authored 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

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email

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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.

- 5) 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.
- 6) 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.
- 7) 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.
- 8) 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.
- 9) 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, potentially an aquaponics operation.
- 10) 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.
- 11) 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.
- 12) Applications are now being accepted for open positions 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.