



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon
City Council Member
Second Ward

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Seward Neighborhood 6-25-13

Cam's next Seward Office Hours:
Tuesday, July 23rd, 9:30-11:00am
Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St

Items:

- 1) Storm Response
- 2) Minneapolis Energy Options
- 3) New Polling Places for Seward
- 4) Streetcar Funding
- 5) Bonds for Senior Housing Project
- 6) Memory Lanes Business Plan Change
- 7) National Night Out
- 8) Climate Action Plan
- 9) Program for People with Housing Violations
- 10) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) On Friday night, Minneapolis was hit by a strong storm, and many of us are still recovering. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's Forestry Department worked Saturday and Sunday to reopen streets blocked by fallen trees. Their top priority is now removing the many trees that have fallen on people's homes. They have set up several options for getting rid of tree debris, including a tree debris drop-off site for residents (at the Metro Wood Recycling Site at 33rd Ave N and 2nd Street N, open from 8am to 5pm, Monday through Friday, and 8am to Noon on Saturday, from June 24 through June 29), a special pickup for all tree debris left in the boulevard that will happen July 1-12, and the City's regular yard waste collections. The Minneapolis Office of Emergency Management (OEM) reported this morning that all but eight streets are clear of tree debris and that those eight involve power lines entangled with downed trees. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Public Works are working with Excel to safely remove these obstructions. Debris clearance is being managed by the Park Board and Public Works and I commend them for all their efforts throughout the weekend. Xcel Energy reports making progress restoring power and City facilities are all up and running generally but Public Works, Police and Traffic Control continue to monitor and manage signaled intersections that still do not have power. OEM has reduced its response operations to the "monitoring" level today and will maintain that status until Xcel has substantially completed its power restoration work, when I expect it to return to the "Normal Operations" level. Robin, from the Ward 2 office, has been going out throughout the ward today to identify and help address ongoing problems and people should feel free to call us here with questions or concerns (**673-2202**) in addition to the numbers for Xcel (**1-800-895-4999** for downed power lines, **1-800-895-1999** for outages) and the Park Board (**612-313-7710**). If you have lost power for longer than four hours, please follow these food safety rules:

- For your freezer: A freezer that is half full will hold food safely for up to 24 hours. A full freezer will hold food safely for 48 hours. Do not open the freezer door if you can avoid it.
- For your refrigerator: Pack milk, other dairy products, meat, fish, eggs, gravy, and spoilable leftovers into a cooler surrounded by ice. Inexpensive styrofoam coolers are fine for this purpose.
- Use a food thermometer to check the temperature of your food right before you cook or eat it. Throw away any food that has a temperature of more than 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

I am very grateful for all the hard work of our park and city staff, as well as utility workers, and all the neighbors and community volunteers who have pitched in and cooperated to help with the recovery. If you can do anything to help your neighbors through this difficult time, please do so.

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

Ahmed.Muhumud@minneapolismn.gov

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, llama 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

- 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) The Council has approved changing the polling places for 2 precincts in the Seward and Cedar Riverside area for this fall's elections. Voters in precinct 6-2, which voted at Seward Square Apartments in 2012, will instead vote at Seward Tower East. Voters in precinct 2-9, which voted at Seward Tower East, will vote in the Augsburg College Oren Gateway Center.
- 4) The Council has voted to establish a Value Capture District to finance our first streetcar line, on the Central Ave-Nicollet Ave route. This was enabled by the legislature's creation of the Value Capture District funding mechanism, which grants authority to the City to establish a project area including one block to either side of a streetcar line, and place certain taxable parcels into the Value Capture District. The future tax revenues from these parcels will be used to fund the construction of the streetcar line. One of the reasons for taking this action at this time was to enable the City to request – and hopefully receive – federal transit funding to help us build this first streetcar line.
- 5) The Council has approved the bonds for CRS Housing, also known as the Snelling Apartments Project, at 2304 Snelling Ave. This bonding will help Seward Redesign and CommonBond build a new 60-unit apartment building for low-income seniors, in the Bystrom Brothers redevelopment area.
- 6) The Council has approved an amendment to the Memory Lanes liquor license business plan that includes outdoor volleyball and a new bar area.
- 7) The 30th Annual Minneapolis National Night Out will be Tuesday, August 6. National Night Out is an annual nationwide event that encourages residents to get out in the community, hold block parties and get to know their neighbors as a way to encourage crime prevention. You can [register your event](#) online or through 311. If you want to block your street, you can do so for free through July 23. Not all streets can be blocked, depending on traffic flow. From July 24 through August 1, there is a \$100 fee. After August 1 no applications for blocking off a street will be allowed. To register and for more information see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/nno>.
- 8) On Monday, the Regulatory Energy and Environment committee unanimously passed the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/climate>). 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: improving the energy efficiency; increasing our use of local, renewable energy; reducing vehicle miles traveled in Minneapolis and reducing waste. The Plan includes many intriguing recommendations for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including the 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; creating more walkable “complete neighborhoods;” constructing 30 miles of on street, protected bike facilities by 2020 and 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.
- 9) Two City departments have teamed up to help residents who are elderly, disabled, or low-income to address housing violations on their properties. The Housing Inspection Services division of Regulatory Services is dedicating a full-time employee to assist the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department in helping property owners navigate through the steps they are required to take when there are housing violations at their property. The City wants to help folks avoid escalating fines and take care of serious problems so they don't lead to the condemnation of their property. That's why this position has been created within the Neighborhood and Community Relations department, effective June 17, 2013.
- 10) 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.