



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon
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Second Ward

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Seward Neighborhood 10-23-13

Cam's next Seward Office Hours:
Tuesday, November 26th, 9:30-11:00am
Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St

Items:

- 1) Vote November 5th
- 2) Municipal Election Information
- 3) Shooting on Franklin Avenue
- 4) Funding for Seward Commons Phase III
- 5) Tri-State Bearing Building
- 6) Light Timing Improvements
- 7) Community Solar
- 8) "Power Breed" Policy
- 9) One Minneapolis One Read
- 10) Responsible Banking Ordinance
- 11) Streetcars
- 12) Openings on Boards and Commissions

1) Election day is Tuesday, November 5th. You can find your polling place by going to <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov> and clicking the "Where to Vote" link. The Minneapolis Elections Department is also sending a Voters Guide to all Minneapolis residents, with all the information you need to find your polling place, use Ranked Choice Voting, register same day and more.

2) I have been asked by many constituents for more information about the upcoming municipal election. There are some good resources for people looking to do more research about candidates, especially for mayor. Minneapolis E-Democracy has compiled a list of all of the candidates running for office in Minneapolis, along with links to their contact information, their websites and other information about them, which you can find here: http://pages.e-democracy.org/Minneapolis_elections. Our local Second Ward community radio station, KFai, has recorded interviews with many, if not all, of the 35 candidates available at their website, <http://kfai.org/news/62>. Additionally there are several mayoral forums coming up including:

- Oct. 24 – 10am-Noon – Public Housing Forum – Details TBD
- Oct. 29 – 7:30-9pm – WCCO Radio Forum – Details TBD
- Oct. 30 – Time TBD - Theater of Public Policy Forum - Bryant Lake Bowl, 810 W. Lake St.
- Nov. 1 – Noon - MPR Forum - Westminster Presbyterian Church on Nicollet Mall in downtown \

For more information you can also check out:
<http://www.southwestjournal.com/elections/calendar>

3) A young man from Saint Paul was shot and killed near the Blue Nile restaurant on Franklin Avenue on September 28th. His alleged murderer, Cedric Chappell, has been arrested, and it sounds like the case against him is strong. I have met with near neighbors of the Blue Nile, and have been working to find ways through the City's licensing authority to prevent future incidents of this kind.

4) The Council's Community Development Committee has voted to apply for \$635,000 in grant funds for environmental investigation and cleanup for Phase III of the Seward Commons development. The granting agencies are the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development Contamination Cleanup and Investigation Grant Program, the Metropolitan Council's Tax Base Revitalization Account Grant Program and the Hennepin County Environmental Response Fund.

5) During the last week of October, Public Works staff will be retiming many of the signals in South Minneapolis area of Ward 2. Signal retiming will take place all over the city throughout the next four to five months. Staff will be in the field to verify that the new signal timing plans run as expected and will likely be making some changes to the new plans as they move forward. If you have questions or concerns feel free to call me or 311.

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.

- 6) The old Tri-State Bearing building at 34th Ave S and 25th St E is moving to a public auction. The underlying zoning of the building is residential, and it may have lost its nonconforming rights as an industrial building. Future use of the building may require a rezoning to a low-density Office Residence district. My office has been in contact with Seward Redesign, and it sounds like there are several people interested in turning this building into something that benefits the broader neighborhood and fits in well with the uses along 25th St E.
- 7) Xcel Energy has complied with the state law that requires them to put in place a community solar program by filing their proposed plan with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission just before the September 30 deadline. Community solar is a program that allows people to invest in and benefit from solar panels that are not on their own property. The idea is to allow, for example, homeowners with shady yards to partner with nearby commercial property owners on solar installations, and pay off that investment over time. Unfortunately, Xcel's community solar plan leaves much to be desired. I plan on working on a response to this unimpressive filing by Xcel with City sustainability staff, solar industry experts and my colleagues.
- 8) The Council has unanimously adopted a new policy on adopting large, and so called "power breed," dogs. This represents a large number of dogs that we take in like pit bulls and Rottweilers. When implemented later next year, it will allow Animal Care and Control to adopt out more of these dogs to good homes if they pass a behavioral assessment. This policy is likely to substantially reduce the number of dogs euthanized by the City, as 45% of dogs euthanized last year belonged to power breeds. The Council will have to increase the funding for Animal Care and Control by about \$50,000 per year to pay for the behavioral assessments, but we may also save money in the long term by not having to house as many dogs for as long a time. I was very supportive of this policy change, and appreciate the focus by Animal Care and Control on reducing the number of animals they put down each year.
- 9) This year's One Minneapolis One Read book is "A Choice of Weapons" by Gordon Parks. Parks, a photographer for Life magazine, writer, composer, artist, and filmmaker, was 16 when he moved from Kansas to Saint Paul, Minnesota in 1928. See www.oneminneapolisone.com for more One Minneapolis One Read information and events.
- 10) The Council has approved Member Glidden's changes to the City's responsible banking ordinance that require financial institutions that provide banking services to the City to publicly disclose an expanded set of information about their lending practices and policies each year. The newly expanded ordinance will create greater transparency and allow the public a clearer view of how banks that handle public dollars operate in our community. The Council can also use the information when selecting financial service providers. The ordinance requires financial institutions to publicly share information by July 1 of each year on loan modifications and foreclosures on residential mortgages on properties located within the city, as well as numbers and amounts of loans given to small businesses, among other data. Commercial banks that provide banking services will also be required to file a Community Reinvestment Plan every two years that describes current and proposed initiatives to address the financial needs of the city and its residents and businesses. Minneapolis is the tenth city in the country to adopt a responsible banking ordinance. I supported this and will be very interested in seeing how we will use it to help us do a better job of holding financial institutions accountable.
- 11) The City Council, with my support, has voted to recommend the Locally Preferred Alternative for the Nicollet-Central Transit Corridor be modern streetcar running between Lake Street and at least 5th Street NE on Nicollet Avenue, Nicollet Mall and Hennepin/1st Avenues, using the Hennepin Avenue Bridge to cross the Mississippi River. While I have some concerns about the funding and the high cost of building the line I am excited to see the potential of bringing streetcars back to Minneapolis being realized.
- 12) 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.