



**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, llama 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 Seward Neighborhood 12-11-13

**Cam's next Seward Office Hours:**  
**Tuesday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am**  
**Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St**

### Items:

- 1) Franklin/Minnehaha/Cedar Intersection
- 2) Seward Towers
- 3) Park Board Urban Ag Plan
- 4) Hauenstein Burmeister
- 5) 2014 Budget
- 6) RFP for Parcel at 26<sup>th</sup> and Minnehaha
- 7) Star Tribune Buildings
- 8) Help Prevent Snow Tows
- 9) Massage and Bodywork Licenses
- 10) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Hennepin County plans to repave the segment of Franklin Avenue between 16<sup>th</sup> Ave S and 21<sup>st</sup> Ave S next year. I see this as a key opportunity to make progress on cleaning up the "No Man's Land" intersection of Cedar, Minnehaha, Franklin and 20<sup>th</sup> Ave S. Specifically, I will be pushing for the closure of the short section of Minnehaha between Franklin and Cedar. This is called for in the Seward Neighborhood's plan for the area, which the City has formally adopted. From what my office has heard, Hennepin County is willing to entertain this idea. I will be working with the City's Community Planning and Economic Development staff (specifically the Transit Oriented Development Coordinator), Public Works staff, and the Sixth Ward Council Member-elect Abdi Warsame to move this idea forward.
- 2) I do not support the idea of refinancing the Seward Towers in such a way that the Seward Neighborhood Group, Seward Redesign, and the residents of the Seward Towers themselves lose decisionmaking authority over the management of the buildings. I commend SNG, Redesign and those Towers residents who serve on the Seward Towers board for making clear that this is an unacceptable outcome, and for being willing to work with the other partners in managing the buildings on a better alternative that will allow necessary capital improvements to be made without destroying this community-friendly ownership structure that has worked so well for so long. I pledge to do everything I can – even after these buildings both move into the Sixth Ward next year – to get the City to help. The City has already taken a first step to help with this by recasting the City's loans from the original rate of 5.47% to 1%, retroactively to 4/23/2003. This saves the buildings approximately \$1.3 million in accrued interest.
- 3) The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is working on an Urban Agriculture Activity Plan. You can see the plan, take an online survey and more here: <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1399>. Surveys must be finished by **December 31<sup>st</sup>** to be considered. There are also Open Houses scheduled for **Tuesday, December 17**, 5:15-7:15pm at Hope Community, 611 E Franklin Ave, and Thursday, December 19, 7-8:30pm at St. Olaf Community Campus, 2901 Emerson Ave N. You can also make comments directly to Ginger Cannon by mail to 2117 West River Road, Minneapolis MN 55414, or by email to [feedback@minneapolisparcs.org](mailto:feedback@minneapolisparcs.org). I commend the Park Board and their staff for working on this plan. The City's Urban Ag plan has had tremendous positive effects, and I think that the Park Board's plan will have a similar effect. The Plan as written makes some great recommendations, from exploring greater roles for community gardens and fruit trees in our parks to expanding composting in the whole part system. It is extremely important for everyone who wants to see more urban agriculture activities in our parks to get engaged in this process. The Minneapolis Food Council will be sharing comments that strongly support the plan, while suggesting ways it could go even further.

- 4) As you have likely heard, the Hauenstein Burmeister buildings at 2629 30th Ave S and 2608 30th Ave S have been demolished. The information I have received from City staff is that the manager of the property, Kraus Anderson, was unable to find an industrial tenant for the building and decided to raze it before winter. The parcel is zoned industrial, with the Industrial Living Overlay District which would allow housing to be built on this site without a rezoning. I will encourage the owner and any prospective developers to meet with the Seward Neighborhood Group before finalizing plans for the reuse of this property.
- 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](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/finance) and click on "2014 Mayor Recommended Budget." You can also go to [www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget).
- 6) The City's Community Planning and Economic Development department is moving forward on preparing and releasing a Request For Proposals for the City-owned industrial parcel at Minnehaha and 26<sup>th</sup> St E. The goals laid out in the RFP are likely to include a minimum size for the building to be constructed, and a minimum of at least one job per 1,000 square feet of land. I am supportive of moving forward with this RFP, and hope that we will get some great applications that will lead to high-quality industrial development that will bring jobs to the area and be compatible with the community.
- 7) I was the sole vote at the Zoning and Planning committee against allowing the demolition of the Star Tribune building, in keeping with the decision of the Heritage Preservation Commission. The HPC believe the building should be studied for its historic significance. There is much more information here, under item number eight: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/meetings/hpc/WCMS1P-116859>.
- 8) 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](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/snow).
- 9) 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.
- 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](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings).