



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 1-27-14

**Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
Pratt School, Thursday, February 20th, 9:30-11am**

Items:

- 1) New Office Hours Days and Locations
- 2) Franklin Ave SE
- 3) Ambulatory Care Center Now Under Construction
- 4) New Council Organization
- 5) Conservation District Public Meeting
- 6) Healthy Bees, Healthy Lives
- 7) Triclosan Resolution
- 8) Climate Action Priorities and Pathways
- 9) STEP-UP Applications
- 10) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) With new City Council Committee assignments, a new calendar and changed boundaries of the Second Ward I have decided to change my "offices hours in the ward". Starting in February I will hold office hours every **Thursday, from 9:30-11am** at the following locations: First Thursdays: Nabo Café in the Oren Gateway Center, 2211 Riverside Avenue on the West Bank; Second Thursdays: Muddsuckers Coffee at 1500 Como Ave SE; **Third Thursdays: Pratt School, 66 Malcolm Ave SE**; Fourth Thursdays: Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St. If these times and locations don't work for you and you want to meet, please contact my office to set up a better time. If the times do work, I hope to see you at an office hour soon!
- 2) Responding to requests from Prospect Park residents, I worked with Minneapolis Public Works last year to move Franklin Ave SE up on the resurfacing schedule. More recently, I heard from some Prospect Park residents that it would be good to have this project occur in 2015, to give the neighborhood time to develop a vision for a more transformative project on Franklin. Specifically, there is interest in building a physically protected bikeway on Franklin from the intersection with East River Pkwy all the way up to the border with St. Paul. This idea is in keeping with the City's plan to build 30 miles of protected bikeways by 2020. At its most recent meeting, the Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee supported building a protected bikeway on Franklin in 2015. My office, along with Mayor Hodges' office and the Bike/Ped Section of the Minneapolis Public Works Department will be working with Prospect Park residents and the Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition on a concept for Franklin including a protected bikeway. My goal is to have this finished in time to share it with folks at the Pratt Ice Cream Social.
- 3) The U and Fairview have broken ground on the new Ambulatory Care Center near campus in the Motley area at 909 Fulton St. SE, Minneapolis. The center is scheduled to open in January 2016 and will provide new space for clinics currently housed in the Phillips Wangensteen Building.
- 4) On January 6th the new mayor and council members were formally sworn in. During the first Council meeting that morning we voted in new leadership. As I said in December, I supported Council Member Elizabeth Glidden for Council President, and five of my colleagues felt similarly. But when it became clear that she would not get 7 votes, the Council unanimously voted to name Barbara Johnson as Council President, with Elizabeth Glidden as Vice President. The major committees I will serve on are executive (as Minority Leader), Heath, Environment and Community Engagement; Transportation and Public Works; and Public Safety. I am very excited about chairing the new Health, Environment and Community Engagement committee that will also provide leadership for the city's energy issues and Animal care and Control. Many of my priority issues, including Homegrown Minneapolis, Youth Violence Prevention, Early Childhood and Family Support as well as sustainability and addressing Climate Change will be part of this committee's work. I am also excited to be serving on the Transportation and Public Works committee for the first time and hope to be

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Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

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

able to do more to support alternative, clean forms of transportation and moving us toward being a zero waste city. More information is at www.minneapolismn.gov/council.

- 5) A draft of the new conservation district ordinance I have been working on is now ready for comment. It is intended to safeguard notable visual character in a manner that offers more protections than the zoning code but is less stringent than historic district design guidelines. The City will host a public meeting to discuss the proposal on **Tuesday, January 28th** at 4:30pm in City Hall, Room 319, 350 S 5th St. The proposed conservation district ordinance is designed to ensure that development in notable areas respects neighborhood character. Under the proposal, two-thirds of property owners in a contiguous area with notable visual character would have the opportunity to request conservation district status. If passed, the proposed ordinance would amend the City's existing Heritage Preservation Regulations. Comments on the draft of this ordinance will be accepted in person during the public meeting or by emailing City staff member John Smoley at john.smoley@minneapolismn.gov by 4:30 p.m., Feb. 4. Following the gathering of public input, the proposed ordinance will be revised and prepared for review by the State Historic Preservation Office, the Heritage Preservation Commission and the Minneapolis City Council. For updated project information please visit www.minneapolismn.gov/hpc/conservation_district_ordinance.
- 6) I attended the very exciting kickoff event for the *Healthy Bees, Healthy Lives* initiative, which seeks to make Minneapolis a safer, healthier environment for bees and other pollinators. They are asking people to take a pledge not to use pesticides on their own yards, plant more bee-friendly plants, and advocate for a change in the state law that preempts all local regulation of pesticides. You can find out more at <http://healthybeeshealthylives.com/>.
- 7) My office is working on a resolution calling on the State Legislature and US Food and Drug Administration to limit or ban the antibacterial additive Triclosan from consumer products, and urging the residents and businesses of Minneapolis to stop buying products containing these chemicals. These compounds have never been proven to increase health or reduce disease, are suspected of causing endocrine problems, may contribute to antibiotic resistance in bacteria, and have been shown to break down into dioxins in our rivers, lakes and streams. The City of Minneapolis is already prohibited, by our environmentally preferable purchasing policy, from buying products containing these chemicals. I am very grateful to State Representative Jean Wagenius for bringing this issue to my attention.
- 8) The City's Sustainability staff will be presenting the proposed short-term priorities from the Climate Action Plan at the Health, Environment and Community Engagement committee on **Monday, February 24th** at 1:30pm. Related to the Climate Action Plan, the committee will also receive the final report of the Energy Pathways Study on the same day. This study lays out four different pathways that the City of Minneapolis could follow to ensure that the services we are receiving from our electrical and natural gas utilities (Xcel and CenterPoint) are consistent with our adopted Climate Action Plan, workforce goals, and economic development goals. I am excited to see the final version of this report, which is already helping to drive the City's legislative agenda for this year. At the end of this year, our energy franchises expire. I will be advocating for the City to sign a much shorter franchise agreement than previous 20-year agreement, while we work on longer-term arrangements that will mean cleaner, more local, more equitable, more reliable and more affordable energy for Minneapolis residents and businesses.
- 9) This year's STEP-UP Application for youth is now available here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/metp/STEP-UPIntern>. The City of Minneapolis STEP-UP program trains and matches Minneapolis youth ages 14-21 in summer internships at local businesses. STEP-UP is focused on serving youth from low-income families or youth that have risk factors making it challenging to find employment on their own. Internships are generally 20-40 hours per week for 6-10 weeks from mid-June to August. Depending on the age and skill level of the intern, interns may work in subsidized jobs at a non-profit organizations or employer paid positions in the business community. All youth must apply online. If a youth requires assistance completing an application, please contact Tammy Dickinson at 612-673-5041. The deadline to apply is February 21, 2014. All applicants must live in Minneapolis, be 14-21 years old by June 1, 2014, not be currently enrolled in college (PSEO is ok), be eligible to work in the US by June 1, 2014 and have proper documentation. In addition, applicants' families must meet guideline incomes: \$45,500 for 1 person, \$52,000 for 2 persons, \$58,500 for 3 persons, \$65,000 for four persons, \$70,200 for 5 persons, \$75,400 for 6 persons, \$80,600 for 7 persons or \$85,800 for 8 persons. If your organization would like to host a STEP-UP intern, please complete the [STEP-UP pledge form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1PDFY--k7q5ld2SvtFIXg9Jatub_i7y9DC5XZxnZxhWA/viewform) at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1PDFY--k7q5ld2SvtFIXg9Jatub_i7y9DC5XZxnZxhWA/viewform no later than February first.
- 10) Applications are now being accepted for open positions on the following City boards and commissions: Board of Appeal and Equalization, Ethical Practices Board and Telecommunications Network (MTN), Minneapolis. For a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings.