

Second Ward July 2014 E-newsletter

News from Cam Gordon

Council Member, Second Ward

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/council/ward2>

National Night Out. The 31st Annual Minneapolis National Night Out will be Tuesday, August 5, 2014. This is an annual nationwide event that encourages residents to get to know their neighbors as a way to encourage crime prevention and build community-police partnerships. I plan to visit a handful of the potentially hundreds of events in the ward and encourage everyone to participating on their block or in their area. You can still register your event online or through 311. If you want to block your street, you can do so for free through July 22. From July 23 through July 31, there is a \$100 fee. After July 31 no applications for blocking off a street will be allowed. Last year, Minneapolis was ranked #1 among all U.S. cities with a population of 250,000 or more. To register your event or find a list of those registered in your neighborhood visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/nno>

Tentative Agreement on Southwest Light Rail Project. On July 8 Metropolitan Council Chair Susan Haigh and Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges announced a tentative agreement regarding the plan to build the Southwest Light Rail Project that would extend the Green Line from downtown Minneapolis to Eden Prairie. That evening the Council's Transportation and Public Works Committee held a public meeting on the agreement attended by over 200 people. I have supported this alignment in the past, but only if the freight line was relocated because of concerns that the bike and pedestrian trail could be harmed by collocating the freight rail, light rail with the trail. I also strongly support thoughtfully building out a light rail transit system in the region. I do not want to see homes taken and am committed to only supporting something that preserves the off road trails and protects the lakes. I also favor a station at 21st near Cedar Lake. The compromise and design modifications that have been developed appear to meet some, if not all, of the criteria I have identified. I remain most concerned about the potential loss of the trail that would result if future elimination of the south tunnel was allowed. I am also concerned about risk posed to our lakes by the south shallow tunnel and would prefer to have supplemental environmental impact study, already drafted, completed before having to vote on this. I will be reviewing again the "Water Resources Evaluation" completed in March to better understand these risks. I will also be looking for indications that equity issues, as raised by the SWLRT Equity Coalition (<http://peoplestransit.org>), are being addressed by the Met Council and that they Park Board concerns are being addressed before I will vote in favor of this. Another part of the agreement I support commits the Met Council to work closely with the City and the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority to ensure that the Kenilworth freight corridor remains in public ownership, which the parties agree will decrease the chances that freight trains will increase in frequency or carry more dangerous cargo through the corridor. It is my understanding that this development will require a new timeline for a final approval and that the City Council is expected to set a public hearing on municipal consent on **August 19** and to vote on it at its regular meeting on **August 29**.

Dinkytown Greenway and Bluff Street Tunnel Opening. This Sunday, **July 20**, I will be helping to lead an official opening celebration and ribbon cutting event for completion of the new bike and pedestrian trail and tunnel connecting the Dinkytown Greenway from Bridge 9 into downtown under the 10th Ave and 35W bridges. Please join me if you are able at 1:00pm for a bike ride from the U of M football stadium to Bluff St Park near Bridge 9, where people will gather for a program before taking an official "first" ride through the new tunnel.

Community Engagement Listening Sessions. The Health, Energy and Community Engagement Committee that I chair and the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission are holding two community meetings on community engagement, first on **Thursday, July 31**, 6-9pm at East Phillips Park, 2307 17th Avenue South, and then on **Saturday, August 2**, 9:30am-noon at Folwell Park, 1615 Dowling Avenue North. This marks a purposeful first step in identifying possible changes to our community engagement system. These meetings will help set the stage for a more careful review and proposed improvements in our community engagement system that could be considered by the Council late this year or early in 2015. If you have ideas or concerns about neighborhoods organizations, the city's neighborhood and community relations and how to improve civic involvement more generally, your participation is especially needed.

New CPED Director Nominated. Mayor Betsy Hodges has nominated Craig Taylor to be the new Director of the Community Planning and Economic Development department. Mr. Taylor has run the University of Minnesota's Office for Business and Community Economic Development and Business and Technology Center since 2001. He has also worked in the City enterprise before, heading the Office of Women and Minority Business Enterprise in the 1980s. The Mayor will formally submit the nomination to the Executive Committee on **July 9** where I will likely support moving his name forward for a public hearing at the Community Development & Regulatory Services committee before consideration by the full City Council. I am interested to learn more about Mr. Taylor through the appointment process.

Racial Equity Work Moves Forward. The Council has held a study session on our ongoing racial equity work, and is moving that work forward on several parallel tracks. The work includes two major areas. The first, well underway, focuses on how the city can lead by example in the creation of a racial equity "toolkit" to help guide recruitment, hiring, promoting, purchasing and contracting decisions to address institutional racism in city government. The Second focuses on a larger Racial Equity Action Plan that is in the early stages of being drafted. At this time the Mayor's office is leading the effort and has established an executive policymaker group with the City Council to guide the work. I serve on that group with the Mayor and several Council Members. Later this month both the Public Safety, Civil Right Committee (on July 23) and the Council's Committee of the Whole (on July 30) will receive reports and consider recommendations related to this important work. While I am frustrated that our work on the "toolkit" is still not completed, I believe that we are moving the right direction and look forward to a better result in the long run. You can learn more here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-127387.pdf>

Youth Tobacco Use. On July 7th, the Minneapolis Youth Congress shared a set of recommendations about how to better regulate tobacco products with the Health, Environment and Community Engagement committee. They asked the City to include e-cigarettes in our Clean Air ordinances and restrict the sales of flavored and small, low cost packs of cigars, cigarillos and other tobacco products targeted to young teenagers. I'm excited to hear from the Youth Congress about the changes they'd like to see in the City's ordinances and policies around tobacco, and will work to bring all the recommended changes forward.

Filing Fee Increase. The Charter Commission has voted (10-5) to submit a charter amendment to the voters at this year's general election in November. That question concerns municipal filing fees, a subject that has been passed between the City and the Charter Commission on four occasions over the past year. It proposes to raise the filing fees from \$20 for all municipal offices to \$500 for Mayor, \$250 for Council Member, \$100 for Board of Estimate & Taxation member and \$100 for Park & Recreation District Commissioner. The Council now must approve the actual ballot language that will be submitted to voters but we cannot alter the actual proposal or amounts approved by the Commission.

Housing Equity. On July 23 at 1:30pm, Myron Orfield from the Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity at the University of Minnesota Law School will formally present the findings of the report “Twin Cities in Crisis: Unequal Treatment of Communities of Color in Mortgage Lending” to the Public Safety, Civil Rights and Emergency Management Committee. This will give the committee members the opportunity to learn more, ask questions, discuss the information and consider what, if any, further action is appropriate. Representatives from the major lending institutions in the area have also been invited to make a presentation in response to the findings of the study. The report (which you can find here: <http://www.law.umn.edu/metro/index.html>), raises serious questions about discriminatory lending practices that have disproportionately harmed people of color. It states, “In 2004-06 subprime loans were the major problem – very high income black and Hispanic applicants were much more likely to get subprime loans than very low income white applicants. More recently, the subprime market has largely disappeared but it is still true that very high income black loan applicants are more likely to be denied a loan than low income whites. In addition, racially diverse and majority non-white neighborhoods are dramatically still underserved in the mortgage market.”

Minneapolis for a Lifetime. Staff presented a progress report on the City of Minneapolis activities and action steps that work accomplish the goals in the Minneapolis for a Lifetime Strategy in early July. I am impressed with how our efforts to coordinate among departments are helping us accomplish our goals for making sure the city attracts, retains and works for older residents. You can learn more here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-127630.pdf>

Accessibility. This month the Council and Neighborhood and Community Relations staff are kicking off what purposeful examination how we can better meet or exceed to federal requirements, standards and best practices related to full participation and preventing discrimination for all our residents. The major “accessibility laws” that support access to City decision making processing, programs, services and facilities include Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and The Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 which prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in employment, government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation. In early July the Council Committee directed staff to present a Council Study session in August on Federal Accessibility Laws and to begin work on an ADA transition plan, on-going ADA compliance monitoring and to return to Council by the end of October 2014 with a recommendations for how to complete a long overdue and necessary ADA action plan.

Utility Agreement Negotiations. The Council’s Health Environment and Community Engagement received an update about the work underway on our franchise agreements with Xcel Energy and Centerpoint and progress being made developing a new, first of its kind Clean Energy Partnership. City leaders, including the Mayor, Council President, Vice President and myself, have been meeting with decision-makers from the utility companies. So far a basic structure has been agreed to and an aggressive timeline put in place that would lead to agreements on both the franchise agreements and the Partnership this September.

IT Department Awarded. The City, through our Information and Technology Division, received a partner of the year award at a recent Saint Paul Neighborhood Network meeting. The AmeriCorps Community Technology Empowerment Project recognized the City of Minneapolis for its ongoing digital inclusion efforts; including the Minneapolis digital inclusion survey, and direct service with various Minneapolis community groups. Congratulations department head Otto Doll and to key staff involved in this work who were there to accept the award: Elise Ehardt, the Interagency Coordinator for the City of Minneapolis IT Department, and Adja Gildersleve, who provides direct service at multiple community based locations in

the city. To more information and see the survey results go to <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/it/inclusion/WCMS1P-118865>

Car-sharing Update. According to Car2go's recently released third-quarter report, its membership has reached 8,224 since its Minneapolis pilot program began with on Sept. 12, 2013. About six months later, Hourcar and Zipcar were added to the two-year program. These three companies have since been sharing vehicles throughout the city using on-street parking spaces as well as off-street ones. The on-street parking spaces will make it more convenient for users to get a car when they need it. Also according to Car2go's third-quarter report since March, Car2go averages about 3,150 rentals a week. That's roughly double where it was at the start of the year. The average number of rentals per car per day is currently 1.25, and it's consistently been above 1.0 since late March. That means the average Car2go car gets at least one rental per day. The average distance traveled by a Car2go vehicle per trip is about 3.5 miles. The average time of a trip is approximately 21 minutes and 20 seconds. There is no City funding in this car sharing pilot program and the companies will pay the City market rates for use of on-street parking space. For more information or if you have questions or concerns you can contact representatives from the three participating car-sharing businesses: Car2go: Josh Johnson – 612-759-8711, Joshua.johnson@daimler.com www.car2go.com ; Hourcar: Christopher Bineham – 651-789-5702, christopherb@thenec.org www.thenec.org ; Zipcar: Brian Harvey – 612-270-2848, bharvey@zipcar.com www.zipcar.com

“Houses for Heroes” Offers Veterans Up to \$20K in Assistance Purchasing a Home. The City of has started a new down payment and closing cost assistance program to provide active military or veterans of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq with affordable homeownership opportunities in Minneapolis. The program offers up to \$20,000 in the form of a zero-percent interest deferred loan that is forgiven at the end of five years as long as the home owner remains living there. Priority for the program will be given to Reservist or National Guard members who are currently deployed or have recently returned from deployment. Reserve Aid, a national nonprofit organization that assists military families, has committed \$200,000 in funding for the program in 2014. Funds will be administered through the Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation (GMHC) on behalf of the City of Minneapolis. Other program partners include Hennepin County Veteran Services, Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. <http://www.gmhchousing.org/down-payment-assistance>.

Health & Safety Improvement Loan Program for Small Businesses in Minneapolis. The City has a new Business Health and Safety Improvement Loan Program to help small Minneapolis businesses who often struggle to pay for needed code compliance and other remedial minor physical improvements for regulated businesses. Eligible improvements include, but are not limited to general repairs, flooring, grease trap installation, floor drains, automatic roof vents, food service equipment such as walk-in coolers, ware washing equipment and cooling equipment, and pollution reduction upgrades as part of the Green Business Program. The Business Health and Safety Improvement Loan Program is managed for the City of Minneapolis by the Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers (MCCD). For more information: contact daniel.bonilla@minneapolismn.gov

STEP-UP Interns. This summer 1,650 Minneapolis young people are working as summer internships with the city's STEP-UP program. Working with 230 plus employers, young people will gain professional skills and build their networks by working in a variety of jobs. STEP-UP prepares youth for the future by matching them with meaningful internships at local employers. This summer, STEP-UP interns will earn an estimated \$3 million in wages. More than \$1 million will be provided by private sector employers, allowing STEP-UP to employ more youth.

Absentee Voting. The primary election will be held August 12 and absentee balloting began Friday, June 20. This will be the state's first use of "no excuse" absentee voting so it is likely that many more people will vote before Election Day this year than in previous years. All voters can choose to vote absentee either by mail or in person. City Hall, in the Rotunda area, is now Minneapolis' largest polling place, open to all voters who want to come in before Election Day to cast their absentee ballot in person. Because this election marks the first time that all voters are eligible to vote early by absentee ballot without providing a specific reason, we anticipate more voters than ever will choose to vote absentee at their convenience to avoid long lines and waits at the polling place. Ballots will be mailed out to voters requesting a mail ballot beginning June 27, and must be returned to City Hall by the last regular mail delivery on Election Day August 12. In-person absentee voting will be available Monday-Friday, June 27 through Aug. 8, from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Extended in-person absentee voting hours will also be available from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. on the two Saturdays prior to Election Day, Aug. 2 and 9, and until 5 p.m. on the last day before the election, Mon. Aug. 11. For more information visit <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov>.

National Recognition for Elections. The Minneapolis Elections & Voter Services Division has been identified by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission as part of its "model program" for excellence in election administration. Congratulations to all our staff involved in the outstanding voter outreach, education, and engagement efforts, election judge training, post-election audit procedures and more. Obviously, I'm pleased to brag about this success shared by our incredible team. In recent years our Elections Team has successfully implemented a new system for voting (Ranked-Choice Voting), a new and aggressive Voter Outreach & Education Program, improved training curriculum for election judges with a separate track for head judges on management functions, polling place operational enhancements (and accessibility criteria), and numerous administrative process changes and improvements that improve voter service.

Donation Collection Bin Ordinance. On July 8 the Community Development and Regulatory Services Committee conducted a public hearing and considered ordinance amendments that would regulate Donation Collection Bins. There are already five free standing donation collection bins that sponsoring organizations rely on to collect. People generally have 24 hour access to drop off sites in close proximity to their homes or work. Minneapolis currently has five donation bins operated by non-profit organizations. Concerns have been raised about these related to irregular collection schedules, the accumulation of unwanted refuse, and substandard maintenance. To address these Council Member Glidden has authored ordinance language creating a general business license for donation collection bins. It includes a license requirement with a fee and requirements that license holders display the license number on each bin, monitor the bins daily, empty the contents routinely, and keep bins well maintained. This amendment will allow donation collection bins to be available to both non-profit and for-profit organization and create an annual fee of \$220 for commercial bins and \$35 for non-profits

New Ride Share Companies Ordinance. The Community Development and Regulatory Services Committee has recommended ordinance changes that, if approved by the full Council, would allow and regulate Transportation Network Companies (TNC) in Minneapolis. These are also called ride sharing companies and include Uber and Lyft. I am generally supportive of ridesharing as an alternative form of transportation but am concerned that we have fair and adequate standards in place to protect customers as well as employees and that we do not create unfair competition to the already operating taxi companies. The ordinance would make the Transportation Network Companies the license holder for all activity associated with their license application. TNC drivers will not be required to obtain an individual TNC driver license or a TNC vehicle license. The drivers and vehicles will be backgrounded and inspected by the TNC companies, and upon approval, will be then endorsed. License inspection staff will perform inspections and audits to ensure that the TNC services are adhering to the requirements of this chapter. Currently, TNCs are not providing

services to persons who need to be transported in a vehicle that can accommodate a rider in a wheelchair or other similar special service needs. The license fee schedule should be amended to require that TNC licensees pay an annual surcharge that can be used to provide incentives to other licensed para-transit providers. Unlike taxicabs where we charge license fees for every driver, vehicle, and company, the current proposal will charge one fee for the TNC company regardless of the number of vehicles and drivers they have. The current recommendation is to charge \$35,000 for each network license per year. You can find more here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/cdrs/WCMS1P-118814> . This discussion has helped further convince me that we need a regional approach with a regional, or state, entity regulating the taxi and ride share industries. Limousines are already regulated by the state and our bus system is managed by the regional Metropolitan Council. Having separate agencies for cities and the airport is confusing, cumbersome and inadequate to serve the region.

Beekeeping Ordinance Amendments. Following a public hearing, the Council's Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee unanimously approved amending our Beekeeping ordinance to remove the requirement that applicants receive the written consent of the occupants of nearby properties and replaced it with a simple notification requirement for surrounding properties. I plan to move a minor amendment that will clarify that annual notification of surrounding property owners will not be required by this ordinance.

2014 Pollinator Party. On **Thursday, July 24** from 5 – 8 p.m. at Lyndale Park Gardens on the east side of Lake Harriet there will be a Pollinator Party. Here the Park Board brings together bees, scientists, beekeepers, food, and live music to celebrate and learn about the life and work of honey bees and native bees and the critical role they play in our food supply.

New NCEC Appointments. The Health Environment and Community Engagement Committee has approved 4 new appointees to the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC). Three of these appointments are being made by the City Council and one by the Mayor. In addition an appointment to the Commission will be made by the Minneapolis Park Board. For the four vacancies on the Commission, 17 applications were received. I served on a panel of council and staff who reviewed the applications and made a recommendation to the Committee. It was a difficult decision because of many highly qualified applicants. In the end I believe we landed on a group of strong appointees who bring needed skills, experience and perspectives to the Commission that will help guide and improve our community engagement efforts in the months ahead. The Council appointees are David Zaffrann, Eric Gustafson and Brittany Lewis. The Committee also recommended approval of Ishmael Israel as a Mayoral appointee.

Audit Committee. The Committee of the Whole has approved ordinance amendments that will allow us to hire a new internal auditor, restart the program and get the Audit Committee up and running again. While I would prefer to see this work as part of the Board of Estimate and Taxations responsibilities, I am glad to see it being restarted nonetheless. For more see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/cow/WCMS1P-127980> .

Block Clubs. One of the City's goals is to increase the number of organized neighborhood block clubs. Since 2008, the city has more than doubled the number of organized neighborhood block clubs in the city. In 2014, we hope to have 90 percent of the city's 3,700 blocks organized. Members of neighborhood block clubs work with crime prevention specialists to prevent and reduce crime. Contact your crime prevention specialist or email crime.prevention@minneapolismn.gov to get involved if your block is organized or learn how to set up a neighborhood block club if it isn't.

Crime Alerts and Police Advisories. The number of people signed up to get crime alerts and police advisories increased more than six fold in the past five years. The Police Department issues crime alerts when it notices crime patterns. A crime pattern may be specific to a geographic area, a time period or a specific method of crime. Police advisories are issued for less serious, yet important crime prevention information. Crime alerts and police advisories aim to provide accurate information, increase the chance for arrests, prevent future crimes and reduce fear. The key part of the notices is simple steps people can take to reduce their chances of becoming victims. If you are not already signed up to receive these, I encourage you to enroll here http://www.minneapolismn.gov/police/crimealert/police_crimealert_signup

Downtown Holidazzle. The council, with my support, has approved using \$390,000 of city convention center resources generated from sales taxes to support a renewed Holidazzle downtown later this year. This would no longer include the parade but would create a winter marketplace centered at Peavey Plaza that would run from Thanksgiving through December to promote shopping downtown. This will help leverage additional funds totally close to 1 million for the program. I am concerned that there will be ongoing expectation for more funding in the future and the Downtown Council has already indicated it plans to request up to \$750,000 in city funds for 2015. In the past the city has supported the Holidazzle, with about \$300,000 in recent years. I would prefer to see this amount decreasing over time with more investment coming from the Downtown Council and businesses who are most likely to see the benefits, but am willing to see how efforts this year go.

Open Streets. This linear festival that promotes walking, biking, healthy living, local businesses and civic pride is coming to our neck of the woods in on Franklin Avenue East, Sunday, August 17, 2014 — 10:00am-4:00pm from Portland Avenue to 28th Avenue. For more information visit <http://openstreetsmpls.com>

Southeast Library. Hennepin County has hired a consultant, Steve Kelly, from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, to lead research and community engagement efforts involved in planning for a new or renovated Southeast Library and future library services for the southeast area. I have appointed Laura Waterman Wittstock, Southeast Como resident and former Minneapolis Library Board member, to be my representative on the Steering Committee that will be guiding this work. Am delighted that Laura will be serving in this capacity and believe that she will represent both me and the community well.

Resolution for Natasha Holtman. This Friday, July 18, I plan to offer a resolution honoring Prospect Park resident and South High senior Natasha Holtman for taking first place in the senior paper category at the National History Day competition. Her paper examines the Kindertransport, a British rescue effort of more than 10,000 Jewish children from Austria, Czechoslovakia and Germany in the lead up to the Second World War. This is a truly impressive academic achievement. Ms. Holtman was competing with students from all fifty states as well as competitors from American Samoa, Puerto Rico and Southeast Asia. I am thrilled to be able to honor her achievement before the Council.

Mudslide on West Bank River Hillside. A portion of West River Parkway has been closed following a large mudslide. The street, bike path and walking trails remained closed from 4th Street South to near Franklin Avenue. Because the mudslide occurred on the river bluff adjacent to the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview, a number of partners are working together to determine next steps to ensure the site is stabilized, both in the short term and over the long term. The Park Board is leading the effort working with City staff, the University of Minnesota and its contractors, including geotechnical and structural engineers, to develop plans for moving forward.

Sisterhood Boutique Moves to Riverside Avenue. The Sisterhood Boutique, which opened in February, is already expanding, thanks to donated space from Fairview Health Services. The new, larger store is located at 2200 Riverside Ave, Minneapolis. An Open House was held June 25th. The Sisterhood Boutique was developed by East African women between the ages of 14 and 23 who reside in the Cedar-Riverside neighborhood of Minneapolis and participate in the Brian Coyle Center Youth Entrepreneurship Program. More than a year ago, program participants decided they wanted to build something positive in the neighborhood for other girls and women, and so Sisterhood Boutique was born. The young women are learning skills they will use in the future, as they benefit the community today. Thanks to Fairview Health Services, Augsburg College, Women's Foundation of Minnesota, Sundance Family Foundation, Marbrook Foundation and Women Investing in the Next Generation (WINGS) Fund of Greater Twin Cities United Way for their support of this project.

Expansion of Premises Ordinance Passes. The Council has approved the ordinance amendment I authored that will allow bars and restaurants to increase the times they can offer services outdoors on adjacent property as a temporary expansion of their premises. The annual limit of 12 days may now be waived by the license official for special events. This is specifically intended to allow local businesses to be able to benefit from the increase in games and events going on at the University Stadium while the Vikings will be playing home football games there.

Modified Commercial Parking Lot Rules. My ordinance modifying parking lot requirements so local businesses will be able to allow game-day parking on nonresidential parking lots has been approved by the Council. This was already allowed for Gopher games and will now to extend the option to Vikings games as well.

Cedar Ave Sidewalk Modification Project. I moved to postpone the final approval of the city sidewalk reconstruction two weeks following a public hearing where some concerns were raised primarily by one business and questions were raised about funding. After meeting with staff I am comfortable and confident that in July I, and the full council, will support moving ahead with this project this summer. I have been working on this since my first term and it will be wonderful to see all the sidewalks between 6 and the new Light Rails station on Cedar redone and many of them widened to improve accessibility and walkability of this area. Learn more at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/projects/cedarave>

Draft TCE Vapor Work Plan. General Mills has submitted a draft "Vapor Intrusion Pathway Investigation and Feasibility Study Work Plan" to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. I am glad to see that they will be doing more monitoring to learn more where the vapor is located and how it might be moving but I am disappointed not to see more monitoring of the air, especially in homes to determine if the current efforts are effective. I would like to see more continuous monitoring of the indoor air to be sure the mitigation systems are working. The plan seems most concerned with figuring out the "pathway," and appears too focused on searching for evidence to prove there is more than one source, or that identifying a single or primary source is too difficult. I believe that we need to move much more quickly to the implementation of a plan to permanently clean up TCE from the area. We have allowed it to sit here for decades potentially harming residents' health. Now we must find the way to actually remove or otherwise eliminate the TCE from the area. There still appears to be TCE on the old site under some of the GM buildings and clearly it is present throughout the area. The previous plans were not successful in cleaning up the TCE and I find it unacceptable to allow it to remain, especially when I believe there are technologies and techniques which could be used to effectively remove or eliminate it.

U of M School of Public Health and TCE Help. Carly Rickett, a Master of Public Health degree candidate, is working on a project this summer with the U of MN School of Public Health to assist in clarifying health impact questions raised by community residents, related to TCE vapor pollution in the South East Como neighborhood. Her project was developed in response to a request from neighborhood community leaders. I think most of us have met Carly by now, or will meet with her soon. Carly is drafting a first-round fact sheet and Frequently Asked Questions document, based on questions she's heard from residents so far and residents in the TCE project area will be invited to send other health-impact related questions to Carly, via email or by phone; and to in-person visit. Carly can be reached at stock220@umn.edu. She is working with Betsy Wattenberg and Peter Raynor, both faculty members in Environmental Health Sciences, School of Public Health at the U of M.

7th Street Ramp Project. The Transportation and Public Works Committee has approved a layout, moved to accept \$6,790,000 from the federal Transportation Economic Development (TED) Program and contract with SRF Consulting Group, Inc. to provide project management, community outreach, and final design related to the 7th St Ramp Project. This project was started in 2013 and will effectively close the 5th St. exit ramp from west bound interstate highway 94 and replace it with a 7th street exit ramp. The old 5th St. ramp is planned to become a local connection between Cedar Riverside and downtown. The City will be taking the lead on the design of this project and is working closely with MnDOT; MnDOT will own and operate this new bridge once construction is complete. In accordance with the requirements of the grant program, the project must be bid by June of 2015 however the project must also show substantial progress by January of 2015 in order to retain the grant funding.

MnDOT Land. The Transportation and Public Works Committee will hold a public hearing on July 22 to consider the acquisition and "pass-through" sale of Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) land in the Prospect Park East River Road area to the adjacent property owners at 1812 Franklin Ave SE. The owners already have an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to buy the small land next to their house for \$2,285. The land is approximately 25' x 85'.

Happy Anniversary Tower Hill. Congratulations to Prospect Park East River Road neighborhood for a successful and well attended celebration of the 100th anniversary of the dedication of the Witch's Hat Water Tower to supply water to southeast Minneapolis.

Openings on Boards and Commissions. Applications are now being accepted for the, Senior Citizen Advisory Committee, Public Health Advisory Committee, Audit Committee. Visit the City's website at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm> for more information.