

Second Ward September 2014 E-newsletter

News from Cam Gordon

Council Member, Second Ward

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

2015 City Budget. Mayor Hodges has submitted her 2015 proposed budget to the City Council. The Council is currently reviewing presentations from each department and is scheduled to give final consideration on Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2014. The total proposed budget for all City funds is \$1.2 billion. This represents a \$54.7 million, or 4.8%, increase from the 2014 Council Adopted Budget of \$1.1 billion in City fund appropriation exclusive of the City's independent boards. The General Fund that funds most city operations will increase 3.6% from \$392 million to 406 million. The Mayor is recommending an overall increase of 2.38% in the property tax levy for the City and its independent boards, raising the total amount of property taxes collected by \$6.7 million, from \$281.7 million in 2014 to \$288.4. Given the growth in both our tax base and the demand on city services and infrastructure to support this growth, I feel that a modest levy increase is appropriate. The proposed budget initiatives I support include: funding initiative to diversity the police and fire departments; planning dollars for the redevelopment of the Upper Harbor Terminal; two new positions in the City Coordinator's office to focus exclusively on the city's equity work; \$1.14 million for body camera program for the police department; \$750,000 for bike and pedestrian transit investments, funding for 4 additional 911 operators, \$150,00 for staff to implement the Clean Energy Partnership; an increase in solid waste fee of \$3.50 a month to fund a curbside organics program; funding for an addition contract compliance officer in the Civil Rights department; \$300,000 to conduct a disparity study to meet federal requirements; \$150,000 to do a formal assessment of the City's compliance with federal Accessibility requirements; and, \$75,000 for the City Attorney's office to fund a Domestic Violence hotline. I have some questions about a few proposed expenditures that I will be scrutinizing more carefully including an additional \$3.5 million to the redesign of Nicollet Mall; \$400,000 in the Coordinator's office for downtown events; and added staff in the Community Planning and Economic Development department, the City Clerk's Office, Neighborhood and Community Relations, the Mayor's office and Public Works. While I support the need to increase staff in these departments and the Public Works plan to create a new transportation planning division, I want to be certain the value we are likely to receive warrants the expenses proposed. I will also be looking carefully at the proposed uses of the greater than anticipated revenues from Tax Increment District funds dedicated to fund neighborhood revitalization purposes. The City of Minneapolis has scheduled two public comment hearings on the proposed 2015 property tax levy and budget: **November 18** at 6:05 p.m. and **December 10** at 6:05 p.m. both in Room 317 of City Hall. On December 2, the Ways and Means Budget Subcommittee will consider amendments to the Mayor's proposed budget and on Dec. 10, after the hearing at 6:05 p.m. the City Council is scheduled to take the final vote on the 2015 budget.

Utility Franchise Agreements. Progress is being made negotiating terms of new franchise agreements with both the electric and natural gas utility companies in the city. Renewal of the agreements will depend on the formation of a new, first in the nation, Clean Energy Partnership. In order to provide enough time before the end of the year to have the agreements reviewed and approved by all the necessary agencies, this month I will formally introduce the subject matter of our utility franchise ordinances. This will be referred to the Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee where a Public Hearing will be held on **October 6th** at or shortly after 1:30 pm.

Farmstand Amendent. The ordinance amendment I authored to allow farmstands to operate more often and without a permit at community gardens, market gardens and urban farms, was approved by the full Council on September 19th. Farmstands will now be considered an "accessory use" at these locations, and

the expensive temporary use permit will no longer be required. Only food grown at the garden or farm, or another garden or farm operated by the same producer, may be sold at the farmstand up to 75 days a year. At the Zoning and Planning Committee the proposal was amended to extend the hours from 7 pm to sunset and to no longer allow farmstands at community gardens. I supported the first amendment but opposed the second and was glad to see it amended again at the Council so that we will now also allow farmstands at community gardens. Allowing these small quantities of fresh, locally grown produce to be available for sale more often in more areas is one step we can take to support our hometown growers and help make this a more vital and healthier city for us all.

Conservation District Ordinance. I expect the conservation district ordinance I have been working on with staff for more than a year to come before the Zoning and Planning committee on **October 9th**. This new ordinance is intended to help support grassroots efforts and allow property owners to organize to better conserve physical aspects of highly valued areas of the city through the use of guidelines tailored to protect desirable characteristics of older areas that may not qualify for historic district status. I am working with my colleagues on amendments to the ordinance that will address some of the concerns I've heard that this ordinance could be misused to block development where it should really occur.

Military Exercises. I was surprised to learn last month that Department of Defense military exercises were being conducted in heavily populated areas of the City, including in the Cedar Riverside and Seward neighborhoods. I was particularly concerned because neither the general public nor the City Council were consulted or informed about this dangerous activity involving large helicopters flying near housing in densely populated urban areas. Working with Public Safety Committee Chair Blong Yang, we got a report at the Committee where I successfully moved a staff direction not to spend City resources on these sorts of exercises and to direct staff to work on a clear process to recommend to the Council about how to approve such things in the future. I hope this be approved by the full Council on Friday October 3rd.

Offensive NFL Team Name. I was glad to learn that the U of M president Kaler has called for the name of the Washington DC football team not to be used when they play the Vikings at the U's stadium in November. You can read more here: <http://www.mprnews.org/story/2014/08/07/university-mccollum-wants-washington-team-name-change>. On September 24, the Public Safety Civil Rights and Emergency Management Committee was given a presentation about this by the National Coalition Against Racism in Sports and Media and the American Indian Movement. They shared "A Declaration of Indigenous Equality" letter to the University of Minnesota. The group is concerned that use of the name may violate civil rights laws and I want to be sure that, if this is true, this laws are appropriately enforced when the team plays in Minneapolis. The committee approved a motion I made directing the City Attorney to investigate and report back if the City's has the legal authority under civil rights laws to enforce a ban on the use of the name "Redskins" as well as a ban on the use of the image worn by the Washington D.C. professional football team while playing in the city of Minneapolis at the stadium operated by the University of Minnesota

Bird Safe Glass. Despite over 76,000 public signatures, a unanimous resolution by the Minneapolis City Council, and the efforts of multiple scientists and conservation experts requesting the use of bird safe and energy efficient glass in the stadium, the Vikings and Minnesota Sports Facility Authority (MSFA) continue to refuse to alter their plans. I find this unacceptable and in complete opposition to the values representative of this state and city. So I will be joining Vikings fans and members of local environmental groups, animal welfare groups, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and others on **Saturday, September 27th** at 1:00pm at the Downtown East Light Rail Station Platform to let the MSFA and the state legislature and Governor know that this is not representative of the people of Minneapolis. Please join me.

Dine for the Delegation. A group of urban agriculture activists, including growers like Stone's Throw Urban Farm and my Policy Aide, Robin Garwood, are planning a delegation to Cuba to explore their models of urban ag and bring those ideas back here to the Twin Cities. To help the growers afford the trip, a group of local restaurants will be donating a percentage of their proceeds one day. Please join me, along with Robin and others from the delegation, for a happy hour on **Friday, October 3**, from 4:30-6:30pm at the Seward Café, 2129 E Franklin Ave. 15% of the Café's sales during the event will go to making this trip possible.

No Excuse Voting Hours Increase. The Council has approved increasing the hours when our voting center will be open in City Hall to allow more people to take advantage of the opportunity to vote early. Absentee voting began for the Nov. 4 general election on September 19. This is the first year voters are not required to provide a specific reason for voting absentee. That means all voters now have the option to vote absentee either by mail or in person prior to Election Day. Voters can request ballots online by completing and mailing in an application. These are available on the City's website and may be printed out and sent in anytime leading up to Election Day. All completed mail ballots must be received by the Elections & Voter Services Division by Election Day. Voters who wish to cast their absentee ballots in-person can do that at City Hall, 350 5th Street South. The regular hours are **Monday - Friday, from 8am-4:30pm**. The hours in the two weeks leading up to the Nov. 4 election will be **7am-6pm, Monday-Friday; 9am-4pm on Saturdays; and Noon-5pm on Sundays**.

Reflection on Ferguson. As people continue to reflect on the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, I am reminded of the many times I have seen the kinds of police behaviors evidenced in Ferguson before. Abuses of police power, the shooting of unarmed black teenagers by police officers, threats against reporters and displays of force that turn peaceful protests into violent confrontations are familiar to many of us. Ferguson forces us to look at these through a racial framework and reminds me about how this is a continuation of historic racism that has existed in this country since its inception. It can be traced to periods of government-sanctioned, legal and protected genocide and slavery, to an elaborate system of legalized oppression and segregation and so called "Jim Crow" laws after the Civil War up to the more covert and insidious "[New Jim Crow](#)" of today. I am deeply concerned that the City of Minneapolis is, perhaps unwittingly, an active participant in this New Jim Crow system and practices that undermine our highest hopes and aspirations for ourselves and our future. To see how I think we should turn the anger and frustration so many of us are feeling into determination and real reforms see the [Second Ward blog](#).

Minneapolis Sex Trafficking Study. A research report released September 10 sheds light on a disturbing, elaborate, violent, and dehumanizing sex industry in Minneapolis. The research analyzed the victims, procurer/facilitator and buyers and tracked how and where victims were recruited and sold. Data came from Minneapolis police reports and Hennepin County Court records from January 2008 to October 2013. The study found that victims tend to be young girls of color from Minneapolis communities characterized by poverty. A significant number of victims are considered "runaways." The average age of the victims was 15. The study highlighted multiple types of vulnerability including: prior victimization and child abuse/neglect, poverty, running away from home, substance use, cognitive and behavioral disabilities, and friends or families involved in trafficking. Facilitators tend to be men of color, also from communities living in poverty. Sex buyers tend to be men from all communities and socio-economic backgrounds across the entire Twin Cities Metro area. The degree of purchasing power determines where and how they purchase and obtain sex with minor victims. I believe that it will help if more of us are willing to face and understand this hidden, underground and shocking commercial modern slave enterprise. The researchers recommend that we all deepen our understanding of child sex trafficking by reading "Walking Prey: How America's Youth Are Vulnerable to Sex Slavery," by Holly Austin Smith and watching Rachel Lloyd's internationally acclaimed Showtime documentary, "Very Young Girls." They also ask us to be aware of street activities and take note

of girls we suspect may be at risk of harm and/or sexual exploitation. Trust your instincts and call 911 immediately. You can find more information the full report at <http://uroc.umn.edu/sextrafficking/>

Electronic cigarettes. On September 19 I began the process of amending Minneapolis' ordinances to strengthen city regulations around so called "e-cigarettes." I gave formal notice my intent to introduce at the next regular meeting of the City Council the subject matter of an ordinance amending Title 11, Chapter 234 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Health and Sanitation: Indoor Smoking adopting the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act and broadening the regulation of electronic cigarettes and electronic delivery devices. This will return to the Council for approval of the introduction in 2 weeks and then I expect it to be referred to the Health Environment and Community Engagement committee. I hope to have a public hearing in October and passage this fall. There is an informative video about this issue here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-LAsTQ4wdc&list=UUket7tl3m0r1ScDTuUSREuw>.

Fall Street Sweeping. The schedule has been set for our next comprehensive street sweep and leaf collection effort. Parking is prohibited on streets when they are being cleaned and cars can be towed. City staff will be posting the first streets on Monday October 20, for sweeping (and enforcement) to begin on Tuesday, October 21. It will take the usual 4 weeks to complete. Please be on the lookout for more details and the schedule to be posted on the City website soon.

Organics Drop-Off. The City has added two more compost, organics drop off options for residents in the Second Ward area. One is at the **South Transfer Station**. The Residential Organics Drop-Off is open all hours the South Transfer Station is open. These include: **Tuesday–Friday 12:30pm–7:30pm**, and **Saturday 8:30am–3:30pm**. There is no charge for residents to participate. The other drop-off site is at Van Cleve Park and will be open Tuesday evenings and Saturday mornings for the next two months. Volunteers will be on hand during the open hours to answer questions, give participants new compostable bags when they drop off full bags of organics, and gather some participant information from residents. Some information gathered will include if the number of dwelling units in the home of the participant, if he/she rents or owns their home, etc. The purpose of organics drop-offs is to engage and educate as many residents as possible on what organics recycling is and how to participate prior to implementing a city-wide program. Information gathered from the drop-offs will be used to develop an effective educational plan for the implementation of a city-wide organics program. For more information on the drop-off site, frequently asked questions from participants, and for a detailed list of yes and no's for inclusion in a residential organics program, please visit our website: www.minneapolismn.gov/organics

Downtown East Development. The City issued a Request for Proposals on January 6 for development near and above the stadium parking ramp the city is funding construction of. The City received two proposals, and in March 2014 the City Council designated Ryan Companies as the developer. The project has been changed since the RFP. A hotel is no longer part of the plan and Ryan returned to the Council asking for a reduction in the purchase price that Ryan is able to pay for the property. Ryan no longer agrees the purchase price it offered in its response to the RFP, \$5.6 million. Still, with my reluctant support, last week, the Council voted unanimously to continue with Ryan Companies for this development. Though I had concerns about this course of action, it was preferable to starting the RFP process over and delaying (and jeopardizing) this project. Despite this approval it appears that this project is far from over and that many details still need to be resolved and concerns coming from any of the many stakeholders and investors involved could lead to changes. You can find the revised term sheet that was approved here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/council/WCMS1P-131178>

Policing Panel and Listening Session. On Thursday, September 18 I was glad to join Council Members Glidden and Cano, Dr. Rose Brewer, author Jason Sole, and Police Conduct Oversight Commissioner Jennifer Singleton for a panel discussion and listening session moderated by Professor Nekima Levy-Pounds. I was disappointed that Police Chief Janee Harteau did not attend, citing rumors she had heard that a direct action had been planned that may have involved a physical altercation. At the event, it was clear to me that no such action had been planned. I will be continuing to work with the Chief and the community to build better trust and communication.

Food and Alcohol Food Ratio Ordinance. The Council has approved changes to how we regulate bars and restaurants to do away with the requirements that businesses maintain specific ratios of sales of food to alcohol. The previous codes required restaurants that serve alcohol to meet alcohol to food sales ratios. The intent, created in the City Charter over 30 years ago, was to make sure the businesses operated as restaurants rather than bars or nightclubs, therefore requiring businesses to closely monitor food and alcohol sale receipts. As costs of many types of popular beer and wine have increased the logic of using sales revenue support these ratios has disappeared. Since the previous rules we put in place new tools have been developed including: a clearer definition of what a restaurant must do, including, for example, a fully equipped and functioning kitchen and staff for both the kitchen and service to customers; defining the bar area, thus limiting the amount of space restaurants can devote to entertainment and the primary consumption of alcohol; clarification of management responsibilities related to noise and negative secondary effects to the neighboring area; the city now has the authority to reduce hours, entertainment, and/or bar area when establishments are in violation in the code; we have increased the public hearing notice requirements; strengthening the necessary aspects of a business plan to reduce negative secondary effects; requiring alcohol server training. Outside of downtown there are two types of restaurants that can sell alcohol: those in commercial corridors with more than 7 acres of commercially zoned property and those nestled in residential areas. Under the new rules restaurants located in commercial areas can sell all types of liquor; may use up to 30% of public space inside restaurant as “bar area;” may be required to reduce hours of outdoor patio if appropriate for neighborhood; may reduce food service after 10 p.m.; can have more entertainment options than restaurants not in commercial corridors. Restaurants not in commercial areas may sell wine and strong beer, use up to 20% of public space inside restaurant as “bar area;” and may be required to reduce hours of operation. Additionally they must provide full menu of food during the hours they are open, have fewer entertainment options.

Transgender Equity Summit. The City held its first-ever [Transgender Equity Summit](#) on **Thursday, September 25** at the Humphrey Center for Public Policy. The half day event featured nationally recognized speaker Anjelica Ross, co-founder of the “Trans 100” annual recognition celebration. It was convened by The City of Minneapolis Transgender Issues Work Group that was established in March 2014 to look at issues facing the Transgender community. The group’s goal is to examine issues, engage the broader community, and make policy recommendations for City government that will affect the lives of Transgender residents of Minneapolis. The work group includes participants from City departments, City Council offices, the Mayor’s office, and the community. The group is taking a systematic approach to examine issues and develop policy recommendations that could be adopted by the City.

Becoming a More Creative City. The City is leading a planning process to think more strategically about how its arts and creative assets can best contribute to the local and regional economy and improve Minneapolis’ quality of life. Minneapolis residents, business owners, artists, creative entrepreneurs and members of arts communities are invited to help the City think about how the creative sector can partner with other sectors to improve Minneapolis and its communities. The Creative City Road Map launch week began with a kick-off event on Wednesday, Sept. 17, at the Textile Center in Prospect Park. This is the beginning of a year-long

planning process with arts-based community engagement that features a survey and artist-led public meetings. The planning work will inform the development of the Creative City Road Map, which will be the City's five- to 10-year arts, culture and the creative economy plan. Artists Shá Cage, E.G. Bailey, Keegan Xavi and Chrys Carroll will design and implement strategies to reach out to underserved communities in Minneapolis for their input. Workgroups of experts from various sectors will convene to engage in important topic areas of the plan.

New Home Construction Regulations Amended. In August, the Council unanimously passed Council Member Linea Palmisano's zoning text amendments regarding one-to-four unit residential buildings. They will work in combination with the Construction Management Agreement and the Toolkit for Neighbors of New Construction for better regulation of residential construction, leading to an improved process and better outcomes for homes in every ward. The zoning text amendments include 1) a revised maximum height including a newly-established limit on the tallest point of a structure, to reduce shading of neighboring homes, 2) appropriate side yard setbacks, proportional to the width of the lot, 3) quality construction and design, with stronger incentives for high-quality construction materials, 4) contextual consideration for building or remodeling new homes in neighborhoods where half of the homes within 100 feet already exceed the size and height regulations, 5) incentives for the number of stories in a new home to stay consistent with existing neighbors, 6) a reduction in the amount of a property that may be covered by buildings and impervious (paved) surfaces, 7) stronger incentives for tree planting and preservation, as well as storm water management, 8) a prohibition on street-facing curb cuts when a property has alley access, and more limits on attached garages, 9) more flexibility in the definition of "half story." In addition, staff were directed to come back to the Council with ideas to increase the sustainability of new house building and to reduce construction waste by next March. I was very supportive of these changes. While they were driven by the teardown and McMansion pressure in Southwest Minneapolis, I think many of these changes can help address problems in the University District as well.

Garden study demonstrating a better way to grow food On September 2 I was happy to join Mayor Betsy Hodges, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Chairman Charlie Vig, Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Secretary/Treasurer Lori Watso and others to show off a demonstration garden using "biochar." Mayor Hodges and Chairman Vig signed an agreement between the City and the Community to partner on the biochar study. In a crop circle-style garden growing corn, squash, beans, kale, collard greens, sunflowers, cabbage, carrots, herbs, spinach, ancient tobacco and sweet grass, Minneapolis and the SMSC are demonstrating a soil amendment similar to charcoal. Biochar is an updated twist on an old indigenous technique to restore soil fertility. It works with compost to increase crop yields, improve local water quality by reducing runoff, and combat climate change by holding carbon and nitrogen in the soil where they serve as fertilizer instead of being released into the air where they would become pollutants. Minneapolis is one of the first cities in the U.S. to study the benefits of biochar. The focus of this demonstration project will be increased access to locally grown food for historically underserved communities, including Native Americans.

Met Council Transportation Plan. The Council has adopted comments on the proposed Met Council Transportation Plan. In general, these comments push the Met Council to move away from sprawl-producing highway expansions and focus much more on transit, biking and walking. The Council asked for a number of specific routes to be added to the Regional Bicycle Transportation Network, all of which are on our own Bicycle Master Plan.

Hennepin Lyndale Reconstruction. The Council has adopted a layout for reconstructing the Hennepin/Lyndale bottleneck area. This reconstruction will have several positive effects. The Loring

Greenway (a protected bikeway on the east side of Hennepin/Lyndale) will be widened and separated from the pedestrian sidewalk, and a green buffer will be added between the Greenway and traffic. A northbound traffic lane will be removed, and a southbound traffic lane will be removed for several blocks. Pedestrian crossings will be shortened considerably, and intersections will be squared off. Some of the “weaving” that currently happens in the traffic lanes will be prevented by the introduction of new dedicated turn lanes. I would have supported even more removal of lanes dedicated to auto traffic, but as it is this reconstruction has enough benefits that I could support it.

In The Dog House. On **Saturday, September 27** from 11am-2pm, Minneapolis Animal Care & Control (MACC) is hosting its annual fall celebration “I’m in the Dog House.” This is a fundraising effort and MACC will be “kenneling” and then “adopting” local elected officials (including me) and celebrities to raise money for the animal shelter. This year at their fun family friendly event they are working to build two new dog runs. To learn more visit: www.minneapolismn.gov/animals.

Minnehaha Avenue Reconstruction in Longfellow. The County has adjusted the timeline for construction of Minnehaha from 34th to 46th Streets. It is scheduled to begin in 2015 and last two construction seasons. Due to extensive underground utility work, Hennepin County is planning to close the road in four block segments, maintaining access to residential and business driveways. Anticipated construction schedule is as follows: April 2015 to July 2015 from 46th Street to 42nd Street, July 2015 to November 2015 from 42nd Street to 38th Street; April 2016 to July 2016 from 38th Street to 34th Street; and July 2016 to November 2016 from 34th Street to Lake Street. To learn more visit <http://www.hennepin.us/minnehaha> or attend the Longfellow Business Association meeting with Hennepin County and City staff on **Thursday, October 9, 1:30 – 3:00 pm**, at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Avenue S.

Minnehaha Avenue Reconstruction in Seward. The City is moving forward with a proposal to reconstruct Minnehaha Ave between 24th and 26th Streets. A public meeting is scheduled to discuss this project on **Tuesday, September 23, 2-3pm** at Gandhi Mahal, 3009 27th Ave S. One of the issues that has come up that needs to be resolved is whether to remove a relatively small number of parking spaces on the east side of the street in order to allow a wider, buffered set of bike lanes. The Bicycle Advisory Committee has supported this redesign of the street, and asked Public Works staff to reach out to the Seward Neighborhood Group to get their opinion.

City Print Center Wins Forest Stewardship Certification. The City of Minneapolis’ Document Solutions Center has earned a “chain-of-custody certification” through the Forest Stewardship Council, which makes it the only internal City print center in the country to have received the certification. In order to be certified, the print center was required to demonstrate that the materials it uses comply with the highest social and environmental market standards. With this certification, the print shop can offer the assurance of Forest Stewardship Council-certified products to all City departments. Forest Stewardship Council certification is widely accepted as the gold standard of forest certifications.

U Overlay District Parking Requirements. On September 15 the planning commission voted unanimously to recommend approval of the zoning code amendment I introduced back in February of 2013 to change the off-street parking regulations of the University Area Overlay District. This will be coming to the Council for approval in October. The overlay was created in 2009 changed the minimum off-street parking requirement for residential uses to one-half space per bedroom, but not less than one space per dwelling unit. The overlay district also includes specific provisions related to parking lot design for 1-4 unit buildings as well as increased bicycle parking standards and a shared vehicle incentive. To help form recommendations I worked with The University District Alliance. The Alliance formed the University District Parking Task Force and was

charged with considering changes to the UA Overlay District based on approximately five year of experience with ordinance implementation. City planning staff participated in the task force along with representatives from affected neighborhoods, business associations, the University of Minnesota, and developers. The task force recommended we eliminate the minimum off-street parking requirement of one space per dwelling unit while retaining the requirement of not less than 0.5 spaces per bedroom and allow a more substantial reduction in the minimum residential off-street parking requirement in the PO Overlay Districts citywide. The task force report recommends changing this standard to from 90% to 70% of the typical parking requirement in the PO Overlay Districts centered around Dinkytown as well as in the Prospect Park, Stadium Village, West Bank, and Cedar Riverside Transit Station Areas (TSA). In these areas the minimum multi-family residential parking requirement in these areas would be reduced to 0.35 spaces per unit. I expect this to be on the Zoning and Planning agenda on October 9th

Recycling. Minneapolis Solid Waste & Recycling more than 40% of what Minnesotan's continue to throw away could be recycled? By diverting recyclable materials from the trash, we save natural resources from mining raw materials to make products, water from manufacturing products, and energy along every step of a products lifecycle. By recycling as much as you can, you may even be able to save money by switching to a smaller garbage cart. If you have questions on what items can be recycled, visit the One-Sort Recycling website: www.minneapolismn.gov/onesort or call Solid Waste & Recycling at (612) 673-2917.

Neighborhood Groups and Community Organizations: Solid Waste & Recycling wants to work with you to help increase recycling throughout the City. If you are interested in working on a recycling education plan specific to your neighborhood, please contact the City's Recycling Coordinator at kellie.kish@minneapolismn.gov or by calling 612-673-3536.

Homegrown Heroes Award. The 2014 Annual Homegrown Minneapolis Open House planning is underway! The tradition we began two years ago to honor the exemplary work of our community partners still continues today as our Homegrown Heroes Awards. Please see attached nomination form – this year's deadline to submit a nomination form is Friday, October 31st, 5:00pm to Katie Lampi – Katie.Lampi@minneapolismn.gov.

Restroom Rules Reformed. The City Council has approved, with my strong support, Council Member Andrew Johnson's proposed changes to City rules around single-user restrooms in businesses across the city. The new rules remove unneeded restrictions for these restrooms, which will improve access for everyone, but will especially make things easier for transgender people, people with children, and people with personal care assistants. City ordinance had required that most single-user restrooms be designated as either a men's room or a women's room. The state's 2015 building code will allow for family/assisted-use facilities without designation of gender, and the ordinance changes adopted by the City also make these changes within Minneapolis. This will allow businesses with single-user restrooms to make them gender neutral. The City Council also approved a resolution that strongly encourages businesses, educational facilities, and other buildings within Minneapolis that offer single-user restrooms to employees or the public to provide those facilities as gender-neutral restrooms wherever possible.

Convention Center receives worldwide recognition. The Minneapolis Convention Center recently received worldwide recognition for its excellent management and operation. It was the only convention center in the world to receive the honor this year from the International Association of Venue Managers, which represents public assembly venues from around the globe. The convention center was awarded a Venue Excellence Award for Convention Centers for exceling in: Operational excellence, which includes sales and marketing, customer satisfaction, sustainability and financial integrity; Teambuilding and professional development; Safety and security; Service to the community.

Southwest Light Rail. After seeing clearly that a majority of my colleagues were prepared to grant municipal consent to the Southwest Light Project, I voted against it. This was a tough decision to come to, because I strongly support transit. I strongly support light rail. In fact, I strongly support the Southwest LRT project in concept, and many of the details of the project as proposed. Our region needs to build out a network of high-quality transit options that will help us address climate change, increase commuter choice, fuel economic development, and more. This line will benefit my constituents, Minneapolis and the region. We are decades behind our peer cities in this work. But there are three problems with the project that have led me to withhold my support: the process, the lack of commitment to equity, and the lack of commitment to making real connections to the dense urban neighborhoods that this line can and should serve. Above all I think I was concerned that the Council was being asked to give municipal consent before the final Environmental Impact Statement has been released. This is why it was so important that the Council adopted the staff direction Council Members Bender, Palmisano, Yang and myself worked on, authorizing the City Attorney's office to begin litigation if the as-yet-unreleased SDEIS reveal unforeseen impacts to the water quality in the lakes, even if that means halting the LRT project. I did support several of the other actions taken by the Council, not only on the two above staff directions, but to preserve the public ownership of the freight rail corridor, and on the Memorandum of Understanding that has improved this project greatly from the version that was presented to the Council in July. By joining a few of my colleagues in voting no, rather than having a unanimous vote of support from the Council, I hope that I am helping to send a signal to the Met Council. I know that my concerns are shared by many of my colleagues, many of whom will be voting yes. This process was deeply flawed. The SDEIS should be finished. The equity and transit access questions should be answered. These things should be completed before municipal consent is asked for or granted. I think it is important that we as a community learn from these experiences. I hope that the lessons from this will help as we grapple with the Bottineau LRT line and more rail transit projects in the future. My hope is that by expressing these valid, broadly-shared concerns about this project's process and outcomes and voting no, I will help ensure that these sorts of concerns are taken more seriously in future projects. There is more work to do and I intend to use my position to continue to address concerns, push for equity and better transit access, and work to preserve and even improve our parks, lakes, and trails.

Sign Request for the Cooperage. The Zoning Board of Adjustment has approved a variance for the Cooperage (2304 Snelling Ave) to install a new projecting sign located on a non-primary building wall. This sign faces the Hiawatha LRT Trail. I am working on a zoning code change that would allow these sorts of signs, without variances, facing non-motorized trails when the building has a door that faces the trail.

Walgreens on Lake Street. There will be a hearing on the proposed new Walgreens Pharmacy at 31st and East Lake St on **Monday, September 29th**, at 4:30pm. Walgreens is proposing to redevelop the property on the south side of East Lake Street between 31st and 32nd Avenues. The redevelopment would consist of the complete demolition of the existing property including the building and site work, and then the construction of a new 15,780 square foot (11,280 SF first floor + 4,500 SF basement) Walgreens Pharmacy including the adjacent site improvements. The new site will have more green space than the old site, and a single vehicle ingress and egress point on 31st Avenue South and a single vehicle exit only on 32nd Avenue South. There will be no vehicle access directly to or from Lake Street and no connection to the alley to the south of the site.

Micro Winery on E Lake St. Jeff Zeitler has applied for a Conditional Use Permit to use the building at 3016 E. Lake Street to produce and process wine and cider at this location. The City Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing about this, and his request for a variance to reduce the minimum parking spaces required from 4 to 0, on **Monday, September 29** at 4:30 in Room 317 at City Hall. He is requesting a

conditional use permit to have limited processing and production in a C-2 district. The building is at 3016 East Lake Street and is a former hair salon, and before that, a pawn shop. It was purchased while it was in foreclosure and the upper floor has been rented to a health care company. Jeff and his partner are retaining the basement for production of wine, cider and mead and plan to make natural, unsulfited wines and beverages using fruit foraged from city trees, from past-saleable grocery store fruit and from orchards' unpicked end-of-season stock.

22 on the River. Fine Associates is close to applying for City land use approvals for the 22 on the River project, the building that used to be the Good Samaritan nursing home. Their plan is to renovate the building and convert it into a residential apartment building with 125 units with a mix of studio, one and two bedroom apartments, a three bedroom penthouse. They also mention urban townhouses, a party room, game room, conference room, fitness center and sky-lounge in their letter as well as rooftop terraces and gardens and updated landscaping around the building. They are applying for two variances. One is to reduce the minimum apartment size for the studio and one bedroom apartments and the other is to reduce some of the required setbacks to accommodate the addition of balconies and ground level patios. It sounds like the developers will be providing more than the number of parking spaces required by the Zoning Code. I have asked the developer to meet with the PPERRIA Zoning Committee as soon as possible to discuss this project, now that their plans are nearly ready to be shared. Bianca Fine and Fine Associates, representing 22 on the River, has submitted land use applications to the city for their project in the old 8 story Good Samaritan building between 27th Ave SE and Thornton St SE near E. Franklin Avenue.

Parking Changes in Motley. Public Works staff have installed a temporary change to the parking signs in the Motley area to address concerns about parking during Vikings games. The change is from 1 hour parking, 8am-6pm, Monday through Friday, to 1 hour parking, 8am-6pm, **Daily**. My hope is that this will address the issues. These signs will be installed today, September 5. This temporary sign change will revert back to existing conditions on the week of December 29, 2014 after the fall football season. Staff are also working on a study of longer-term changes to Critical Parking Area 6, and I am pressing for this to be completed as quickly as possible.

Openings on Boards and Commissions. Applications are now being accepted for the Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Arts Commission, Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee (CLIC), Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC), Family Housing Fund (McKnight), Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC), Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights, Minneapolis Ethical Practices Board, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Board, Minneapolis Telecommunications Network (MTN), Minneapolis Zoning Board of Adjustment, Planning Commission, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC), Senior Citizen Advisory Committee, and the Youth Violence Prevention Executive Committee. Visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm> for more information.

Open Office Hours in the Ward. I hold open "Office Hours" in the ward every Thursday morning from 9:30 to 11:00 am. Please feel free to call the office at 673-2202 to reserve some time or just stop by for a visit.

- First Thursdays at the Nabo Café, 2211 Riverside Avenue;
- Second Thursdays at Black: Coffee and Waffles, 1500 Como Ave SE;
- Third Thursdays at Pratt School, 66 Malcolm Avenue SE ;
- Fourth Thursdays at Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St.