



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon
City Council Member
Second Ward

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 5-21-14

Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:
Thursday, June 5, 9:30-11:00am
Nabo Café, 2211 Riverside Avenue

- 1) 311 Adds Weekend Hours
- 2) Ordinance Amendment for Sidewalk Sales
- 3) Mobile Grocery Stores
- 4) Green Deconstruction Pilot
- 5) All-Star Game Resolution
- 6) Saint Anthony Lock to Close
- 7) Environmentally Acceptable Packaging Ordinance
- 8) New Second Ward Public Health Committee Member
- 9) Great Streets Small Business Grants
- 10) Riverside Park Restoration
- 11) West Bank 4th St & 15th Ave Construction Update
- 12) Five15 on the Park.
- 13) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) 311 recently passed the milestone of having answered 3 million calls since the service began in January 2006. At the end of the month it now be available on weekends from 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. beginning Saturday, May 31. The new weekend hours are in addition to their weekday hours, which are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday. Minneapolis 311 is intended to make it easier for residents, business owners and visitors to contact the city to report problems, check the status of issues, or get information. It also provides a way to policy makers, like City Council Members, and the public at large to track, assess and plan ways to improve the work of the city. From asking about street sweeping, to finding out where to vote, to reporting a stray dog and much more, 311 agents can help or provide answers on anything City-related.
- 2) The Community Development and Regulatory Services Committee of the City Council will consider amending the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances to allow retailers to display and sell merchandise on a limited portion of the sidewalk directly in front of their business. The proposed ordinance amendment is available at www.minneapolismn.gov/licensing. You are invited to attend a Public Hearing on the proposed ordinance on June 3 at 1:30 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers. You can also submit comments in writing by contacting linda.roberts@minneapolismn.gov, 612-673-3908.
- 3) Following the public hearing on May 13, the Community Development and Regulatory Services committee unanimously recommended approval of the new Mobile Grocery Store I am authoring. I am happy that some recent changes to the proposal improved it by requiring the businesses to sell only staple foods (not candy, chips or soda). I expect this to pass the full Council on Friday May 23rd and am looking forward to seeing new mobile grocery store businesses operating in the city this spring and summer helping to make sure than more people have better access to healthy foods in Minneapolis.
- 4) The Community Development and Regulatory Services committee has approved a new Green Deconstruction Pilot Project with Better Futures Enterprises to pursue deconstruction on two City-owned properties. I am very supportive of this and see it as a step towards significantly reducing waste in the region. Finding ways to deconstruct, rather than demolish, buildings that cannot be restored could dramatically reduce this. This pilot will help develop safe, cost effective techniques for deconstructing buildings, identify the best practices and procedures to most efficiently deconstruct a building and determine the costs of deconstruction in the Minneapolis. I enthusiastically support this effort and expect it to be approved by the full Council at out next meeting.

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.

- 5) I am glad that the City Council took another look at our resolution and agreement with Major League Baseball about how to manage the All Star game and so called “clean zones” in the city. On May 9th we passed a resolution clarifying our intent to fully honor and protect the basic rights of people in Minneapolis to assemble and engage in free speech and that, while we would confer with the All Star game organizers, we would keep all authority related to approving permits and events. Thanks to the American Civil Liberties Union for helping motivate the City Council to take another look at this. I hope this sets a precedent for future large events across the country to encourage local governments to work harder to protect the basic rights of its residents and to keep local control over its decision making authority. The resolution also shortened from 15 to 6 days when clean zones will be maintained, from July 10 to 16.
- 6) Senator Amy Klobuchar and the Minnesota congressional delegation have won passage of a bipartisan provision to keep invasive carp out of Minnesota’s waterways by closing the Upper Saint Anthony Lock. This action was included in final water infrastructure conference bill, which will now go to the full Senate and House of Representatives for final approval. It is expected to pass. This is a huge victory for Minnesota. It will protect the Mississippi and all of its tributaries north of Minneapolis from this invasive species that has done such damage to ecosystems downstream. I want to thank Senator Klobuchar and the delegation for their work to achieve this tremendous success.
- 7) The Health Environment & Community Engagement has unanimously recommended approval of the amended packaging ordinance that Council Member Andrew Johnson has authored. I am a strong supporter of the changes being proposed that will help clarify and expand the definition of packaging to be closer to the intent of the 1989 ordinance. It now identifies recyclable materials (including the recycling number stamped on the packaging), and, for the first time, allows for compostable packaging. If approved by the full Council I expect that this will mean that polystyrene (EPS) containers will no longer be used at as a food or beverage at any business serving food and beverages in Minneapolis I hope this is only the first step towards eliminating all food containers that contain chemicals that are harmful to human health and the environment and banning all packaging that is not reusable, returnable, recyclable or compostable.
- 8) I am delighted to report that I have appointed Sahra Noor as the new Second Ward representative to the Public Health Advisory Committee. Sahra is a public health nurse with over 15 years of experience working in hospitals, and community health centers. She is a director at Fairview Health Services working in Ward 2 at Fairview University Medical Center on Riverside Avenue where she is also administrator for the Health Commons project in Cedar Riverside.
- 9) The city has approved several grants to support efforts of small business associations. The West Bank Business Association has been awarded \$38,000 to increase the diversity of their membership by hiring a part-time East African staff member to engage the business owners, support networking, educational and start a district-wide branding effort with the opening of the Green Line.
- 10) On Saturday, June 7 — 9:30-11:30 a.m. volunteers will be working with the Friends of the Mississippi River staff to improve local wildlife habitat and watershed health by removing invasive species and assisting with watering and other ecological restoration tasks. The range of activities will be suitable for adults and youth. People are welcome to volunteer but capacity is limited and preregistration required. Learn more at <http://www.fmr.org/participate/events/riversidepark-2014-06-07>, volunteer@fmr.org or 651-222-2193 x24.
- 11) The City is reconstructing 15th Av S between 6th St S and 4th St S from 15th Av S to Cedar Av this year. The project will include full removal of the existing street, subgrade correction, new pavement, curb and gutter, driveways, sidewalk as needed, streetscape elements as needed, and utility work as needed. The reconstruction will impact local parking, bike lanes, and pedestrian paths. The City Department of Public Works held a meeting on the project on Wednesday, May 21 at the Brian Coyle Center. For more information contact Chris.Engelmann@minneapolismn.gov or visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/all/WCMS1P-095401>.
- 12) After years of discussion and process, construction is now underway on the Fine Associates development Five15 on the Park, on 15th Ave S near Currie Park, on the West Bank.
- 13) Applications are now being accepted for a number of open board and commission positions that the City Council and mayor will appoint this spring. Applications will be reviewed beginning April 25, but the positions are open until filled. Visit the City’s website at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm> for more information.