



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 7-16-14

**Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:
Thursday, August 7, 9:30-11:00am
Nabo Café, 2211 Riverside Avenue**

- 1) National Night Out
- 2) Dinkytown Greenway and Bluff Street Tunnel Opening
- 3) Community Engagement Listening Sessions
- 4) Nomad Lease
- 5) Fine Associates Ash Update
- 6) Open Streets.
- 7) Southeast Library
- 8) Mudslide on West Bank River Hillside.
- 9) Sisterhood Boutique Moves to Riverside
- 10) Expansion of Premises Ordinance Passes
- 11) Modified Commercial Parking Lot Rules.
- 12) Cedar Ave Sidewalk Modification Project
- 13) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The 31st Annual Minneapolis National Night Out will be **Tuesday, August 5**. 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>
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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 of 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.
- 4) I have learned that the Nomad World Pub has a lease for the Dania lot that runs until the end of August but has requested an extension of the lease to November 15th. City staff are reviewing that request with Council Member Warsame's office and I am also taking a look at the lease. Part of this permit allows for the closure of the walkway – which does not have a legal sidewalk easement – across the Dania lot. I am hoping that this event helps bring all necessary parties together to find a way to establish a public sidewalk easement in this location, because it is important to me that we retain pedestrian access along vacated 5th Street from Cedar to 19th Ave S.

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, llame 612-673-2700;

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

- 5) Last month, work was stopped on the Fine Associates new apartment building construction with their excavating company discovered ash and stopped excavation to determine if the waste was hazardous as required by state law. City staff monitored the investigation of the ash which verified that the material needs to be disposed of separately from the other soil. The location and quantity of the ash-contaminated soils has been clarified and by June 17th, the ash material had been removed to a certified disposal site. City staff gathered documentation throughout the process and work was allowed to resume. The project's financing has a contingency fund to address unforeseen problems such as soil issues.
- 6) Open Streets is coming to East Franklin! This linear festival that promotes walking, biking, healthy living, local businesses and civic pride is coming to our neck of the woods on Franklin Avenue East, **Sunday, August 17**, from 10:00am-4:00pm from Portland Avenue to 28th Avenue. For more information visit <http://openstreetsmpls.com>.
- 7) 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.
- 8) 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.
- 9) 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.
- 10) 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.
- 11) 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.
- 12) 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>.
- 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.