



# Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 10-15-14

**Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:  
Thursday, November 6, 9:30-11:00am  
Nabo Café, 2211 Riverside Avenue**

## **Cam Gordon**

City Council Member  
Second Ward

350 South 5th Street - Room 301M  
Minneapolis MN 55415

Office 612-673-2202  
Fax 612-673-3940  
Cell 612-296-0579  
TTY 612-673-2157

cam.gordon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

- 1) Energy Franchises and Clean Energy Partnership
- 2) Staple Food Ordinance
- 3) Policing Forum October 30
- 4) Southeast Library Meetings
- 5) Conservation District Ordinance
- 6) University District Parking Ordinance
- 7) E-Cigarettes
- 8) Farmstand Ordinance
- 9) Licensed Alcohol Establishments Ordinance
- 10) New Sister City in Somalia
- 11) Cradle to K Cabinet Report
- 12) Ebola Preparedness
- 13) What Minneapolis Can Learn from Ferguson
- 14) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) On Friday, I expect the Council to pass the franchise and Clean Energy Partnership agreements with our energy utilities, Xcel and CenterPoint. This Partnership is a way for the utilities to make good on their commitments to help the City – and the people of Minneapolis – reach our aggressive goals on climate, environmental justice, renewable energy and more. I view this as a major step forward, but this is only an opportunity. In the next year, as the Partnership gets underway, I will be working hard to make sure it fulfills its promise.
- 2) My proposed ordinance requiring a greater amount of healthy food in licensed grocery stores will be coming before the HECE committee on Monday, **October 20**. These new food standards are based on, but more flexible than, the Women, Infants and Children program standards. The requirements will apply to more types of stores (including dollar stores, pharmacies and department stores, which are all currently exempt), as long as they accept food assistance. You can read more here:  
<http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/health/278135071.html>
- 3) Mayor Betsy Hodges and Police Chief Janeé Harteau will host a public forum on public safety, police accountability, and public trust on Thursday, **October 30**, 6:30-8pm, Brian Coyle Center, 420 15th Ave S. I'm glad that the Mayor and Chief are hosting these forums, and hope that they will help address the controversy created by the Chief's decision not to attend a similar community forum last month.
- 4) Four public meetings will be held in October to discuss a new Southeast Library, and to hear more about the learning and information needs of the Cedar-Riverside, Southeast Como, Marcy-Holmes, and Prospect Park neighborhoods. The meetings will be held: Saturday, **October 18**, 9:30-11:30am, at Van Cleve Recreation Center, 901 15th Ave SE; Monday, **October 20**, 6-8pm, at Marcy Open School, Media Center, 415 4th Ave SE; Saturday, **October 25**, 9-11am, at the Brian Coyle Community Center, 420 15th Ave S; and Thursday, **October 30**, 7-9pm, at Luxton Recreation Center, 112 St. Mary's Ave SE. I hope you can make at least one of these meetings, which will help define a vision for the new Southeast Library.
- 5) I expect the conservation district ordinance I have been working on with staff for more than a year to pass the Council this Friday.
- 6) I expect the amendments to the University District parking overlay that I have authored to pass the Council this Friday.

If you need this material translated or in an alternative format contact Lance Knuckles at 612-673-2919

- 7) On September 19 I began the process of amending Minneapolis' ordinances to strengthen city regulations around so called "e-cigarettes." My intent is to extend the State Clean Indoor Air Act to e-cigarettes. The public hearing for this ordinance has been set for **November 17<sup>th</sup>**, at 1:30pm in Council Chambers. There is an informative video about this issue here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-LAsTQ4wdc&list=UUket7tl3m0r1ScDTuUSREuw>.
- 8) The ordinance amendment I have authored to allow farmstands to operate more often at market and community gardens, as well as urban farms, passed the full Council last month. This included the change to allow farmstands at community gardens, which passed by a vote of 10-2.
- 9) 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 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. However, as costs of many types of craft beer and wine have increased the logic of using sales revenue support these ratios has disappeared. In place of these ratios, the Council has developed a new set of tools, 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. I supported these changes when they came through the Council, because I feel they will better address livability concerns about establishments that serve alcohol while giving small businesses more flexibility.
- 10) This Friday, the Council will approve formal recognition of Bosaso, Somalia as a sister city. This occurred after extensive review, dating back to July 23, when the City received a proposal from Minnesota Friends of Bosaso to establish a sister city relationship between Bosaso and Minneapolis. The proposal includes a letter from Mayor Hassan Abdalle Hassan of Bosaso expressing his support and encouragement for a sister city connection with Minneapolis. The proposal also includes several letters of support from government officials, both in Puntland and Minnesota, local businesses, and community organizations. A review committee met with members of Minnesota Friends of Bosaso on September 23, 2014 for a presentation and discussion of the proposal. The proposal was reviewed based on the process and criteria for sister city relationships adopted July 17, 1998 and revised October 2, 2009.
- 11) Mayor Hodges has announced that her Cradle to K Cabinet is working on a year-end report in early January which will outline policy, legislative, and collaboration recommendations for 2015. The Cabinet has been meeting since spring and has identified the following three objectives: "that all children receive a Healthy Start rich with early experience to prepare them for successful early education and literacy; all children will be stably housed; and all children will have continuous access to high quality child development programming." I am very supportive of these goals, and look forwards to working with the Mayor and other stakeholders to achieve them.
- 12) 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. To see how I think we should turn the anger and frustration so many of us are feeling into determination and real reforms see my blog.
- 13) Our City Health department has been involved in efforts to be prepared for Ebola on several levels. They have consulted with 911, Police and Fire to modify their call protocol and to make sure that responders have sufficient protective equipment. This was done at the request of an HCMC physician and in consultation with the Minnesota Department of Health. They have had a number of planning conversations with our partners in Hennepin County Public Health to assure that our isolation and quarantine procedures are up to date and to discuss how we would arrange for clean-up in settings where a person has been ill with Ebola. They have also participated in several conference calls for local public health agencies with the national Centers for Disease Control. I am not aware of any community meetings as such, but meetings on this topic within city government are certainly place. If people think more public education and city sponsored meetings are appropriate at this time, please let me know.
- 14) Visit the City's website for a [full list of appointment opportunities](#) and position descriptions for City boards and commissions. Appointments to boards and commissions are made twice a year — in the spring and fall. This streamlined appointment process makes it easier for folks to learn about volunteer opportunities, ensures a more open and understandable process for residents and staff, and increases the diversity of the applicant pool.