



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

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Second Ward

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## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Seward Neighborhood 7-23-14

**Cam's next Seward Office Hours:**  
**Thursday, July 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am**  
**Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St**

### Items:

- 1) Franklin Open Streets August 17
- 2) National Night Out
- 3) West River Parkway
- 4) Public Meetings on Community Engagement
- 5) Signage on Nonmotorized Trails
- 6) Southwest LRT
- 7) Beekeeping Ordinance
- 8) CPED Director and City Coordinator Nominated
- 9) Youth Tobacco Recommendations
- 10) Reverse Redlining Report to Council
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Open Streets is coming to Franklin! 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**, from 10:00am-4:00pm from Portland Avenue to 28th Avenue S near the Seward Coop. For more information visit <http://openstreetsmpls.com>.
- 2) 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>.
- 3) As you've probably heard, 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.
- 4) 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.

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 have given notice of intent to introduce an ordinance to allow on-premise signage facing nonmotorized trails like the Greenway and Hiawatha LRT Trail. This is in response to the plans, supported by SNG, for a sign on the Cooperage building facing the LRT Trail, which would require a variance under the existing code.
- 6) 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**.
- 7) Council Member Lisa Bender's proposed ordinance to make it easier to keep honeybees in Minneapolis has passed the Council unanimously. Prospective beekeepers will now have to notify their immediate neighbors, but will no longer have to ask neighbors for permission to keep bees.
- 8) Mayor Betsy Hodges has nominated Craig Taylor to be the new Director of the Community Planning and Economic Development department and Spencer Cronk to be the next City Coordinator. 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. Mr. Cronk has most recently headed the State of Minnesota Department of Administration, and served as executive director of Organizational Development and senior advisor for the Department of Small Business Services for the City of New York, under former Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Both of these nominations have moved through the Executive Committee, and I expect them to pass the full Council.
- 9) 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.
- 10) Earlier today, 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."
- 11) 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.