



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon
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Second Ward

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 7-17-14

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

Items:

- 1) Le Town Talk Diner
- 2) National Night Out
- 3) Community Engagement Listening Sessions
- 4) Open Streets on Franklin
- 5) Beekeeping Ordinance Amendments
- 6) Youth Tobacco Policy
- 7) Southwest LRT
- 8) Filing Fee Amendment
- 9) Report on Redlining
- 10) New NCEC Appointments
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Le Town Talk Diner, a casual French bistro in the old Town Talk Diner space, has applied for an On Sale Liquor with Sunday Sales Class D license. My office has requested that City Licensing staff work with LCC to find a good time and location in the community for this license hearing. I will be meeting with the owners soon, and I'm excited to see a new active use in this space.
- 2) 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>
- 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) Open Streets is coming to East Franklin! This linear festival that promotes walking, biking, healthy living, local businesses and civic pride is coming to Franklin Avenue East, **Sunday, August 17**, from 10:00am-4:00pm from Portland Avenue to 28th Avenue. For more information visit <http://openstreetsmpls.com>.
- 5) Following a public hearing, the Council's Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee unanimously approved amending our Beekeeping ordinance to remove the requirement that applicants receive the written consent of the occupants of nearby properties and replaced it with a simple notification requirement for surrounding properties. I plan to move a minor amendment that will clarify that annual notification of surrounding property owners will not be required by this ordinance.

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email Ahmed.Muhumud@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may call 311 or 612-673-3000. TTY users may call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

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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.

- 6) 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.
- 7) 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**.
- 8) The Charter Commission has voted (10-5) to submit a charter amendment to the voters at this year's general election in November. That question concerns municipal filing fees, a subject that has been passed between the City and the Charter Commission on four occasions over the past year. It proposes to raise the filing fees from \$20 for all municipal offices to \$500 for Mayor, \$250 for Council Member, \$100 for Board of Estimate & Taxation member and \$100 for Park & Recreation District Commissioner. The Council now must approve the actual ballot language that will be submitted to voters but we cannot alter the actual proposal or amounts approved by the Commission.
- 9) On **July 23** at 1:30pm, 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."
- 10) The Health Environment and Community Engagement Committee has approved 4 new appointees to the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC). Three of these appointments are being made by the City Council and one by the Mayor. In addition an appointment to the Commission will be made by the Minneapolis Park Board. For the four vacancies on the Commission, 17 applications were received. I served on a panel of council and staff who reviewed the applications and made a recommendation to the Committee. It was a difficult decision because of many highly qualified applicants. In the end I believe we landed on a group of strong appointees who bring needed skills, experience and perspectives to the Commission that will help guide and improve our community engagement efforts in the months ahead. The Council appointees are David Zaffrann, Eric Gustafson and Brittany Lewis. The Committee also recommended approval of Ishmael Israel as a Mayoral appointee.
- 11) Applications are now being accepted for a number of open board and commission positions that the City Council and mayor will appoint this spring. 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.