News from Cam Gordon
Council Member, Second Ward
April 2012
http://www.minneapolismn.gov/council/ward2

Council Votes on Stadium Plan. The City Council Intergovernmental Relations Committee held a public hearing and voted by a slim majority (7-6) to add support of a new stadium bill to our state Legislative Agenda. The Council is now on record supporting the Mayor/Council President/Governor's financial proposal that would cost the City an estimated $675 million in sales taxes in order to pay for a portion of the construction and operator costs of a new stadium. **I voted against this**. The fact that those at the hearing were so divided and the fact that support for this passed the Council by the slimmest possible majority demonstrates how weak and flawed the plan is. In the meeting, I attempted to amend the resolution to have the Council oppose any legislation that includes any section or provision that would override the City Charter provisions related to the financing of professional sports facilities. This failed on a 7-6 vote and the original resolution passed by the same margin. I then moved to "request that the Charter Commission review the stadium financing bill to determine if the proposal for funding a Vikings stadium complies with the Minneapolis City Charter and if it requires a referendum." This motion passed 7 to 6 and so more discussion by the Charter Commission may be forthcoming, especially if a bill passes. This Committee action will come before the full Council for a final vote on May 11, but will become a part of our legislative agenda now. If a stadium a bill passes that includes the use of City sales tax money, it will need City council approval within 30 days to become law.

Protests in Plazas. Council President Barb Johnson has authored a resolution that would severely restrict the rights of protestors on City-owned plazas in Minneapolis, including Peavey Plaza downtown and the Cedar Riverside Plazas at 7 Corners and near the May Day Bookstore. I strongly oppose this resolution, and encourage people to attend the Council's Public Safety, Civil Rights and Health committee public hearing on it that will be held **May 2** at 1:30 pm in the Council Chambers.

Police Chief to Retire. Minneapolis Police Chief Tim Dolan, who has led Minneapolis' police force since 2006, announced April 25th that he will not seek a third full term as chief and will retire at the end of 2012 after a 29-year career with the Minneapolis Police Department. Mayor Rybak first nominated Dolan to serve as interim chief in 2006. The City Council confirmed Mayor Rybak's nomination of Dolan to three-year terms as chief in 2007 with my support and in 2010 without it. Before becoming chief, Dolan served in numerous command and leadership capacities in nearly every part of the city, including as deputy chief, inspector and commander of the 4th Precinct in North Minneapolis, commander of narcotics, commander of emergency response and director of training. I am grateful to Chief Dolan for his years of service to the people of Minneapolis and despite some differences – especially on issues regarding police officer accountability and the Civilian Review Authority – I have enjoyed working with him as Council Member. He has been very helpful responding to crime concerns in Ward 2 and has been an outstanding partner in our efforts to curb domestic abuse and prevent youth violence by addressing it as a public health as well as a public safety issue.

Mayor Rybak Nominates Jeremy Hanson Willis as CPED Director. In April Mayor Rybak nominated his Chief of Staff, Jeremy Hanson Willis, to be the next director of the City of Minneapolis Department of Community Planning and Economic Development

(CPED). Hanson Willis has served as Mayor Rybak's chief of staff since 2009 and has been the Mayor's primary liaison with CPED. Prior to making the formal permanent appointment, the Mayor has appointed and the Executive Committee (with my support) has confirmed Hanson Willis as interim director for 3 months. I am disappointed that a new CPED Director with a Planning background and more experience managing large budgets and staffs was not found, but I intend to be open minded and think that the interim period will give Mr. Hanson Willis an opportunity to demonstrate his capacity to be successful in this very important position.

New Elections Director. The Council has confirmed the City Clerk's appointment of Grace Wachlarowicz as the City's new Assistant City Clerk and Elections Director. Amazingly, this will be the first time we've had a permanent Elections Director since mid-2009. As Elections Committee Chair, I was involved in the search committee for this important position. I am confident that Ms. Wachlarowicz will help the City navigate the many upcoming opportunities and challenges facing the City on election issues: purchasing ranked choice compatible voting machines, responding to the Voter ID referendum, the first election with our new precincts and more.

Minneapolis Opposes Voter ID. The City of Minneapolis formally opposes the constitutional amendment that would force elections administrators to ask for photo identification for all voters. There are so few cases of proven voter fraud in Minnesota that this is a solution in search of a problem. Many Minneapolis residents have no photo ID: the elderly, recent immigrants, residents of nursing homes and other supportive housing. Many more Minneapolis residents have photo ID that does not list their current Minneapolis address: undergraduate students and others. This constitutional amendment would make it more difficult for these people to vote, effectively disenfranchising them, which is clearly the motivation behind the Republican drive to put it on the ballot.

Civilian Police Review System. The Legislature has passed, and Governor Dayton has signed, a bill that prohibits the Minneapolis Civilian Review Authority from making "findings of fact" in cases of police misconduct. This law seriously diminishes the effectiveness of the CRA, and was passed despite Minneapolis' strong stance against it. Another plan developed to help improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the CRA that is promoted by staff leadership would essentially merge the CRA and the Police Internal Affairs Unit into a single "Police Conduct Oversight Commission" with both an appointed community board working with civilian and police investigators to follow up on police complaints and make recommendations about discipline. . I have serious concerns about this proposal and oppose it in its current form but was glad to hear that the Civilian Review Authority board is also planning to propose its own improvements.

Bike and Stroll Minneapolis. This spring and summer, the Minneapolis Bicycling and Pedestrian Program is hosting over 40 rides, walks and classes to help you get back on the streets and trails. Whether you are looking to explore new bikeways in your neighborhood or trying to get the whole family riding, there is something for you. http://www.minneapolismn.gov/bicycles/WCMS1P-088472

Don't Prune the Ash Trees. The State Department of Agriculture is asking everyone not to prune ash trees this time of year or move any part of an ash tree (firewood, branches, etc). The Emerald Ash Borers are now active and moving the pests helps them spread to uncontaminated areas. Emerald ash borers are a major concern

because they have caused the deaths of millions of ash trees in 13 states, and approximately 20 percent of the tree canopy in Minneapolis consists of ash trees. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture has issued a state quarantine on firewood, ash trees, and ash tree products in Hennepin, Ramsey, Houston and Winona counties to slow the spread of emerald ash borers. For more information on emerald ash borers, visit http://www.mda.state.mn.us/saveourash.aspx or http://www.minneapolisparks.org/default.asp?PageID=1059.

Minneapolis Greenprint Report. In April the City released its annual report on key environmental indicators. The Greenprint report is a subset of the City's Sustainability Indicators and lays out measurable environmental sustainability goals and annually tracks the City's progress toward meeting them. Minneapolis sustainability indicators, data and policies are helping systematically make Minneapolis a cleaner, healthier, more efficient city.

Key results include:

- Climate change pollution decreased more than **12 percent** between 2006 and 2010..
- Healthy food became easier to access with expanded food assistance and Market Bucks (coupons for free produce) available at the West Broadway Outdoor Market, Brian Coyle and Augsburg farmers markets in 2011. Midtown Farmers Market, Minneapolis Farmers Market and Northeast Minneapolis Farmers Market also continued to accept food assistance. Between May 2010 and November 2011, the markets made a combined total of more than $90,000 in food assistance sales and Market Bucks redemptions, showing that healthy food is making it into lower-income households and federal food support has improved healthy foods and the local economy.
- With Ramsey County Workforce Solutions, the City completed a two-year, $4 million federally funded green jobs training and job placement project. Over its two years, Renewable Energy Networks Empowering Workers (RENEW) trained **585 workers** in green credentialing programs in manufacturing, construction, building systems, and renewable energy, and placed more than 300 of them in jobs.
- A City-sponsored energy efficiency program has served more than **4,000** Minneapolis homes and created or retained more than 26 permanent jobs. About 950 of the Minneapolis households that have had a home visit have completed major energy efficiency upgrades.
- In 2011, **37 miles** of on-street bikeways were added including bike lanes, marked shared lanes and four bicycle boulevard corridors. Minneapolis now has a total of 167 miles of on-street and off-street bikeways. 2011 also saw a 21 percent increase in cyclists.

Challenges remain. Our tree canopy remains threatened by emerald ash borer and extreme weather such as the 2011 tornado in north Minneapolis. Asian carp are a major threat to the Mississippi River and connected watersheds.

"Spirit Car" is the Book for 2012-13 One Minneapolis, One Read. Minneapolis has selected the next One Minneapolis, One Read book: "Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past" by local author Diane Wilson. In "Spirit Car," a Minnesota Book Award Winner, Diane Wilson explores her Dakota roots and her own family's history, detailing the trauma of the Dakota War of 1862 and its aftermath. One Minneapolis, One Read will launch in fall of 2012, in collaboration with Minneapolis Public Schools and Hennepin County Library. The selection of "Spirit Car" in the same year we recognize the 150th

Anniversary of the Dakota War provides an unparalleled opportunity for us all to learn more about this tragic part of our history. We welcome you to read the book and join the conversation! One Minneapolis, One Read updates appear on Facebook and at **www.oneminneapolisoneread.com**.

City Planner Haila Maze Honored by U. Congratulations to Haila Maze, who has been selected as this year's honoree to receive the 2011 University of Minnesota *Outstanding Community Service Award—Partner*. This award is the one of highest honors the University gives to a community partner for service to the University and the community. It recognizes the contributions Haila has made to the University community in her work with the University District Alliance and being a key leader in development of the University Overlay District and, more recently, the development of the Stadium Area Small Area Plan.

Officers of the Year. Congratulations to the seven Minneapolis police 2011 Officers of the Year. Officer Tony Adams is the First Precinct's Officer of the Year for 2011. Officer Adams' is described as an officer who is professional, caring and willing to go the extra mile. He has worked as a patrol officer in the Third and Fourth Precincts, in the Narcotics Unit and as a School Resource Officer. Officer Adams is currently assigned to day watch in the First Precinct. Lieutenant Bill Whisney and Officer Adam Grobove are the Second Precinct's (Southeast) Officers of the Year. In 2011, these officers collaborated with the Minneapolis Veterans Affairs Medical Center and the Barbara Schneider Foundation to start the Second Precinct's Homeless Veteran's Backpack Program. Patrol officers would identify homeless veterans and provide them with basic living supplies and information for veteran's services. Officer Todd Harder has been selected as the Third Precinct's Officer of the Year. The Third Precinct includes Seward and Cooper. Since joining the Minneapolis Police Department in 1997, Officer Harder has spent the majority of his time patrolling the streets of the Third Precinct. He currently works the night shift. Officer Harder was recognized for consistently being a top performer and a veteran officer who leads by example and is a field training officer for our new recruits.

"Separation Ordinance" Legislation Progressing. Some State legislators are pushing yet another terrible bill that would prohibit the City of Minneapolis from restricting our City employees' ability to inquire about people's immigration status. For more than a decade, Minneapolis has had a separation ordinance on the books, which prohibits our police officers and other public servants from asking about immigration status except when that information is directly relevant to a criminal investigation. Our separation ordinance ensures that Minneapolis residents can feel comfortable calling the police when they need to without fear of deportation. It is a public safety ordinance, meaning that Republicans in the House are now actively opposing public safety in Minneapolis. I hope that this bill stalls, or that the Governor will veto it.

Riverside Avenue Construction. Major construction activities have started on Riverside Ave from Cedar Ave to 23rd Av and 8th St S. Private utilities and City Water Department construction activities will be continuing for approximately the next two months. Traffic lanes will be adjusted to accommodate the construction and will not follow the standard lane striping. Riverside Av will be operated under the Stage 1 detour until May 7th when we will switch to Stage 2. For more information, including detour routes, please visit the project web site at http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cip/all/cip_riverside_index. If you would like to get email updates about the project send Chris.Engelmann@minneapolismn.gov an email with Riverside Email Update in the subject line.

The West River Road Parkway paving project will begin on **April 30**. New asphalt will be placed on the roadway on West River Parkway from just west of the Washington Avenue Bridge near 2nd St S in downtown to 26th St E in Seward. The project will be completed in two phases with the first phase beginning in April and the second phase beginning in mid-summer. The work will be performed under full road closure. For more information contact Chris Trembath, chris.trembath@minneapolismn.gov 612-919-1196, or visit http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/all/WCMS1P-091565?SSContributor=true

Road Construction Updates. For other projects in the Second Ward check:

- Central Corridor Light Rail: http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/centralcorridor.asp
- State Highway project (Mn Department of Transportation): http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i94resurfacing/phase2.html
- Hennepin County Construction: http://gis.co.hennepin.mn.us/construction/viewer/map/default.aspx

Temporary Park Road Closure Information Online. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board now has available online a list of temporary road closures due to permitted events and other activities through 2011. The information will be updated regularly and provides a quick, at-a-glance guide to Park Board road closures throughout Minneapolis. Starting July 13, the Park Board is launching an email subscription service for a wide variety of topics including road closures. For more, visit http://www.minneapolisparks.org/documents/mprb_road_closures.pdf#zoom=100

Great Street Grants. The City Council has approved awarding recommending a total of $322,800 for full or partial funding of 12 proposals in Great Street grants. This includes grants in the Second Ward to the African Development Center ($5,000), West Bank Business Association ($36,000), Lake Street Council ($41,000), Seward Redesign (49,000) and the Stadium Village Civic and Commerce Association ($40,000). Funds will be used to support small businesses in the area, for building membership in business associations, improving communications with business owners, marketing, and more.

Great Streets and Business Association Assistance Merged. City staff are proposing to merge the Great Streets and Business Association Assistance Programs (or BAAP). Both programs provide direct support to business associations, but Great Streets is a competitive program, whereas the BAAP offers direct operating support. As Community Planning and Economic Development has refined the BAAP program to be more focused on specific outcomes and less on general operating support, the overlap with Great Streets has become apparent. The merger would eliminate redundancies, align the City's financial support more clearly with City objectives of business growth and district vitality, increase transparency, and reduce City funding for general administrative operations. I have some concerns about the proposal because some business associations may need help just to remain in existence.

Consolidated Plan. In April, the City Council approved the 2012 Consolidated Plan. This is the City's application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for over $15 million through the 2012 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnerships (HOME), Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG), Housing

Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA). The money will go primarily to fight homelessness and help provide housing.

Minneapolis Urban Scholars Program. The City of Minneapolis Urban Scholars Program introduces students enrolled in community or four-year colleges who are residents of Minneapolis to local government and public service. The ten-week program runs from May 21, 2012 through August 17, 2012 and offers full-time internships in City government. Scholars are paid a taxable stipend of $4,000. This is a unique opportunity for students to work with City government officials to give them an understanding of the structure of City government. Applications are due by 4:00 p.m. CST on April 30, 2012. Urban Scholars Application Form (PDF) To apply, save the interactive PDF to your computer, fill it out, and attach it to an email along with a copy of your school transcript, resume, and your essay to Karen Francois at karen.francois@minneapolismn.gov

Minneapolis Pioneer and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery Restoration. There will be a benefit concert for the historic cemetery's fence restoration on **Saturday, June 9th** with the bands *Low* and *Zoo Animal*: http://www.friendsofthecemetery.org/event.shtml. All proceeds will be donated to the City of Minneapolis via the Friends of the Cemetery to continue to help with restoration costs. For more on the project visit: http://www.friendsofthecemetery.org/fence.shtml. Tickets are also available at Electric Fetus, Hymie's Vintage Records, and Treehouse Records.

Stadium Village University Avenue Station Area Plan. The work of the Stadium Village Station Area Plan Steering Committee is nearly complete. **May 1st** will mark the official kick off of the review period for the draft plan. My thanks goes to all steering committee members for their months of work and to all staff and others who have provided insights, information and feedback. The draft plan will be available at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/projects/cped_stadium_village. The plan seeks to provide a strong framework for land use, transportation, future development, public realm, and connectivity a station at one of the region's most significant population and employment hubs. Due to the complex, multi-jurisdictional nature of this area, this plan is being undertaken by a joint partnership of the City of Minneapolis, University of Minnesota, and Hennepin County.

Boeser Site. In April, the City Council submitted grant applications to Hennepin County's Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Program for Cornerstone's application for a $1,000,000 loan to assist with acquisition of the 2.5-acre site located beside the Prospect Park Station. This project will build approximately 250 units of housing including 20% that will be affordable for households making 60% area medium income. The project involves demolition of the existing warehouse structure, cleanup of contamination, and creation of pedestrian and bicycle connections to LRT, transit stops, and the intercampus transitway. The Council also requested $542,456 from the state, $54,409 from the Met Council and $43,396 from Hennepin County. These funds, if awarded, will be used for soil remediation and the abatement of asbestos and lead-based paint.

Fountain Residential. The Council has requested, a total of 48,000 in environmental clean up grants for a proposed development at 2635 4th St SE. Fountain Residential Partners intends to demolish an existing building on this 1.64 acre site and construct 160,315 square feet of housing with 215 units, one level of underground parking and 4000 square feet of common space. This is a market rate student housing proposal.

The developer has been in discussions with City planning staff on the conceptual design and layout for the site. Generally speaking, high density housing is consistent with both the Comprehensive Plan and the University & 29th Development Objectives. One key policy concern is the need to dedicate right-of-way for the extension of 27th Avenue SE through the site. At present, the developer seems willing to work within this constraint, and the City's acceptance of any awarded brownfield grant funds will be contingent upon the developer's acceptance of this requirement. Grant funds, if awarded, will be used to conduct an environmental site investigation to determine the nature and extent of any contamination that may be present.

I-35W Transit Access Project. There will be open houses to discuss two I-35W initiatives in the metro area. On Tuesday, May 1 from 5-7pm, at Whittier Community Center (425 26th Street West), the topic will be the I-35W Transit/Access Project and will cover the latest on the development of bus rapid transit, freeway ramp improvements and other changes to the freeway at and around Lake Street. The I-35 Transit/Access Project involves transit- and transportation-related improvements in the vicinity of I-35W, Lake Street and the Midtown Greenway. Topics to be discussed include bus rapid transit station designs at both the freeway and Lake Street levels, Changes to Lake Street in the vicinity of the I-35W interchange and proposed ramps at the I-35W interchange. For more information, go to www.35lake.com.

I-35W North Managed Lanes Corridor Study open houses. Two more open houses will discuss strategies to address rush-hour congestion on Interstate 35W north of downtown. One is in Blaine's City Hall on **May 2** from 5-7pm, and the other is in the Minneapolis Central Public Library on Thursday, **May 10** from 11:30am-1pm. These open houses will look at ways to better utilize existing and future infrastructure investments; increase transit ridership and the use of high occupancy vehicles by providing travel time advantages; provide a choice for commuters during the peak periods; and reduce congestion and improve safety along the corridor. For more see www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i35wstudy.

Dining Out for Life! April 26th. I was delighted to participate in the Aliveness Project Dining Our for Life project by co-hosting lunch at noon at the Republic restaurant at 7 Corners. The Aliveness Project is a local nonprofit organization that provides on-site meals, food shelf & other supportive services for individuals living with HIV/AIDS and their families. You can help by eating out at a participating restaurant or by volunteering to act as a Dining Out Ambassador. Go to www.diningoutforlife.com/minneapolis for a list of restaurants and volunteer opportunities!

Seward is Best "Hipster" Neighborhood. City Pages has chosen Seward as its Best Hipster Neighborhood for 2012." The article notes that Minnesota has been named "Most Hipster State in the US" by the website BuzzFeed, and goes on to name Seward not just the hippest neighborhood in the city or the state, but the country. Read the article here: http://www.citypages.com/bestof/2012/award/best-hipster-neighborhood-2456999.

Walkability Survey. On Sunday May 6, the District Council Collaborative will launch a 3-week walkability survey to gather information about walking to Central Corridor light rail stations. Information will be used to identify challenges to walking and improvements needed to improve pedestrian safety and access to the stations. For more contact 651-528-8165 or visit www.dcc-stpaul-mpls.org

Summer 612. The Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support (MDHFS) has issued a Request for Proposals for the Summer 612: Unlearning the Culture of Violence micro grant program. The Department is providing micro grants of up to $2,000 each, for a total in $16,000 in state Local Public Health funding, for activities to reach high risk youth during the summer of 2012. Eligible applicants include governmental organizations, and non-profit and community based organizations. Projects must be located within eligible Minneapolis neighborhoods. For more information please see http://wcms/wwwmpls/health/grants/dhfs_rfp

Project Homeless Connect. On Monday, **May 14**, Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis are partnering with service providers, businesses and faith communities to bring multiple resources to the Minneapolis Convention Center, including housing providers, employment specialists, medical care, mental health care, veterans benefits specialists, eye doctors, haircuts, and food. The last Project Homeless Connect in December involved 1,000 volunteers and service providers, and served nearly 2,000 men, women, children, and youth experiencing homelessness. Project Homeless Connect needs 1,200 volunteers for the May 14 event. Training is provided. To find out how you can volunteer or contribute, please visit www.homelessconnectminneapolis.org.

Granary Corridor Report. There will be a community meeting to share the results about the Granary Corridor study on Wednesday, **May 9**, 4:30-6:30pm at Van Cleve Community Center, 901 15th Avenue SE. The Granary Corridor is a potential transportation link that would run north of 4th Street in Prospect Park and through the Dinkytown rail trench to near the Stone Arch Bridge in Marcy Holmes. There will be a presentation at 5pm, followed by time for questions and discussion. For more information see www.minneapolismn.gov/cip/all/cip_semi_index.

U Contributions to Infrastructure. I want to thank the University of MN for contributing more than $190,000 to the Talmage Ave SE reconstruction project and more than $360,000 to the Riverside Avenue street lighting project in payments in lieu of assessment. Especially on the Riverside project, these contributions are voluntary, and allowed these important infrastructure improvements to occur.

Southeast Como Blueprint Project. I was inspired by the turn out and discussion at the Como Blueprint Kick-off event on April 25th. It is great to see the Como Neighborhood, under the direction of the Southeast Como Improvement Association and the skilled leadership of a group of committed volunteers, undertaking the creation of a neighborhood plan. I also congratulate them on getting a Good Neighbor grant from the Stadium Area Advisory Group to help support their efforts. This has great potential to manage neighborhood change in positive ways, guide improvements to build on Como's many strengths, and preserve what is best about this vital, diverse neighborhood. To learn more and get involved see: www.comoblueprint.org.

Sabo Bridge Update. The Council has authorized spending up to $150,000 on a contract in cooperation with Hennepin County for engineering services work on the Sabo Bridge.

West Broadway Streetcar. In April the City Council voted to apply for federal funding for streetcar study to conduct an "Alternatives Analysis" of a modern streetcar on West Broadway in North Minneapolis. This action was taken as County and Met Council

officials seem likely to select an alignment for the proposed Bottineau Light Rail Train line that would not go on Broadway or Penn and would more provide limited access to transit and develop opportunities in Minneapolis.

Openings on City Boards and Commissions. There are openings on the Capital Long Range Improvement Commission, Civilian Police Review Authority, Family Housing Fund (McKnight), Housing Board of Appeals, Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Neighborhood Community and Engagement Committee, Public Health Advisory Committee, Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, and Workforce Advisory Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.

Ward Office Hours. Every Tuesday morning I hold "Office Hours" in the Ward from 9:30-11:00am. Please feel free to call for an appointment or just stop by.
1st Tuesdays, Hard Times Café (West Bank/University);
2nd Tuesdays, Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como (SE Como);
3rd Tuesdays, Pratt School (Prospect Park);
4th Tuesdays, the Birchwood Cafe (Seward/Longfellow).

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