Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon
City Council Member
Second Ward

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

Office 612-673-2202
Fax 612-673-3250
Cell 612-296-0579

Email: cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov

http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2/index.htm

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 4-18-12

Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:
Tuesday, May 1st, 9:30-11:00am
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave

Items:

1) Street Design Open House
2) Redistricting
3) Protestors and Plazas
4) Urban Agriculture Text Amendments Pass
5) Additional Neighborhood Funding
6) NCEC Openings
7) Street Sweeping
8) Riverside Reconstruction
9) W River Road Parkway Paving
10) Homelessness Report
11) West Bank Great Street Grants
12) Civilian Review Authority Weakened
13) Openings on Boards and Commissions

1) Please join me at a community open house at the Brian Coyle Community Center on Saturday, April 21st from 1 - 3 pm, where residents will have the chance weigh in on design features for upcoming street improvements around the Riverside Plaza "super block" to 4th, `5th and 6th. See different design features (bump outs, stops signs, crosswalks, etc.), and give input about the options. This be integrated it into a final report and recommendations for the street reconstruction likely to be completed in 2013 or 14.

2) The Charter Commission has adopted a new ward map that will go into effect in January 2014. The map divides the West Bank into two different wards, 2 and 6. The dividing line will be 20th Ave S from I-94 to Riverside, Riverside from 20th to 19th Ave S, and then 19th from Riverside to the Mississippi, with Ward 2 to the east and Ward 6 to the west. I look forward to representing and serving the entire West Bank neighborhood until 2014.

3) Council President Barb Johnson has authored a resolution that would severely restrict the rights of protestors on City-owned plazas in Minneapolis, including the Cedar Riverside Plazas at 7 corners and near the May Day Book Store. I strongly oppose this resolution, and voted to send it to the Council's Public Safety, Civil Rights and Health committee, which met earlier today and set a public hearing for May 2nd.

4) The Urban Agriculture Text Amendments I authored unanimously passed the City Council. Now, for the first time since 1963, people will be allowed to grow food commercially in the City of Minneapolis. Commercial growing will be allowed on a large scale at urban farms in industrial districts, and on a smaller scale at market gardens in low-density residential areas. People will even be allowed to grow food commercially in their own backyards. Aquaponics and aquaculture will be allowed at urban farms. Arbors, trellises, raised planting beds in front yards, cold frames and hoop houses will be allowed. This is a major step forward for the local food movement in Minneapolis.

5) The Council has approved new guidelines and funding amounts for neighborhoods. The Council action included an additional $860,000 for those neighborhoods that lost the most money from the December 2010 Council action that recaptured NRP Phase 2 funds. The total amount for the West Bank is $154,882.

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email Ahmed.Muhumud@minneapolismn.gov

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.

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Affirmative Action Employer

6) Applications are being accepted starting April 2 for Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission candidates for the June 28, 2012 elections. This year, neighborhood district 8 (which includes the West Bank) is up for re-election. In addition, 1 Mayoral and 3 City Council positions are up for appointment through the City's open appointment process. For more visit: http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/WCMS1P-089624

7) City-wide street sweeping began April 10. From now through the week of April 30, sweepers will clean all 1,100 miles of city streets and parkways. Watch for temporary "No Parking" signs that should be posted at least 24 hours in advance to make sure streets and parkways are clear of parked vehicles. Residents need to follow street sweep parking rules or they may have their cars ticketed and towed to the Minneapolis Impound Lot. You can visit www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping/index.htm to find out when the sweepers are coming through your neighborhood.

8) Major construction activities have started on Riverside Av between Cedar Av 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.

9) 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. to 26th St.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
For other projects in the area check:

- Central Corridor Light Rail: http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/centralcorridor.asp
- MnDOT: 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

10) The Council recently received a 5-year update on Heading Home Hennepin, Minneapolis and Hennepin County's 10 year plan to end homelessness in Minneapolis by 2016. There is some good news: street homelessness has been decreased by **40%**. Together, we have developed **2,433** housing opportunities (new construction and tenant based rental assistance) between 2007 and 2011. We have opened two Opportunity Centers, co-locating over 25 agencies at each center. Still, homelessness continues to be a problem for too many in Minneapolis. We have had to open two new winter shelters the last two years and the need for permanent affordable housing options for low income families continues to outpace our ability to provide it

11) The Community Development Committee has approved awarding Great Street grants to the African Development Center ($5,000) and West Bank Business Association ($36,000). The Development Center intends to use the funds for business networking events to strengthen the African-owned business sector and build better relationships between businesses. The West Bank Business Association (WBBA) plans to continue to focus on building its membership and improving communications with business owners. WBBA also plans to continue involvement with businesses and institutions on developing a Business Improvement District.

12) 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. While I see room for improvement in the CRA I have serious concerns about this proposal and oppose it in its current form.

13) There are openings on the Animal Care & Control Advisory Committee, Bicycle Advisory Committee, Capital Long Range Improvement Commission, Civilian Police Review Authority, Family Housing Fund (McKnight), Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Neighborhood Community and Engagement Committee, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC), Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Workforce Advisory Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.