



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

## Cam Gordon

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# Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 7-10-12

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:  
Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am  
Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como Avenue SE

### Items:

- 1) Corporate Personhood
- 2) Unisys Contract Audited
- 3) Farmers Market Finder
- 4) Fire Department Agency Evaluation
- 5) National Night Out
- 6) NCEC Appointments
- 7) Expansion of Premises Ordinance
- 8) Electric Assist Pedicabs
- 9) Vikings Stadium Implementation Committee
- 10) Mattress Recycling
- 11) Security at U of M Stadium
- 12) New Owner for Sporty's
- 13) Homegrown Minneapolis Coordinator
- 14) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) With my strong support, the Council has unanimously passed a resolution supporting a US Constitutional amendment that would make clear that corporations are not persons. This amendment would help regulate the toxic and out-of-control corporate spending in our political processes, spending that I believe directly threatens our democracy. The Council has also gone on record in our Federal Legislative Agenda supporting transparency in corporate political spending on elections. This would not have been possible without all of the groundwork done by the amazing organizers at Move to Amend, <http://movetoamend.org/minnesota>.
- 2) The City's Internal Audit department has conducted an audit of the City's information technology contract with the Unisys Corporation. The contract, which began in 2007 and ends in 2015, is currently valued at **\$86,363,655**. The audit found significant issues in our contract management with Unisys. First, quoting from the report, "While IT management reviews the invoices for accuracy and completeness, there is **no evidence to support the invoice itself was reviewed**. Also, the support documentation provided by Unisys only show total dollars **without adequate details** used to calculate the totals (i.e. rates and hours). Additionally, while there are written procedures on the IT invoice review process, the procedures are **very brief** and **do not include detailed steps**." Second, there are concerns about our contract monitoring: "IT management **does not receive relevant reports** from Unisys as stated in the contract. Also, there is currently **no agreed upon process** in place to validate that the City is receiving the most favored equipment prices and/or taking advantage of any special promotional rates or discounts." I continue to have serious concerns about the amount of money the City spends on this information technology contract, and the lack of oversight found in this audit compounds that concern. This seems like one of the clear consequences of outsourcing what had been – and arguably should still be – a core City function. In June the Council referred this report to the Ways and Means Committee for further review.
- 3) The City now has an online interactive map at [www.minneapolismn.gov/farmersmarkets](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/farmersmarkets) that makes it easy to find one of the 29 convenient farmers markets now operating in Minneapolis. Clicking on the map pins will show the address, season dates and opening times for each market. Seven of the markets accept "electronic benefits transfer" cards as payment to give residents on federal food assistance easier access to fresh, healthy food. Thirteen of the farmers markets are special small markets that the City licenses to make fresh and affordable produce available to low-income neighborhoods.
- 4) The City has approved a Liquor Class D license to the new owner of Sporty's Pub and Grill in southeast Como. The new Sporty's will continue to operate under the same conditions the previous owner agreed to.

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](mailto: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, llame 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

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- 5) The Minneapolis Fire Department will be giving a report on its Agency Evaluation and Master Plan at the Public Safety, Civil Rights and Health Committee meeting on July 11<sup>th</sup>. This is an independent, comprehensive evaluation of the Fire Department compiled by Emergency Services Consulting International and will help us see how the department compares to similar departments and consider recommendations to address short, mid and long term strategies to improve effectiveness and increase efficiency.
- 6) Registrations are now being accepted for the **August 7** National Night Out online or through 311. If you want to block off your street, you can do so for free through July 24. From July 25 through August 2, there is a \$100 fee. After August 2, no applications for blocking off a street will be accepted. Last year, more than 60,000 Minneapolis residents gathered during National Night Out to celebrate with a record 1,173 events in all 83 neighborhoods of the city. An improved, easier to use online registration process, the quality customer service from 311, and the hard work of the City's Crime Prevention Specialists were just a few of the reasons for the increased participation.
- 7) The Council has appointed four new people to the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission: Ishmael Israel from Ward 5, Grey Massey from Ward 10, Saciido Shaie from Ward 1 and Jeff Martin from Ward 1. The Council also reappointed Jeffrey Strand from Ward 4.
- 8) The Council has unanimously passed the ordinance amendment by Council Member Schiff that will extend the twelve days of temporary expansions for alcohol-serving establishments that have been in place for the University stadium and downtown to the rest of Minneapolis. This is an increase from the current eight days (or four two-day events) businesses may hold events. I supported this idea. Every application for a temporary license is subject to review and approval. Failure to meet minimum standards during any event may result in restrictions on or denial of a future license. Requirements such as insurance, security, and mandatory permits, to name a few, must be completed in advance. The on-sale license holder is responsible for the activities and actions occurring at the event. I should note that since these new standards have been in place in Stadium Village, my office has heard no complaints. I have also received expressions of support from Ward 2 businesses, especially folks on the West Bank. Due to questions I've heard from neighborhood organizations, I supported delaying this ordinance for two weeks, to give residents a chance to weigh in.
- 9) I have given notice of intent to introduce an ordinance that would allow electric-assist bicycles to be used as pedicabs in Minneapolis. The City had been prohibited from allowing this by state law, until Senator Scott Dibble included legislation in this year's transportation omnibus bill that clarified that electric-assist bicycles are a type of "bicycle," not a type of "motorized bicycle." The Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee has taken a position in favor of this ordinance change, and I look forward to working through the details with them, City staff, and the pedicab industry.
- 10) The City has appointed sixteen people to a new Vikings Stadium Implementation Committee, including three people with Ward 2 connections: Chris Ferguson, owner of the Stadium Village Dairy Queen; Russ Adams, Executive Director of the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability; and Hussein Ahmed, Executive Director of the West Bank Community Coalition. I continue to oppose this stadium subsidy, but I'm glad to see such good people working on its implementation.
- 11) The City has entered into a 3-year contract with Project for Pride in Living to recycle the materials from discarded mattresses. This was necessitated, in part, by the downtown garbage burner's decision – which I applaud – to no longer accept mattresses. PPL will deconstruct each mattress to remove the recyclable metals and other materials, helping the environment and creating jobs for low-income residents.
- 12) The Council has contracted with the U of M to provide the services of our Bomb Unit and Canine Unit for security at Gopher football games at the U of M Stadium. The U of M will be paying the City \$15,000 for these services.
- 13) The City has accepted a \$40,000 grant from the General Mills Foundation to more fully fund the Homegrown Coordinator position held by **Jane Shey**. This is vitally important for our continued work to strengthen the local food economy, and I thank the Foundation for their help.
- 14) 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](mailto:cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov).