

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 9-4-12

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:
Tuesday, September 11th, 9:30-11:00am
Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como Avenue SE



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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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, 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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Items:

- 1) 2013 Budget
- 2) Rental License Ordinance Amendments
- 3) Rental License Posting Changes Proposed
- 4) NeighborhoodLIFT Homebuyer Assistance Event
- 5) Welcome Week
- 6) Municipal Power Discussion September 18th
- 7) Changes Proposed to Regulatory Services Department
- 8) Equity in Employment Resolution
- 9) Civilian Review Authority
- 10) Climate Change Action Plan
- 11) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) In August the Mayor released his proposed 2013 budget to the City Council that includes increasing the total property tax levy by 1.7%. Each department will make budget presentations through mid-November, and there will be two public hearings before a final budget is approved in December. For a schedule of presentations go to www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget. All budget hearings will be broadcast live (and rebroadcast) on Minneapolis 79 (the City's cable channel). You can find the rebroadcast schedule and also view the hearings online at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/tv/79>. The public hearings on the tax levy and 2013 budget will be on **Wednesday, November 28, starting at 6:05 p.m.** and **Wednesday, December 12, 6:05 p.m.** in City Hall, 350 South 5th Street, room 317. For more information on the Mayor's recommended 2013 budget go to www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget. As always I welcome hearing from you about your priorities and concerns related to this significant city decision.
- 2) In August Council Member Glidden decided to only move forward a portion of her Committee-approved proposed rental license regulation amendments. These were passed by the full Council and included the provisions clarifying that a landlord cannot charge or accept rent without a valid license and adding a mandatory training requirement for landlords who have a property that has been determined "substandard" or who have had a license revocation. This did not include the change I supported that concerned me most that would have changed the mandated "2 strikes and you're out" provision that dictates that anyone who loses 2 rental licenses in Minneapolis will automatically have all their other rental licenses revoked. That provision, and the remainder of the amendments, have been referred back to staff for further review.
- 3) On **September 10** at 1:30pm there will be a public hearing on Council Member Schiff's proposed amendments to the posting and display requirements for rental license holders. Check the Committee website for details that should be coming forward soon at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/ree/>.
- 4) Neighborhood Housing Services of Minneapolis and Wells Fargo have organized a NeighborhoodLIFT event for September 7-8, from 10am-7pm both days at the Convention Center, 1301 2nd Ave S, Hall A. Wells Fargo is providing funds for up to \$15,000 in down payment assistance for up to 400 qualifying Minneapolis homebuyers. To register for this event, visit www.neighborhoodlift.com or call 866-858-2151.
- 5) This time of year many new residents typically move into the Second Ward as people return, or arrive for the first time, for the new school year at the University of Minnesota, and at Augsburg College. On **Thursday, September 6th**, I will be joining with other neighbors, city and U of M staff, to knock on doors to welcome students to the area. City of Minneapolis Housing Services Inspectors will also be available from 10am-3pm at Joe's Market, 1828 Como Ave SE. Housing Inspectors will have access to property information and be able to respond to individual addresses as needed.

- 6) Environment Minnesota's next *Green Ideas and Ham* event will be on the topic of municipal power utilities. The speaker will be Susan Osborne, former mayor of Boulder, Colorado. Ms. Osborne was mayor during last year's successful ballot initiative to authorize Boulder to become a municipal power utility. This should be a fascinating and timely conversation, given that Minneapolis' franchise agreements with Xcel Energy and Centerpoint Energy expire in 2014. The event is on **Tuesday, September 18th**, 8:00am, at the Red Stag Supper Club, 509 1st Avenue NE. If you are interested in attending visit here for details:
secure3.convio.net/engage/site/Donation2?idb=818693435&df_id=13561&13561.donation=form1
- 7) The Mayor's proposed budget includes a significant change to the Department of Regulatory Services and the elimination of 3 - 5 upper management positions. As proposed, Regulatory Services would be reorganized by moving business licensing and development review functions to the Community Planning and Economic Development Department, Environmental Services (food inspection and healthy housing) to the Department of Health and Family Support, and keeping the remaining Regulatory Services' functions (housing inspections, animal control and possibly traffic) concentrated in a new Department of Inspections. The City Coordinator, Paul Aasen, will lead a Transition Committee to develop more details and a process that I am hopeful will include seeking feedback from residents as well as from Regulatory Services staff and other stakeholders.
- 8) The resolution I authored *Supporting Equity in Employment in Minneapolis and the Region* unanimously passed the Public Safety, Civil Rights and Health Committee on August 22 and the full Council on the 31st. The resolution declares that institutional racism, discrimination and racial employment disparities in Minneapolis are serious problems that must be solved. It commits the City government to lead by example and better incorporate racial equity into City policies and directs the City Coordinator, Community Planning and Economic Development Director and the Civil Rights Director to engage with other department heads, staff and our Workforce Council to develop and implement an Equity Assessment Toolkit to inform city decisions including those related to the budget, hiring, promotion, contracting and purchasing. It also directs staff to assess and implement where appropriate, the other recommendations of the Equity in Employment Task Force report that was the inspiration for the resolution and recommend fair hiring provisions to be added to our code of ordinances. Additionally, it authorizes the City to formally join the Ramsey County Blue Ribbon Commission's *Everybody In* (<http://www.rcwib.org/aboutus/brc.htm>) regional collaboration. For more details see item 6 here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/psch/WCMS1P-094892> on the Committee agenda. This is a critically important next step for the City to take to make Minneapolis a more just city. I look forward to continuing to work on this at the City level and hope to officially join the *Everybody In* steering committee to better address, on a regional level, this complex, persistent and difficult problem of racial disparities in employment and poverty in the Twin Cities area.
- 9) When the proposal was first unveiled to merge the current Civilian Review Authority with the Police Department's Internal Affairs Unit to form a new Office of Police Conduct Review and a new Police Conduct Oversight Commission, I moved to direct staff to convene community meetings and provide the City Council with some additional background information. As a result three community meetings were held in August and the matter is now set to return to Public Safety, Civil Rights and Health Committee for a public hearing on September 12 at 1:30 in City Hall. You can learn more about the proposal here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/psch/WCMS1P-094892>. In August the Star Tribune published an editorial opposing the change and I continue to have serious concerns about this proposal and will not support it in its current form.
- 10) This fall the Climate Action Plan Steering Committee will begin reviewing the recommendations of its three work groups and prepare their report and final recommendations for the City Council. The first Steering Committee meeting (open to the public) will be held on **September 13th from 9 am – 11:30 am at the Minneapolis Central Library in the Doty Board Room**. Additionally this fall all the goals and strategies will be reviewed by a newly formed environmental justice group and a panel of public health professionals. These reviews will help inform the Steering Committee in shaping the final plan. For more about this process and plan visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/climate/index.htm>
- 11) There are openings on the Arts Commission, Capital Long Range Improvement Committee, Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee, Civil Rights Commission, Civilian Police Review Authority, Disabilities Advisory Committee, Heritage Preservation Commission, Housing Board of Appeals, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, Planning Commission, Public Health Advisory Committee, Senior Advisory Committee, Mpls Telecommunications Network, ThincGreen Advisory Committee and Youth Violence Prevention Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.