



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood, 7-23-12

**Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
Pratt School, August 21st, 9:30-11am**

Items:

- 1) Voter ID – It's Worse Than You Think
- 2) Central Corridor Advertising Local Businesses
- 3) Fire Department Agency Evaluation
- 4) Minneapolis Supports DREAMers
- 5) Farmers Market Finder
- 6) Vikings Stadium Implementation Committee
- 7) Unisys Contract Audited
- 8) National Night Out
- 9) Electric Assist Pedicabs
- 10) Mattress Recycling
- 11) 311 Mobile App for City Service Requests
- 12) Block Events and Parades
- 13) New Rules on Door-to-Door Solicitors
- 14) Fifth Anniversary of I-35W Bridge Collapse
- 15) Washington and Walnut Flats
- 16) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The Council has received an informative and disturbing report from our City Clerk and Elections Department on the potential impacts of the proposed "Voter ID" Constitutional Amendment. You can read the report here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/elections/WCMS1P-094785>. I have also written some analysis of this topic on the Second Ward blog. The bottom line is that this amendment will make it much harder for many Minnesotans to vote, and create significant difficulty and cost for the Minneapolis Elections Department. Court will keep this question off the ballot this fall. If not, I urge you to **vote no**.
- 2) The Central Corridor project is beginning a \$1.2 million advertising campaign to promote businesses along the LRT route during construction. Several Prospect Park area businesses, including **Arts & Architecture**, **Big 10 Restaurant**, **Bun Mi Sandwiches**, and the **Cupcake**, will appear on bus ads and billboards paid for by the Central Corridor. The project is also building a website called onthegreenline.com that will feature Central Corridor area business listings, profiles and coupons.
- 3) The Minneapolis Fire Department has given a report on its Agency Evaluation and Master Plan at the Public Safety, Civil Rights and Health Committee meeting on July 11th. 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.
- 4) The City of Minneapolis is the first city in the US to go on record formally supporting President Barack Obama's policy directive to the Department of Homeland Security to defer deportation of undocumented children. I am very proud that the City has taken this action in support of a policy that will positively impact the lives of many members of our community.
- 5) The City now has an online interactive map at www.minneapolismn.gov/farmersmarkets that makes it easy to find one of the 29 convenient farmers markets now operating in Minneapolis.

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.

- 6) 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.
- 7) 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 and 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. In June the Council referred this report to the Ways and Means Committee for further review.
- 8) 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.
- 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 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.
- 11) People in Minneapolis can now request City services a free application on their smartphone and similar devices. So far ten common service requests are available and more will be added soon. GPS will provide the location of the service request and people will also be able to submit a photo to add more detail to their request. Service requests with the app can be made any time of day or night. Those who use Blackberry or Windows Phone devices can report service requests to Minneapolis 311 by visiting SeeClickFix.com on their mobile browser. The mobile app is available in the App Store or in the Android Market on your smart phone. Just search for "Minneapolis 311."
- 12) The City Council voted to require all large block events and all parades and races on Minneapolis streets to recycle. The changes are designed to reduce the amount of trash being generated at these events. Beginning Jan. 1, 2013, organizers of any block event with more than 2,500 in attendance and any parade or race that uses City streets will need to have a written recycling plan for the collection of all paper, cardboard, plastic, glass and metal containers.
- 13) The City Council approved new rules for door-to-door salespeople intended to protect consumers and make it more difficult for out-of-state companies to exploit youth workers. Under the new rules, salespeople and transient merchants will be required to wear a City-issued photo identification card. To make things easier for schools and youth groups doing fundraising, the City will approve group identification cards at no cost. The photo identification rule does not apply to canvassers, including people who advocate for religious, social, or political causes.
- 14) To mark the fifth anniversary of the collapse of the I-35W Bridge, local artists and community leaders will hold a public gathering at 5:45 p.m. Aug. 1 in the Ruins Courtyard of Mill City Museum. Following the event, an exhibition called Bridge, which features photographs by artist Vance Gellert, will open and will be on view at the museum through December 2012. The Aug. 1 event is free and open to the public, but reservations must be made to secure a ticket by sending an email to bridge.agathering@gmail.com or by calling 612-673-2032.
- 15) The City Council has approved the petition to rezone the properties at 616-630 Washington Ave SE and 308 Walnut St from the C1 Neighborhood Commercial District, Transit Station Area Pedestrian Oriented Overlay District and University Area Overlay District to the C3A Community Activity Center District for a six-story, mixed use building with 98 dwelling units identified as Washington and Walnut Flats.
- 16) There are openings on the Capital Long Range Improvement Commission, Civilian Police Review Authority, Family Housing Fund (McKnight), Housing Board of Appeals, Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Neighborhood Community and Engagement Committee, Pedestrian Advisory 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.