

**News from Cam Gordon**  
**Council Member, Second Ward**  
**October 2012**

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/council/ward2>

**Election Day is November 6.** Please remember to vote! You can find your voting place and a sample ballot here: [www.mnvotes.org](http://www.mnvotes.org) or [pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/](http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/). Even if you have not yet registered to vote, you can still register at your polling place on Election Day. All you need to do is go to your polling location with a valid Minnesota Driver's License, MN ID card, or photo tribal ID with your current address, or with a photo ID plus a utility bill in your name and with your current address (phone, cable TV, internet, current student fee statement); or bring someone to vouch for you who is a pre-registered voter in the same precinct or who registers in the same precinct on election day with one of the other authorized proofs of residence who will sign an oath that you live in the precinct. If you are a college student living in a dormitory you can also register with just your college ID if the school has provided a housing list to the election officials which the U of M and Augsburg typically do every election. Also an employee of the residential facility where you live can confirm your address with a signed oath. Please note that 311 will be open during election day hours (until 8:00pm) to assist/answer voter questions. For more information visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/elections/index.htm>

**Vote No on Both.** The Minneapolis City Council has voted to formally oppose both of the constitutional amendments on the ballot this November 6. The first would enshrine anti-gay bigotry in the state constitution, and the second would make it much more difficult to vote in Minnesota elections, with the aim of disenfranchising certain types of people – the elderly, recent immigrants, students, and people living in poverty. I urge you to **vote no on both**.

**Mayor Nominates Harteau.** The Mayor has formally nominated Janee Harteau to be the next Minneapolis Chief of Police. I know Ms. Harteau from her time as Inspector of the First Precinct (which includes Cedar Riverside) and have great respect for her. I will be interested to hear her plans for increasing police accountability and the diversity of the police force. The public hearing on this appointment will be held at the Public Safety, Civil Rights and Health committee on November 28 at 1:30pm.

**Fall Street Sweep.** The City's fall street cleaning began on Oct. 23 and will continue through most of November. During these four weeks crews will clean up about 1,100 miles of city streets. Remember: parking is prohibited the day each street is cleaned. "No Parking" signs will be posted at least 24 hours in advance of the cleaning and car users will need to follow street sweep parking rules or their cars may be ticketed and towed. Parking will be banned from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the day a street is swept. The "No Parking" signs will be removed as soon as possible after a street has been completely swept to allow people to resume parking. The City will use [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to post information and make about 3,500 automated phone calls each evening to let residents know their street will be swept the next day. There's no guarantee that the calls will reach everyone, so residents should be sure to check the schedule and watch for signs. You can also use the City's website to find out when the sweepers are coming through their neighborhoods: [www.minneapolismn.gov/streetsweep](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/streetsweep). Visitors to the website will be able to find out which week their street is scheduled to be swept. Then, on the weekend before each of the four weeks, the schedule for the upcoming week will be broken down to show which day of the week streets are scheduled to be swept. Street sweeping is also explained in English, Hmong, Somali and Spanish as part of the City's "Did you know..." series of short videos that can be viewed on at <http://www.youtube.com/cityofminneapolis> and on City cable channels 14 and 79. Please share links to the this information with as many people as you can.

**2013 Budget.** Throughout October, the Ways and Means Committee has been reviewing the Mayor's proposed in budget at hearings where city departments report on how the budget will effect there plans and operations. The Mayor has proposed a 1.7% property tax increase, adding

firefighters and police officers, and recommending a reorganization of the Regulatory Services department. Starting Saturday, November 10, the City is rebroadcasting all of the budget hearings on Minneapolis 79 every weekend until the budget is approved Wednesday December 12. You can also watch any of the budget hearings online here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/tv/79schedule>. The City Council will have two public meetings before a final budget is approved: Wednesday, Nov. 28, 6:05 p.m. and Wednesday, Dec. 12, 6:05 p.m. Both will be held at City Hall, 350 South 5th Street, in room 317 Visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget/WCMS1P-097420> for more information on the Mayor's recommended budget.

**Historic Conservation Districts.** This summer I formally introduced a proposal to amend the City code to permit the creation of conservation districts in Minneapolis. Conservation Districts are a special category of historic district established by action of a local governmental body, like a Historic Preservation Commission or a City Council. They typically help conserve important physical features and characteristics of an area with more protections than the zoning code, but fewer protections than an historic district. To assist with this we are forming an advisory group made up of staff, subject matter experts and some community representatives. So far the group is comprised key city staff as well as the MN State Historic Preservation Office, our Historic Preservation Commission. It also includes Greg Donofrio from University of MN School of Architecture, Robin Garwood, from the Ward 2 office and Ward 2 resident Joe Ring. There will be a kick off visioning meeting open to the public on **Wednesday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:40 pm in Minneapolis City Hall, 350 South Fifth Street, Room 319**. We expect to conduct more public meetings over the next four months to seek input from residents on establishing conservation districts. For more information, to include follow-up meeting dates, see the project website at [http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/conservation\\_district\\_ordinance](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/conservation_district_ordinance).

**Asian Carp and the Upper Harbor Terminal.** I am working to start the 180-day clock for closing the City's Upper Harbor Terminal, a barge facility on the Mississippi in north Minneapolis that puts barges through the Saint Anthony Lock. I am fighting for this because I have come to believe that the City must do our part to help close the Saint Anthony Lock, because it is the last place that the invasive Asian Carp can be stopped before establishing themselves on the upper Mississippi and most of the rest of the waterways in Minnesota. While there may be some cost to the City, and while some jobs may be lost as a result of closing the Upper Harbor Terminal, these costs pale in comparison to the economic and ecological costs of letting this invasive species into the upper Mississippi. I authored a motion directing CPED staff to come back to the Community Development committee in October with more details on a plan to close the Upper Harbor Terminal, and will continue to push for starting the clock as soon as possible.

**High Risk Youth Initiative.** The Mayor and Health Department have recommended a new initiative on Preventing High-Risk Youth from Becoming Victims of Violence. The program proposes to develop a predictive process to identify youth at greatest risk of falling victim to serious violent injury. I am very supportive of this new initiative, which builds on the successful work of the Youth Violence Prevention Blueprint for Action.

**Domestic Violence.** In October the Council received our annual update on our Pledge to reduce Domestic violence in Minneapolis. A large part of this effort involves working with community partners and coordinating efforts with police and the attorney's office to ensure follow through with police response to calls, arrests, charges, convictions and treatment and support for victims. In 2012 we expect to receive 17,525 911 calls related to domestic violence. So far this year our conviction rate is 73%, up from 70% last year and only 54% in 2007 when the current program was initiated.

**Equity in Employment Report.** On October 24<sup>th</sup> the Council got it first update on progress made on the work set in motion by the resolution I authored *Supporting Equity in Employment in Minneapolis and the Region* the Council passed in August. You can find the staff report online here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/psch/WCMS1P-097054> . It includes a staff

presentation with a first draft of a “Minneapolis Executive Equity Assessment Toolkit” and the establishment of a working group to carry the work forward. It would be very helpful to get thoughts and input from any of you on these early stages of this important work.

**New Recycling System Rollout.** In November Minneapolis will begin rolling out one-sort recycling. It will be done in two phases with the first phases starting in November and the second early next year. Those who are part of the first phase will receive a letter with instructions and a new large 95 gallon blue cart. Routes and schedules will not change. Make sure to have your recycling at your collection point by 6 a.m. on your recycling day. You may keep your old bin for other uses or leave it at the curb or alley and city crews will recycle it. Since routes run street by street (and alley by alley) rather than by neighborhood or quadrant, the routes chosen for the first phase are all over the city. This is the most efficient way to roll out the new carts and keep your service high during the transition. For more information, visit [www.minneapolismn.gov/onesort](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/onesort).

**New Legislative Agenda Items.** The Council’s Committee of the Whole has discussed a set of items for the City’s 2013 Legislative Agenda that include some interesting new requests. The first is improvements to the Sewer Availability Charges that make it so difficult and expensive for too many area restaurants to open and expand. Also on the list are a new host of City positions on issues related to bicyclists and pedestrians. If passed two weeks from now, Minneapolis will support the following changes:

- More flexible state lane-width standards that will allow us to design and build streets that safely meet the needs of all who use them
- Increased funding for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and programming, including programs that seek to incentivize innovation in bicycling infrastructure, with flexibility on design standards
- Complete Streets policies at all levels
- Local flexibility to reduce speed limits below 30 MPH for both local residential streets and when accommodating bicycling infrastructure
- A state level study of the economic impact of bicycling
- Legislation to make clear that drivers should yield to bicyclists in bike lanes
- Adding bike lanes to the list of prohibited locations for stopping, standing, or parking a vehicle

**Xcel Franchise Agreement Audit.** The City’s Independent Auditor completed an audit of the Xcel Energy Franchise Agreement and found that there is “no formal monitoring process of the franchise agreement to ensure the completeness and accuracy of the payments received by the City.” It also reported that Franchise agreement Section 4 states “...*the Company shall furnish to said Finance Officer...a statement, certified by the Company’s Controller or another officer of the Company, of the amount of the Company’s gross operating revenues for the preceding calendar year.*” The report clarified that this certified statement is not being provided to the City. Hopefully, now that this information has been brought to light, better accounting practices for this multimillion dollar agreement will result. I believe that the city is entitled to know the company’s gross operating revenues, as required in the agreement.

**Police Conduct Review Panel.** There will be a public hearing on Wednesday, November 7, at 1:30pm to consider the Mayoral appointment of Donald Bellfield (Ward 8), and Council appointments of Robert Briscoe (Ward 3) and Michelle Monteiro (Ward 9) to the new Police Conduct Review Panel. The PCRP is the entity that was formed at the same time that the Civilian Police Review Authority was dismantled. I did not support this action, and doubt that the PCRP will be a successful replacement for the CRA, but I am hoping for the best.

**Steve Mosing Given Bike Champion Award.** The Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition has given City traffic engineer Steve Mosing their first annual “Bike Champion” award, and I completely agree. Steve has helped with many improvements for bicyclists in and around Ward 2. He was instrumental in the new green lanes that were installed on 15<sup>th</sup> Ave SE after the tragic death of

Audrey Hull, improvements to the crossing at the Greenway and 28<sup>th</sup> St E, and much more. Thanks for all you do, Steve!

**Homelessness.** In October, for the third year in a row, the City approved allowing St. Stephens Human Services, on behalf of River of Life Lutheran Church, to operate an overnight shelter to to serve homeless adults. This, and additional shelters, are needed because the number of people without housing in Minneapolis is expected to increase dramatically this winter. Hennepin County officials reported in October that they've seen 6 percent more homeless families through September this year compared to last and 13 percent more homeless single adults. On Oct. 11, for example, there were 276 families in shelters with county contracts, which figured at 39 percent more than on the same day in 2011. I expect a fuller discussion of this issue to be taken up next month at the Community Development Committee.

**Central Corridor LRT.** Now renamed the Green Line, construction of the Twin Cities' second Light Rail line is now over 70% complete and work is well underway at all of its 18 stations. In October the first of 47 new cars arrived and was reveled at a special event in downtown Minneapolis. Set to open in 2014 for operation, construction of the roadway and tracks is expected to be complete at the end of this year. Next year will be used to finish up details and for extensive testing. For more information visit <http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/centralcorridor.asp>

**Hiawatha Substation.** Xcel has recently decided to do away with any art walls on the east side of its soon to be built Hiawatha Substation, resulting in an unscreened view of the substation for bike trail users approaching from the east. There will be an [Xcel Open House](#) on **October 30th, from 5 - 7 p.m.**, at Plaza Verde (1516 E. Lake Street) where you can learn more about the change and share your opinions about the new design. You can also share your comments directly with the state of MN/Public Utilities Commission by emailing Bill Storm at [bill.storm@state.mn.us](mailto:bill.storm@state.mn.us). People should send in comments before October 31. More information, plus a copy of the Midtown Greenway Coalition's resolution, can be found at <http://midtowngreenway.org/news-and-developments/hiawatha-substation-resolution/>.

**Birchwood Café.** The City Planning Commission has unanimously voted to grant the variance requests tied to the Birchwood Café's proposed expansion and to recommend that the Council rezone the property to C1. I expect this rezoning application to come before the Zoning and Planning committee on November 8<sup>th</sup>. With the Seward Neighborhood Group, the Seward Civic and Commerce Association, City Planning staff and the Planning Commission all strongly recommending this rezoning, I intend to support it and expect it to pass. I will continue to listen to the concerns of the near neighbors and encourage the Birchwood, other nearby businesses, and the City to do what we can to address the issues that have been raised about traffic, parking, loading and more.

**Seward Café.** The City Planning Commission has unanimously granted the Seward Café's request to rezone their parcel to C2, to allow them to request a beer/wine license that can include general entertainment.

**Seward Senior Housing.** City planning staff are recommending approval to the Planning Commission of Seward Redesign's application for variances, a conditional use permit, and approval of their site plan for construction of a new 60 unit apartment building at 2304 Snelling Avenue. This is the second phase of their development on the old Bystrom site, now known as Seward Commons near In addition to the conditional use permit to allow a multiple family dwelling in the Industrial Overlay District they are requesting the following: a variance to reduce the minimum parking requirement from 54 spaces to 37 spaces; a variance to reduce the minimum lot area requirement by 20 percent; a variance to reduce the rear yard requirement adjacent to the west lot line from 11 feet to 8.9 feet to allow the building; and a variance of the PO overlay district standard requiring the first floor of a building to be located within 8 feet of an adjacent street to allow the first floor to be set back more than 8 feet from Snelling Avenue.

**Tri-State Bearing Building.** Hennepin County has held a public hearing on the Leifman Memorial Foundation's application to repurchase the old Tri-State Bearing building on 25<sup>th</sup> St E. Scott Henderson, who speaks for the Foundation, has made clear that he intends to sell the building to a third party soon after repurchasing it. My office encouraged the hearing officer to make the County's decision to sell the property back to the Foundation contingent on this sale taking place within a short period of time. A potential buyer attended the hearing and made clear that he intends to purchase it immediately after the County resells the building to the Foundation. He currently owns a building in Seward, the An-Nuur center (site of the old American Legion and later Pi Bar) on 25<sup>th</sup> Ave S. He intends to rent the building to another user, and is hopeful that the use will be arts related. City Zoning staff have made clear that any future use of the building will require a change of nonconforming use certificate.

**Margot Imdieke Cross.** I sponsored a resolution honoring West Bank resident Margot Imdieke Cross for her years of service to the City as a member and chair of the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities. Margot has had an important positive impact on the lives of people with disabilities through her work and volunteering, and I'm proud to have her as a constituent.

**Lucky Dragon Public Hearing.** The Lucky Dragon restaurant has applied to upgrade their class of entertainment from a Class E On-Sale Wine and Strong Beer to a Class B On-Sale Wine and Strong Beer. This upgrade will allow Lucky Dragon to offer live bands, DJs, and dancing for special events, private occasions and weddings to be held on the second floor of the restaurant. There will be a public hearing on this application on Monday, October 22nd, at 1:30pm at City Hall, 350 S 5th Street, in Council Chambers, room 317.

**Currie Park Lofts/515 On the Park.** While concerns about the historic building on the site could create delays to the project, the City has applied for \$390,000 in Hennepin County Transit Oriented Development funds for the Currie Park Lofts development that is now being called "515 On the Park". In November the City's Historic Preservation Commission will consider the developer's request to demolish the building. The city's planning division recommends that the Heritage Preservation Commission adopt the above findings and deny the demolition of the Gluek Brewing Saloon at 1500 6th Street South, establish interim protection; and direct the Planning Director to prepare a designation study. Such studies can take several months to complete.

**Longfellow Grill.** The Longfellow Grill's application for an additional 24 seats in its outdoor patio has been approved unanimously by the Council, with the conditions, including 1) to pay for a 'no parking' zone on the entire south side of Dorman, 2) find four off street parking places for Grill employees, and 3) install litter receptacles on the patio.

The **Zombie Pub Crawl** was on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup>. I have received an update on the event from its organizers, and have received some complaints from residents. If you have feedback related to the event, please don't hesitate to let me know. I plan to work with the organizers and bar owners to address concerns for next year's event.

**Baker Building.** The owner of the old auto repair building at 18<sup>th</sup> and Como (1721 Como) has applied for a permit to demolish the building. I anticipate this being granted and am hopeful that we will soon get more details about a new development proposal for the site.

**Red Sea.** The Red Sea Restaurant on Cedar Avenue has applied to upgrade their license from a Class C to a Class B liquor license. This will allow them to do the full range of entertainment that they want to do including live bands, DJs, and dancing. There will be a Public Hearing about this at the next Regulatory Energy and Environment Committee meeting on Monday November 5 at 1:30. I understand that staff will recommend delaying a decision about this for two weeks in order to draft appropriate conditions. I understand that the West Bank Business Association and the West Bank Community Coalition have passed motions supporting the upgrade.

**Apply to Serve on a Boards or Commission.** There are more than 186 open positions on 24 boards and commissions that the City Council and Mayor will appoint this fall. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City. Boards/Commissions with open positions include: Arts Commission, Citizen Environmental Advisory Committee, Civil Rights Commission, Civilian Police Review Authority Vacancy, Dinkytown Special Service District, Disabilities, Mpls Advisory Committee, East Lake Special Service District, Heritage Preservation Commission, Housing Board of Appeals Vacancy, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, Planning Commission, Public Health Advisory Committee, Senior Advisory Committee Vacancy, Stadium Village Special Service District, Telecommunications Network, Minneapolis ThincGreen Advisory Committee, Youth Violence Prevention Committee and the Zoning Board of Adjustments. Applications will be reviewed beginning Friday, October 19, however the positions are open until filled. For a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/index.htm>. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email [cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov](mailto: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.  
1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays, Hard Times Café (West Bank/University);  
2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays, Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como (SE Como);  
3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays, Pratt School (Prospect Park);  
4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays, the Birchwood Cafe (Seward/Longfellow).

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