



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood, 9-24-12

Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
Pratt School, October 16th, 9:30-11am

Items:

- 1) WaHu Student Housing Project
- 2) Stadium Village Small Area Plan
- 3) Register to Vote
- 4) Sample Ballots for November 6 Election
- 5) Civilian Review Authority Dismantled
- 6) Utility Franchise Work Group
- 7) Equity in Employment Resolution
- 8) 2013 Budget
- 9) Major Changes Proposed for Regulatory Services
- 10) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Last Friday, the Council voted to deny an appeal from by Hossein Azhakh, on behalf of the Caspian Bistro, to the WaHu Student Housing project. However, I crafted a condition on the project that requires WaHu to comply with all building code requirements, including snow loading provisions of the building code, and to work with the Caspian Bistro to evaluate the existing structural condition of the Caspian building and the measures that need to be taken to protect its structural integrity and address storm water drainage issues during and after construction.
- 2) In August, the Council approved a Small Area Plan that looks at land use, urban design, housing, economic development, parking and transportation in the Stadium Village University Avenue Station area. The plan generally affirms the current land use framework for the area with its activity center and transit station areas designated for high density mixed use residential and commercial development. It also adds details as to the appropriate mix of uses and character of each sub-area. The area around the Prospect Park station is planned to have the most significant change consistent with the previously adopted University & 29th plan that supports changing to more housing and commercial uses in the older industrial areas while allowing for flexibility regarding the timing and character of that change. The plan also makes recommendations for the public realm including streetscape improvements; pedestrian, bicycle, and multi-modal connectivity; public open space, parks and plazas; and green infrastructure. Student housing, especially closer to the campus and stadium, remains a dominant presence in the market while senior and workforce housing are also called out. The plan also presents a range of parking options. It will now become a part of the City's Comprehensive Plan (pending Met Council approval). The University District Alliance was instrumental in assisting with the public outreach and review, including providing a forum to discuss ideas. For more, visit http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/projects/cped_stadium_village
- 3) If you want to vote in the November 6 general election, but you're not yet registered, you can pre-register. Registered voters who changed their name or moved since they last voted should re-register. Voter registration applications can be picked up at the Minneapolis Elections Office in City Hall or at the Hennepin County Government Center or online: www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=204. If you call my office, 673-2202, we can mail you the application. All eligible individuals whose registration applications are received by elections officials by 5 p.m. on October 16 will be pre-registered for the Nov. 6 election and will receive a postcard notifying them where to vote. Individuals are eligible in Minnesota to vote if they will be at least 18 years old by Election Day, are a U.S. citizen and have lived in Minnesota for at least 20 days prior to the election. For more information about registering and voting in Minneapolis, or to serve as an election judge, visit minneapolismn.gov/elections or call Minneapolis 311, or TTY/TTD 612-673-2157.

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.

- 4) Sample ballots for the upcoming Nov. 6 Presidential General Election are now available for review at either of the following web tools: the Secretary of State's Voter Registration Lookup (mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx), or the Poll-finder/Where do I Vote: pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/. Both of these tools will allow a voter to view his or her Ward/Precinct information, a polling place location (address and building identification), a list of candidates that will be on your ballot, and an unofficial Sample Ballot that can be reviewed anytime through Election Day.
- 5) I voted against the proposal to merge the current Civilian Review Authority with the Police Department's Internal Affairs Unit. The proposal sharply divided the Council, finally passing 8-5. This new ordinance essentially dismantles civilian police oversight in Minneapolis, and I am very sorry that I could not stop it. On a 7-6 margin, the Council rejected an amendment I crafted, which had the support of staff, to increase the number of civilians on the Review Panels from 2 to 3, so that there will be more civilians than police officers on each panel. For more analysis, please see my blog.
- 6) The Council has voted to create a new Utility Franchise Work Group to assist the City in preparing for negotiations regarding its electric and natural gas franchise agreements with public utility companies. I am one of the four Council Members who have been appointed to this Work Group. Among its tasks, the work group will develop a set of policy principles that will guide the city in its franchise discussions; review and consider potential legislative and/or other regulatory changes and consider formal support for these changes on the City's state legislative agenda; and develop a community engagement program. I am very supportive of having this conversation, and exploring all of our options: renewing the franchise agreements, renegotiating them to include more green energy and energy efficiency, or starting the process to become a municipal power utility.
- 7) The resolution *Supporting Equity in Employment in Minneapolis and the Region* that I authored has passed the Council unanimously. 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. 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.
- 8) 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 [minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget). As always I welcome hearing from you about your priorities and concerns related to this significant city decision.
- 9) 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.
- 10) There are openings on the Arts Commission, Capital Long Range Improvement Committee, Charter Commission, Citizen 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, Uptown Special Service District, Youth Violence Prevention Committee, Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.