



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Second Ward

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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, llama 612-673-2700;

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

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Seward Neighborhood 11-28-12

Cam's next Seward Office Hours:
Tuesday, December 25th, 9:30-11:00am
Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St

Items:

- 1) Thank You for Voting
- 2) Constitutional Amendments Defeated
- 3) Birchwood Café Rezoning
- 4) Seward Café Rezoning
- 5) Metropolitan Council Grants
- 6) Tri State Bearing Building
- 7) PUC Rules Against Sherco
- 8) Climate Action Plan
- 9) 2013 Budget
- 10) Airport
- 11) Compost Study
- 12) Food Council Open House
- 13) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) I Thanks to everyone for voting on November 6. Your participation in our democracy is vital to health of our city, state and country. Gratitude is also due to the many election judges and elections professionals that worked hard throughout a long day to ensure the best election possible. Turnout of registered voters in the Second Ward was **81.11%**, citywide it was 80.84%, both higher than the statewide turnout of 76%. Over 200,000 Minneapolis residents voted in person and, of those, 50,668 registered on Election Day. I know that many people waited in long lines in the cold and rain. I am sorry for any inconveniences and I thank you for patience, diligence, and determination to make your voice heard, as some residents had waits of an hour or even longer. As Chair of the Elections Committee I am helping coordinate a full review of this election. This will include a report to the Council's Elections Committee on **December 3rd**, at 11am, that will outline the challenges we faced and a precinct-by-precinct analysis of all polling place issues including long wait times, numbers of election judges per precinct, and space concerns. I welcome your feedback your voting experience and on how well polling places worked in your area. Given the concerns I have already heard, I am already committed to recommending alternative polling places for at least two precincts: for Ward 6 precinct 2 (Seward Square Apartments where wait times were too long and the space was inadequate) and Ward 2, precinct 9, (Seward Towers East that is outside of the precinct and does not serve the residents of the building).
- 2) I am very pleased that both of the the constitutional amendments – to ban same-sex marriage and require voters to have a photo ID – failed yesterday. I'm proud that the City Council took a strong, unanimous stand against both amendments, and that the Second Ward voted so conclusively against them. **84%** of Ward 2 residents voted against the marriage amendment, and **81%** voted against the voter ID amendment.
- 3) The City Council has unanimously voted to rezone the Birchwood Café to C1. This action had the support of the Seward Neighborhood Group, the Seward Civic and Commerce Association, City Planning staff and the Planning Commission. 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.

- 4) The City Council 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.
- 5) Seward Senior Apartments has received \$150,000 in Metropolitan Council grants, to be matched by funds from the City's Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
- 6) Hennepin County has decided to allow the Leifman Memorial Foundation's to repurchase the old Tri-State Bearing building on 25th St E. The sale is conditional on finishing the environmental review and selling the building to a new owner within 120 days. City Zoning staff have made clear that any future use of the building will require a change of nonconforming use certificate.
- 7) I testified at a Public Utilities Commission hearing in favor of requiring Xcel Energy study how clean energy options can replace the dirty Sherco coal plant. I am very pleased to say that the PUC has ruled in favor of my position. I view this as a major win for clean energy, and a possible phase-out of a coal plant that pollutes our air and water.
- 8) The City is updating our Climate Action Plan. The public is invited to an open house to give feedback on draft recommendations that are now before the Climate Action Plan Steering Committee on **Thursday, November 29** from **5:30-7:30pm**, at the U of M Urban Research and Outreach-Engagement Center (UROC), 2001 Plymouth Ave N. The draft recommendations are available at www.minneapolis.gov/sustainability/climate.
- 9) 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.minneapolis.gov/finance/budget/WCMS1P-097420> for more information on the Mayor's recommended budget.
- 10) The Metropolitan Airport Commissions (MAC) has been considering a new navigation system that could expose some people to more noise. This system, called "Area Navigation" or "RNAV," puts planes on more precise routes and they fly the same routes continually. The hope is that by having planes take the most direct route possible there will be savings to fuel (and money) and reduced emissions. Concerns have arisen related to increased aircraft noise over certain areas and insufficient community engagement regarding the tracks, so the City provided comments calling for more time and a better community engagement process. At its meeting on November 19th the MAC voted to not to proceed with new flights path plan proposed to go over Minneapolis.
- 11) Responding to a recommendation by the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee, the Council has directed Solid Waste and Recycling staff to study City collection of Source Separated Organics and report the findings to the Council by April of next year. This study will answer the cost, co-collection, processing and hauling questions, and allow the Council to adopt a clear goal for when the City should begin to collect organic waste in addition to recycling, yard waste and garbage. I view this as a major step towards making our city more sustainable.
- 12) The Minneapolis Food Council is holding an Open House on **Wednesday, December 5**, from 5:30-9pm at East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center, 2307 17th Ave S. Participants will hear an update on Minneapolis' progress with urban agriculture initiatives, hear from two urban farmers and weigh in on possible future policies and programs. The open house will include an information fair with organizations that support urban agriculture; lessons on composting, gardening and bee keeping; and a discussion on the future work of the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council. Sisters Camelot will serve a light dinner from 6-7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public, but please RSVP to jane.shey@minneapolis.gov.
- 13) There are openings on the Arts Commission, Charter Commission, Environmental Advisory Committee, Civil Rights Commission, Disabilities Advisory Committee, Heritage Preservation Commission, Housing Board of Appeals, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, Public Health Advisory Committee, Senior Advisory Committee, MTN Board, ThincGreen Advisory Committee, Youth Violence Prevention Committee and Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolis.gov.