

Minneapolis City of Lakes

Cam Gordon

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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 Longfellow, 2-22-13

Cam's next Cooper/Seward Office Hours: Tuesday, February 26th, 9:30-11:00am Birchwood Café. 3311 E 25th St

Items:

- 1) City Action on Guns
- 2) Minnehaha Avenue: Bike Lanes or Cycle Track?
- 3) Free Tax Prep Help
- 4) City Action on Immigration
- 5) Building Energy Disclosure Ordinance
- 6) Pedal Pub Ordinance
- 7) Small Business Training Opportunity
- 8) Single Sort Recycling Increasing Recycling Rate
- 9) Openings on Boards and Commissions
- 1) The City Council has voted to add new sections on guns for our state and federal legislative agendas. The federal agenda is entirely new, and endorses the Obama Administration's list of recommendations, "Now is the Time: The President's plan to protect our children and our communities by reducing gun violence." The state agenda pulls together previous positions on guns from multiple places in the agenda and puts them all in one, clear section. It also incorporates some new positions. From my perspective, the most important new position we are taking is for an amendment to the state law that preempts the ability of local jurisdictions to implement firearms safety ordinances appropriate to our community. Some other key examples are: creating a gross misdemeanor offense for carrying a firearm while under the influence; reduced access to firearms for those who have experienced a mental health incident; increased discretionary power for municipalities to grant or deny firearm permits; and requiring the reporting of lost or stolen firearms. I continue to press for clarity on the effectiveness of the current laws barring people under the age of 21 from owning and purchasing weapons. It is time for our society to get serious about guns, and I'm proud that Minneapolis is getting on board.
- 2) As you have likely heard, Hennepin County will be reconstructing Minnehaha Avenue in 2014, from Lake Street to 46th Street (in addition, the City will be reconstructing from 46th to Godfrey Parkway). One of the key questions to be resolved before a final layout is approved is whether the bike facility should remain the standard bike lanes that are on Minnehaha currently, or change to a physically separated and protected "cycle track" facility. I am seeking LCC's input on this question. I have supported the concept of physically separated, protected bike facilities for some time; these are used in many of the European cities that have substantially increased the percentage of trips made by bicycle, and are being installed by increasing numbers of North American cities, including New York, Chicago, Portland, Vancouver and Montreal. The current draft of the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan, which I expect to pass the Council in April, includes a recommendation that the City install a network of 30 miles of protected, separated bicycle facilities. The Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee has taken a position in favor of a cycle track on Minnehaha. The Minneapolis Bicycle Coalition has also made protected "Bikeways for Everyone" a priority for its advocacy work in 2013 and beyond. I am eager to see this concept realized in Minneapolis and excited to see it being so seriously considered for Minnehaha.
- 3) A nonprofit called AccountAbility Minnesota is making available free tax and financial services for low- and moderate-income people in the Twin Cities area. People in Minneapolis may sign up for tax clinics at East Side Neighborhood Services, 1700 2nd St NE, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:45pm and Saturdays at 9am; Hope Community Center at 611 E Franklin Ave, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:45pm and Saturdays at 9am; Latino Economic Development Center, 1516 E Lake St, Ste 201, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:45pm and Saturdays at 9am; and the Minneapolis Urban League, 2100 Plymouth Ave N, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 2pm and 5:45pm and Saturdays at 9am. Individuals who make \$30,000 or less per year and families that make \$50,000 or less per year are eligible. For questions or more information, go to www.accountabilitymn.org or call 651-287-0187.

- 4) The City Council has passed new legislative items regarding immigration reform in Minnesota. Specifically, the City would support allowing all students regardless of immigration status who graduate from Minnesota high schools to pay in-state tuition to attend Minnesota public colleges and universities and to apply for scholarships from the U of M and Minnesota State College and University system. The City would also support modifying the Minnesota driver's license procedures to allow information regarding the applicant to be gathered from an identification card issued by a government other than the United States. These policies have proven to be successful in other states, and it's time Minnesota joined in this progress. This action by the Council would not have been possible without a lot of hard work by the Latino Engagement Task Force, and I commend them and the staff with the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department for putting these important recommendations together.
- 5) The Council has unanimously passed a new ordinance that will require all City and other public buildings over 25,000 square feet and eventually all commercial buildings over 50,000 square feet to disclose the energy performance of each building, as rated by the EPA's Portfolio Manager program. The City will share this information publicly, on our website, helping to incent commercial building owners to make energy performance upgrades in order to stay competitive. Buildings will be phased-in over time, with City buildings first, the largest commercial buildings second, and all commercial buildings over 50,000 square feet by 2016. This approach has been tried in many other cities, with considerable success. It is one of the few things that the City can do to tackle climate change at a local level. I am extremely supportive of this work, and have helped develop the ordinance. This ordinance was crafted by an impressive staff team that included Brendon Slotterback and Gayle Prest in Sustainability, Emily Stern in CPED, Patrick Hanlon and Dan Huff in Regulatory Services, and Council Member Glidden and her office. I commend them for their great work.
- Pedal Cars, also known colloquially as the "Pedal Pub." (That is one particular company, and there is another company, the Traveling Tap.) State law requires us to allow them to operate in Minneapolis and I supported this ordinance in part because it will allow us to better license and regulate them. The City typically licenses alcohol-related businesses, and also regulates many transportation businesses like taxis and pedicabs. Over the past months we have heard several concerns about the behavior of some customers and some of the cars. The Bicycle Advisory Committee, on which my Aide represents the City Council, has formally supported the ordinance after having a number of meetings with Licensing staff and folks from the industry. It is good to note that this is one expression of Minneapolis' unique bicycle-friendly culture: the first "pedal pub" in North America was in Minneapolis.
- 7) For the third year, the Minneapolis office of the Small Business Administration has been selected to offer a free intensive training course to area businesses. E200 Emerging Leaders is an intensive training initiative to accelerate growth of high potential small businesses located in America's cities. Developed by the U.S. Small Business Administration, e200 offers qualified business owners powerful benefits including innovative strategies to grow, acquire financing, access new markets and leverage networking. The e200 training is open to small businesses located in the City of Minneapolis or City of Saint Paul and surrounding suburbs with annual revenues between \$400,000 to \$10 million that have been in business for at least three years. This training is not for start-up businesses. E200 is considered a mini-MBA type of training with the case study being the owner's business, but it does require a major time commitment of the CEO. Thirteen classes will begin early/mid April and run through early November. Space is limited to one C-level executive per business. The only costs are your time and commitment to complete the curriculum. Anticipate 100 hours of combined classroom, homework and peer-to-peer mentoring. To request a letter of interest form, contact Cindy Collett at 612-370-2312 (Cynthia.Collett@sba.gov).
- 8) Minneapolis residents have dramatically increased the amount we recycle, now that one-sort recycling is rolling out across the city. Results are in for the first six weeks of one-sort recycling: the four collection routes that switched to one-sort last fall show a 63% increase in recycling over the same period a year ago, when they still used the older multi-sort process. That's 396 more tons of waste recycled. One-sort recycling, where customers combine their glass, plastic, paper, aluminum and cardboard into one container when putting them out for collection, began in the fall for 30,000 Minneapolis residential recycling customers. The other 80,000 households will roll into the program this coming spring and summer. Crews drop off new blue carts for each residential customer, and as soon as they have the cart, they can start using it for one-sort recycling. By making it easier for folks who don't use the multi-sort recycling system at all, or for those who don't recycle as much as they could, the City hopes to double the 2012 recycling rate by 2015. Although residents using one sort no longer need to separately bag their recyclables, they need to make especially sure they recycle properly. Proper recycling will keep the materials valuable; it is important to rinse recyclables and not to mix in garbage or other materials such as yard waste, Styrofoam, plastic foam or plastic bags.
- 9) There are openings on the Arts Commission, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, and Mpls Telecommunications Network. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.