



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Items:

- 1) Street Resurfacing in Seward
- 2) Council Action on Guns
- 3) Midtown Corridor Community Advisory Committee
- 4) 2013 Budget
- 5) Regulatory Services Restructuring
- 6) New Police Chief and Precinct Commander
- 7) Sign Up for Step-Up
- 8) Elections Report
- 9) Report on Bike/Car Crashes
- 10) Open Streets
- 11) Recreational Fire Ordinance
- 12) Trap-Neuter-Return
- 13) "Year of the Dakota" Resolution
- 14) Self-Managed Special Service Districts
- 15) 2012 Report
- 16) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Many of the streets in the eastern portion of Seward will be resurfaced this year. This includes 31st Ave S from Franklin to 28th St E, 25th St E from 36th Ave S to W River Pkwy, and all of the asphalt residential streets bounded on the north by 25th St E or 24th St E, on the northeast by Seabury Ave, on the south by the Greenway, and on the west by 28th or 29th Aves S. I recommend looking at the maps to better understand these projects. The collection of smaller streets is here, www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/all/WCMS1P-102062, 31st Ave S is here www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/all/WCMS1P-102014, and 25th St E is here www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/all/WCMS1P-102009. These streets were originally paved 32 years ago, in 1981. This resurfacing project is intended to prolong the life of these streets by about 10 years. These projects will resurface the asphalt streets **only**; no concrete street work is planned in Seward in 2013. Because these are simple "mill and overlay" resurfacing projects, disruption to each affected block should be limited to fairly short durations. I have asked Public Works to make contact with the Seward Neighborhood Group about these projects.
- 2) In response to the Sandy Hook shootings, the death of a Cedar Riverside two-year-old and the increased national and statewide attention to the issue of guns, the Council will be considering updates to the City's legislative agendas on guns. I am pushing for those updates to include undoing the state preemption of local action on guns, a ban on semi-automatic weapons, a ban on high-capacity magazines, more discretionary power to municipalities to grant or deny gun permits, better background checks, a gun violence commission, changing the age for purchasing handguns from 18 to 21, mandatory reporting of gun theft or loss, renewing the prohibition on people convicted of felony domestic abuse owning guns, and explore including violent misdemeanors in background checks.

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email

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Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

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

- 3) A Community Advisory Committee is forming for the Midtown Corridor Alternatives Analysis, and they are looking for nominations from the Seward Neighborhood Group and the Seward Civic and Commerce Association. If you have experience using public transportation, using Lake Street, and using the Midtown Greenway, please consider applying.
- 4) The City Council approved the City's \$1.085 billion 2013 budget in December. This is 3% less than the 2012 budget, but still includes a 1.77% increase in the total property taxes we will collect. The budget includes more money for streets and other infrastructure. It adds \$2.5 million to the Police Department with the aim of having 10 more officers on the force by next summer and \$1.1 million to the Fire Department. Noteworthy amendments passed include: shifting funds to retain six Community Crime Prevention Specialists; adding two 911 operators, fully funding the City's Domestic Abuse Prosecution team, adding \$46,000 to support the Minneapolis Television Network (MTN) and providing \$40,000 to support Restorative Justice programs in Minneapolis. All of these amendments were accomplished without increasing the total budget, and most will use unexpended revenues from 2012. I supported all of them and co-authored, with Council Member Colvin Roy, an amendment that increased restorative Justice funding to \$40,000.
- 5) The most significant change made through this budget process involved the restructuring of the Regulatory Services Department. Licensing and building inspections have been moved to the Community Planning and Economic Development department and Environmental Health has moved to the Health Department. A smaller, more focused, Regulatory Department will include Housing Inspections, Animal Care and Control and Traffic Control.
- 6) Janee Harteau was officially sworn in as Minneapolis' 52nd chief of police in December and has already made changes to her leadership team. Lucy Gerold, former 3rd precinct Inspector, has taken over the position of head of the new Leadership and Organizational Development Division. The new 3rd Precinct Inspector (Seward, Cooper and Longfellow) will be **Michael Sullivan**, who started with the Department in 1991, was previously assigned to the 3rd Precinct as a Sector Lieutenant, acting as a community liaison for several neighborhoods. I also worked with him closely on Youth Violence Prevention when he was the Juvenile Diversion program. I thank and congratulate Inspector Gerold and look forward to working with Inspector Sullivan in his new leadership role.
- 7) The deadline to apply for a STEP-UP internship is **March 4th**. All youth must apply online. If a youth requires assistance with their application, they can contact Tammy Dickinson at 673-5041 or they can visit the STEP-UP page for agencies that offer staff and/or computer assistance. All applicants must: live in Minneapolis; Be 14-21 years old by June 1, 2013 (no exceptions); Not be currently enrolled in college (PSEO is ok); Be eligible to work in the US by June 1, 2013 and have proper documentation; Meet guideline incomes or have a substantial barrier to getting a job (for example IEPs, English language learners, or pregnant and parenting teens).
- 8) City Clerk Casey Carl presented a report on the 2012 general election to the Council in December. You can read it here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/elections/WCMS1P-100838>. The 2012 election had the highest voter turnout since the 1940s, along with the largest number of same-day voter registrations in Minneapolis history. Some polling locations were insufficient and the Council directed staff to work with key community stakeholders to review all polling place locations to identify and address challenges and identify potential new locations for the most problematic precincts. The committee also reviewed and supported several potential changes to state law including: Early Voting, Vote Centers, and Electronic Poll Books. The City Council also approved the 2013 Municipal Election calendar as follows: Candidate Filing - **July 30 – August 13**, 1st Campaign Finance filing - **September 3**, 2nd Campaign Finance filing - **October 29**. The General Election date will be **November 5**.

- 9) Last week, the Council's Transportation and Public Works committee received a very informative report and presentation from Simon Blenski in the Public Works Bicycle and Pedestrian Office on bicycle crashes in Minneapolis. The report is drawn from ten years of crash statistics in Minneapolis, and provides three key takeaways:
- Most crashes are occurring at intersections along major arterials.
 - Motorists are not seeing or yielding to bicyclists.
 - Bicyclists are not riding in a predictable manner.

Item 1 is very interesting, and speaks to a need to do more projects like Public Works did on 15th Ave SE, where we clearly identified conflict areas between bicycles and turning vehicles. Most of the motor vehicles involved in crashes are making turns, especially left turns. This confirms my interest in the "Copenhagen Model" of cycle track facilities, in which bicyclists are physically separated from cars and intersections are treated very carefully to reduce conflict. In some cases, bicycle and vehicle traffic might need separate signal phases. The worst intersection in Minneapolis for bike/car crashes is **East Franklin Ave and Cedar Ave** in Seward. Currently, this intersection has no formal accommodation for bicyclists; I'm hoping that the Native American Community Development Institute's (NACDI) project will help extend the bike lanes from where they end at Minnehaha over to at least 16th Ave or Bloomington. Another of the top ten most dangerous intersections is the **Hiawatha Trail at 26th St E**. This crossing has been slightly improved (from a triple-threat to a dual-threat westbound) but definitely needs further improvements. Other conclusions from the report are worth noting. The per-capita crash rate has declined as the number of bicyclists has increased. My hope is that this effect will intensify as we build better, more comfortable facilities like cycle tracks, and attract more riders. Other cities have shown that there is a real "safety in numbers" effect: as more people bike, there are fewer and fewer per capita crashes.

- 10) The Council has unanimously voted to accept a \$50,000 grant from the Partnership for a Healthier America to organize four Open Streets events in 2013, along with a resolution formally cosponsoring these events and committing the City to \$50,000 worth of in-kind services (not paid for by the grant). This is a great step forward for Open Streets in Minneapolis, and I'm happy my office played such a key role in applying for this grant. If you have a route on the east side or in south Minneapolis (east of I-35W) that you would like to have considered as one of the new Open Streets events in 2013, please let my office know.
- 11) After receiving the recommendations from the Environmental Advisory Committee and Public Health Advisory Committee, I have given notice of intent to amend the City's ordinance regarding recreational fires. My intent is to prohibit recreational fires on air quality alert days, in keeping with those recommendations. Recreational fires are already prohibited on high-wind days and after 10pm, and can be discontinued if they become a nuisance. I hope to have formal language drafted for a public hearing early next year.
- 12) In 2013 I will be bringing forward a proposal that would allow the City to coordinate and participate in Trap Neuter Return programs to address the problem of Feral, or wild, cats in Minneapolis. For information about a program in New Jersey that might be a model for ours visit <http://www.aplnj.org/projectTNR.php>.
- 13) On December 14, 2012, the City Council unanimously passed a resolution I helped draft that will help us move one small step closer to addressing the grave injustices done to the Dakota people in Minneapolis and Minnesota over the years. It calls for a year of remembering, honoring and truth-telling to help us understand and rectify the wrongs that were perpetrated during, and since, 1862 on the Dakota People and designates "The Year of the Dakota: Remembering, Honoring, and Truth-Telling," from December 26, 2012 to December 26, 2013. My sincere thanks go to Chris Mato Nunpa for helping and inspiring us to get this done.

- 14) Last week, the Council's Transportation and Public Works (TPW) committee passed a motion directing staff to develop a strategy for self-managed special service districts. This policy is on a very tight timeline. Starting with today's staff direction, there will be just under three months to get the policy through the Council. The reason for this fast timeline is that the policy must be in place by April 1 at the latest in order to allow districts that are interested in transitioning to self management or forming as self-managed service districts to proceed with the actions they need to take in order to get up and running at the beginning of 2014. There will be several opportunities to learn more about and comment on these questions. First, Public Works staff have organized a meeting on **Thursday, January 31st**, starting at 3:30pm at the Hiawatha Maintenance Facility, 1901 East 26th Street. Then staff will present a draft policy to TPW at its meeting on **February 26th**. A final recommendation will be presented to TPW on **March 19th**, and finally passed by the Council on **March 29th**.
- 15) 2012 was a busy year for the Second Ward office, with a number of legislative achievements and specific developments and infrastructure improvements in the ward. Major legislative achievements include the **Urban Agriculture** Zoning Code amendments, the **composting ordinance**, a new City commitment to reducing **racial disparities in employment**, and victories on the **marriage amendment** and **voter ID** amendment. Here is a partial list of the developments on the West Bank that we have worked on in 2012:
- Opening of the **Spokes Bike Center** in Seward.
 - Rezoning to allow expansion of the **Birchwood Café** in Seward.
 - Rezoning to allow nighttime hours, entertainment and a beer/wine license for the **Seward Café**.
 - Completion of major **Riverside Avenue** reconstruction activities.
 - Approval of the **Touchstone project** in Seward, and start of construction. This is part of the Bystrom site / Seward Commons redevelopment area.
 - Approval of the **Seward Senior Housing** project in Seward. This is part of the Bystrom site / Seward Commons redevelopment area.
 - Approval of **the Kaah Coffee Shop**, attached to the Seward Market.
- 16) There are openings on the Arts Commission, Capital Long Range Improvement Committee, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, Senior Advisory Committee, Telecommunications Network, ThincGreen Advisory Committee, Youth Violence Prevention Committee, Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.