

Cam Gordon

City Council Member Second Ward

350 South 5th Street - Room 301M Minneapolis MN 55415

> Office 612-673-2202 Fax 612-673-3250 Cell 612-296-0579

Email: cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov www.minneapolismn.gov/council/ward2/

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

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

gov

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 3-27-13

Cam's next Seward Office Hours: Tuesday, April 23th, 9:30-11:00am Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St

Items:

- 1) Trees for \$25
- 2) Minneapolis Wins Roadmaps to Health Prize
- 3) Business License Conditions
- 4) Neighborhoods USA Conference
- 5) 2013 Election
- 6) Downtown Garbage Burner
- 7) Bike Counts Show Increase
- 8) Street Sweeping
- 9) Utility Box Art Wraps
- 10) Mississippi River Trail
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions
- 1) The City of Minneapolis is offering 1,000 trees this spring for only \$25 each. The trees are approximately four to eight feet tall (depending on the species) with one-inch trunks. Any Minneapolis property can order a tree to plant on private Minneapolis property this spring. Varieties include Kentucky coffeetree, northern hackberry, Princeton elm, and Techny arborvitae. Ordering began March 25 at www.treetrust.org or 952-767-3886.
- 2) The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has awarded Minneapolis their inaugural Roadmaps to Health prize. This prize celebrates Minneapolis' community-wide efforts to promote a culture of health. Minneapolis is one of only six cities to receive this prestigious award, which comes with a cash prize of \$25,000. The award honors the City for work led by the Minneapolis Health Department, including increasing access to healthy foods, opportunities for physical activity, and smoke-free living; connecting clinics and communities to prevent chronic disease; making Minneapolis a leader on bicycling; and working to close the educational achievement gap. I'm proud to say that my office has been very involved with nearly all aspects of this work. Ward 2 is home to many of the residential buildings that have gone smoke free, including Glendale Townhomes.
- 3) The Council has amended our ordinances to allow the City to impose business license conditions on businesses with significant and documented violations that threaten public safety and community livability. In most cases when a business has violations, the City and business owner have been able to work together to negotiate conditions to correct the problems. However, a very small number of troublesome business owners have been unwilling to negotiate conditions. In those instances, the City's only course of action has been to begin the license revocation or denial process. This amendment gives the City an additional tool to correct problems. Among other things, it will allow the City to limit hours of operation, restrict where liquor can be sold, limit occupancy levels, limit the means of ingress or egress, and/or restrict where people under age 21 can be admitted.
- 4) On May 22-25, the 2013 for Neighborhoods, USA's 38th Annual Conference will be held in Minneapolis. The conference is expected to bring over 800 people to Minneapolis from across the country to share experiences and learn from each other and will include tours and workshops of potential interest to residents, neighborhood leaders and community activists alike. http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/index.htm

- 5) The Council's Elections committee has taken a number of actions regarding the 2013 municipal election to help insure successful elections and support the purchase of certified Ranked Choice Voting compatible voting equipment. We are also forming of a Polling Place Work Group to evaluate the City's polling places, and make recommendations about modifying the number of precincts and/or polling places. We are also moving forward with work on amendments to our ranked choice voting ordinance, to a) allowing the City to declare unofficial winners when one candidate gets more than 50% of the vote (without having to go through every write-in, etc.), b) only counting unique votes for registered write-in candidates, and aggregating the rest into a broad category of "write-ins," and c) allowing staff to keep more types of voter errors (skipped or duplicate rankings, etc.) in the count.
- 6) Hennepin County's application to increase the amount of garbage they may burn in downtown Minneapolis was discussed in February at the Zoning and Planning Committee. When this came to the Planning Commission over 3 years ago they denied the application. The County then appealed that decision and this has been stuck at the committee level ever since. It was clear at the committee that we had the authority to deny the appeal. I favored this position in part because of the long delay, but also, more importantly, because the evidence supports the findings of the Planning Commission that increasing the capacity of the garbage burner could be detrimental to public health, safety, that it could be injurious to the use and enjoyment of other property in the vicinity and could impede the development and improvement of surrounding property for uses permitted in the district. Despite my opposition, the committee supported a continued postponement until after the state's environmental review is complete. If and when new information is presented as part of that process I will certainly consider it carefully before taking another vote in the future. In general I support much more aggressive goals to move us to a no-waste city and county. It is worth noting that under the current practices, even as Minneapolitans reduce waste, increase composting and recycle more, the amount of waste burned at the downtown facility will not change because the county continues to bring waste in from other cities.
- 7) In February, Transit for Livable Communities released their counts of bikers and walkers for 2012. Counts at 40 locations indicate that bicycling increased 50.5% and walking 23.5% between 2007 and 2012. Between 2011 and 2012, bicycling increased only 1.8%, and walking 2.4%. Once again Ward 2 locations had some of the highest number of bikers. The top location was at 15th Ave SE with one of the highest shares of nonmotorized traffic of any benchmark location. From 2011 to 2012, the share increased from 67% to 74%, with an estimated 17,569 trips a day. You can see the full report here http://www.bikewalktwincities.org/news-events/bwtc-2012-count-report.
- 8) On April 9 city crews will start cleaning all city streets and alleys. From April 9 through May 3, sweepers will take care of all 1,000 miles of city streets and parkways. In addition to the "No Parking" signs that will be posted the day before sweepers come through, the City will make about 3,500 automated phone calls each evening to let residents know their street will be swept the next day. Folks can also use the City's Web site to find out when the sweepers are coming go to www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping and click on "street sweeping schedule lookup," to find out which week a street is scheduled to be swept. The weekend before that week, they can revisit the Web site to find out which day of the week the street is scheduled to be swept. You can also view streetsweeping videos at www.YouTube.com/cityofminneapolis.
- 9) The City of Minneapolis Art in Public Places program has announced a unique opportunity for local artists to submit designs for utility box wraps open to professional artists who live or work in Minneapolis. Selected artists will be paid an honorarium of \$1,000. The deadline for applications is Wednesday, April 17, at 4 p.m. There will be an informational meeting for interested artists on Tuesday, March 26, 5:30 p.m. at Reverend Martin Luther King Park, 4055 Nicollet Ave, Minneapolis. For more information visit www.minneapolismn.gov/dca or contact Mary Altman at mary.altman@minneapolismn.gov.
- 10) The City Council approved a resolution supporting the development of the Mississippi River Trail through Minneapolis. The route would be a part of a much larger interstate bike trail stretching from the headwaters of the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico. The Minneapolis section of "U.S. Bike Route 45" will follow existing on-street and off-street bikeways along both sides of the river. The project is being led and funded in part by the Minnesota Department of Transportation, which has asked local governments to adopt resolutions in support of the effort. With the council's vote, the City commits to maintaining signs along the route through Minneapolis. More info: www.dot.state.mn.us/bike/mrt
- 11) Applications are now being accepted for 47 open positions on the following 10 City boards and commissions: Arts Commission, Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, Minneapolis Workforce Council, Neighborhood & Community Engagement Commission, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, Seniors Advisory Committee, Minneapolis Television Network. Applications will be reviewed beginning April 26, 2013. However, the positions are open until filled. For a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings.