



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

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# Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 2-20-13

**Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:  
Tuesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am  
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave**

## Items:

- 1) City Action on Guns
- 2) Free Tax Prep Help
- 3) Cedar Riverside Community Fire Academy
- 4) Mixed Blood Receives Mellon Grant
- 5) 2013 Good Neighbor Fund Grants
- 6) City Action on Immigration Policy
- 7) Building Energy Disclosure Ordinance
- 8) Commercial Pedal Car Ordinance
- 9) University Parking Overlay Amendments
- 10) 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) 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.accountabilitymn.org) or call 651-287-0187.
- 3) Blue Cross and Blue Shield has funded a Community Fire Academy in the West Bank neighborhood. Participating teens will learn and become certified in CPR and First Aid, become familiar with the duties of Minneapolis firefighters and develop skills to promote health and fire safety in the community. Teens will receive training on fire extinguisher use, ropes and knots, as well as medical emergencies. The first meeting is in January and participating teens will graduate at a ceremony at the Global Youth Service Day event in the spring – receiving Cedar Riverside Minneapolis Fire Ambassador badges and becoming liaisons between the fire department and the community.
- 4) Congratulations to Mixed Blood Theatre for receiving a Mellon grant that will enable them to hire full-time playwrights for three years! The grants cover salaries and benefits and are for \$175,000 to \$200,000. Mixed Blood is one of only two theaters in Minneapolis to be awarded a Mellon grant, and Minneapolis is the only city outside of New York to have two theaters chosen.

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email [Ahmed.Muhumud@minneapolismn.gov](mailto: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.

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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, llame 612-673-2700;

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

- 5) The U of M Stadium Area Advisory Group is now inviting applications for grants from the 2013 Good Neighbor Fund. Grant applications are due by 4:00 p.m. on March 1, 2013. You will find the Request for Applications and Application Form at <http://www.community.umn.edu/gnf>. In 2013, a total of \$47,500 will be available for grants for projects which take place in and benefit the area impacted by the University's on campus football stadium. Eligible applicants are the organizations that are represented on the Stadium Area Advisory Group. Questions are welcome via email to [gfund@umn.edu](mailto:gfund@umn.edu); or phone at (612) 624-6504.
- 6) 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.
- 7) 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.
- 8) The Council has passed an ordinance authored by Diane Hofstede that will begin to require licenses for Commercial 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.
- 9) I have started the process to introduce an ordinance that would change the parking requirement in the University Area Overlay. I have introduced this due to concerns I have heard from folks from the U area about some of the ordinance's unintended consequences. One of the primary reasons why I want to lead on this effort is so that I can help make sure the issue gets fully vetted and influenced by all the views of our University partners who helped create the overlay district. Specifically, I want this to be developed with and through the University District Alliance and all the neighborhood organizations and business associations within the district. In rough draft form here are 4 options I have come up with, with more details yet to be specified:
  - Change the requirement to another multiplier, for instance .25 spaces per bedroom.
  - Exempt larger apartment buildings from the requirement so that they would fall under the city-wide 1 space per dwelling unit.
  - Exempt projects in close proximity to a major public transit line or station/stop.
  - Allow buildings to provide less than one space per unit, by simply applying the ".5 spaces per bedroom" standard and delete the "but not less than one space per unit" requirement in the current rules.
  - Some combination of these.
- 10) 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](mailto:cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov).