

## **Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to SNG, 6-28-06**

**Cam's next Seward Office Hours:  
Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am  
Seward Tower East Advantage Center, 2910 E Franklin**

### **Items:**

- I. Community Engagement Forum 7-25-06
- II. Riverside Market Task Force
- III. Youth Violence Prevention Grants
- IV. Report on Somali Youth Problems
- V. Elected Official use of Blogs
- VI. Opening on Ethical Practices Board
- VII. CRA Work Group

- I. As part of my ongoing series of roundtable discussions on issues important to the Second Ward, I will be hosting a forum on community engagement. It will be held on **Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> from 7-9pm at Brackett Park, 2728 39th Ave S.** In the months ahead the City Council will consider ways to improve citizen participation. At the same time, many neighborhood organizations are struggling to survive and the future of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program is in question. We will be discussing these and other important questions:
  - **How can we involve more people in City decisions?**
  - **How can the City better support neighborhood organizations in their important work?**
  - **How will citizen participation efforts and neighborhood groups be funded in the future?**
  - **How can neighborhoods better support the work of City Hall?**
  - **How can we all be more inclusive of those who too often go underrepresented in our meetings?**
- II. Congratulations to the Riverside Market Site task force on a successful community input meeting last Saturday. I will continue to actively engage in the process of making this development – and the development of Franklin between Hiawatha and the river – meet the needs and live up to the standards of the Seward neighborhood.
- III. The Confederation of the Somali Community of Minnesota has received a \$21,200 Youth Violence Prevention Grant to expand street based outreach to Somali youth and expand staff to facilitate home visits to parents of high risk Somali youth. When I worked to make these funds available, I had hoped that some of the resources would be used to prevent youth violence in Second Ward neighborhoods. Congratulations to the Confederation and thanks to the Department of Health and Family Support for their leadership on this.

- IV.** The Department of Civil Rights has released a “Report on Somali Youth Issues,” which explores some of the challenges facing Somali youth and makes recommendations for positive steps the larger community can take to help. The report will be available online at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/civil-rights/>, and in print/electronic form and in Somali in a few weeks.
- V.** The Council recently passed my resolution allowing Elected Officials to use blogs (as I have been doing since March).
- VI.** There are openings on the Minneapolis Ethical Practices Board, whose purpose is “to promote high ethical standards and conduct, and to foster a healthy ethical culture throughout Minneapolis city government.” For more information, look here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open> or call Assistant City Attorney Susan Trammell at 673-3230.
- VII.** There is an opportunity for the public to comment on the work of the Civilian Police Review Authority work group **tomorrow, June 29, at 8am at City Hall room 319**. The work group has made a number of recommendations, but there are still many important issues on the table. The City will also be soliciting comments at later public meetings (including at least one in the evening) and in writing.