

## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 6-19-08

**Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:  
Tuesday July 1, 9:30-11:00am  
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave**

### Items:

- 1) Stabbing on the West Bank
- 2) 20<sup>th</sup> Resurfacing Public Hearing
- 3) Central Corridor
- 4) Intern Andy Lee
- 5) Towing and Booting
- 6) West Bank Farmer's Market
- 7) Nonmotorized Transportation grants
- 8) NRP
- 9) Free Speech
- 10) Lurking
- 11) Pre-Employment Drug Testing
- 12) Idling Ordinance
- 13) Cedar Cultural Center Marquee
- 14) Sherman Associates
- 15) Sergeant Preston's
- 16) National Night Out
- 17) Bicycle Rules Statute
- 18) Annual Sustainability Report
- 19) Homeownership Workshops
- 20) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) As you've likely heard, there was a fatal stabbing at 2am near the intersection of 19th Ave S and 7th Ave S. The victim is a 20 year old white male named Joe Sodd III, who is not a University of Minnesota student. There are no suspects in custody at this time and investigators with the Minneapolis Police Department Homicide Unit are following leads. Anyone with information about the incident is asked to call the Minneapolis Police Department tip line at 612-692-8477. The Inspector of the First Precinct has committed to me that the Sector 2 (which includes the West Bank) will receive four additional officers from the 32 recently hired.
- 2) There will be a community meeting on the proposed resurfacing of 20<sup>th</sup> Ave S on **Tuesday, July 8<sup>th</sup>**, at 7pm at the Brian Coyle Center. There will also be a public hearing on this project at the Transportation and Public Works committee meeting on **Tuesday, July 15**, at 9:30am. Residential properties along 20<sup>th</sup> will be charged 13 cents per square foot within what the City calls the "street influence zone."
- 3) The Governor and legislative leaders made an end-of-session deal that includes \$70 million in state funding for the Central Corridor LRT project. Lawmakers also passed a measure that will exempt the Central Corridor from state sales tax, which will save the project about \$9 million. Additionally, the Metropolitan Council has voted to proceed with the Washington Ave alignment, rather than the Northern alignment alternative. This decision was driven in large part by the data that showed that the number of anticipated riders did not justify the cost of Northern Alignment and it would not fit into the federal government's Cost Effectiveness Index. I am hopeful that this decision will now allow this project to go forward. It is also clear that buses will remain on the Washington Mall, rather than being rerouted through surrounding neighborhoods. The City is poised to approve Municipal Consent on the project this Friday, and we continue to work on a Memorandum of Understanding with the University, County and Met Council on traffic and other necessary mitigations.
  - 4) My office has hired University student and Riverside Park resident Andy Lee as a summer outreach and organizing intern. Andy will helping organize buckthorn removal and other betterment of Riverside Park, as well as researching Student Ambassador programs in other college communities, distributing student renter Welcome Packets this fall and helping to organize block clubs.
  - 5) I supported a ban on "booting" vehicles in private lots, except in instances in which towing is not an option for the private property owner (like Theater in the Round). I am also very supportive of a move to cap towing fees at 150% of what the City pays towing companies for public tows. This will come before the Council this Friday, and I am hopeful that it will pass.

- 6) Be sure to check out the West Bank Farmers' Market, Brian Coyle Center, Mondays 3-7pm, July 7 - Sept 29.
- 7) Transit for Livable Communities is considering the City's Nonmotorized Transportation grant applications, including the improvements to the 5<sup>th</sup> Street sidewalk and the Cedar/Riverside and Seven corners intersections. We expect them to make a decision on which projects to fund on July 1.
- 8) Thanks to great organizing by neighborhoods and our state legislators, the state legislature approved allowing the City to continue to use tax increment funds to pay principal and interest on bond obligations issued by the city of Minneapolis or the Minneapolis Community Development Agency for the Target Center, including payment of principal and interest on any bonds issued to repay bonds or loans and for neighborhood revitalization purposes. The legislation leaves it in the City Council's hands to determine what percentage of the tax increment goes to Target debt relief and what to neighborhood revitalization and we have yet to see how the City Council will respond to this, but clearly it makes an extension or continuation of NRP (reformed or not) possible. The Council will hear a report back from the NRP Framework for the Future Task Force and City staff at Committee of the Whole on **June 19<sup>th</sup>**, 10am.
- 9) CM Paul Ostrow's mandatory protest registration process passed the Council earlier this month. We were able to win a significant victory, however, by creating a "sunset" clause that means the process will not be permanent, but in place just for the week of the Republican National Convention. I still voted against the proposed process, and I continue to believe that it is a mistake. I am continuing to work to strengthen a resolution setting forth clear MPD policies for the convention this summer, and other political demonstrations.
- 10) It seems that I likely do not have the votes to repeal the Lurking ordinance, even with the compromise I offered on expanding Loitering. I will therefore withdraw the compromise and ask for an up or down vote on repealing Lurking this Friday. Thanks to West Bank business owner and Community Coalition board member Todd Smith for testifying in favor of the Lurking repeal. I will continue to work to take bad, discriminatory laws off the books, and hope that in the future the Council will be more open to this.
- 11) The pre-employment drug testing policy that I voted against in Executive committee has also failed in Ways and Means on a 4-2 vote. I think there may be the votes on the full Council to limit this sort of invasive and dubiously productive testing to those who have safety sensitive jobs, such as 911 dispatchers.
- 12) The Council has unanimously passed the anti-idling ordinance I wrote about last month, with my strong support.
- 13) My office worked with the Zoning Administrator to ensure that the Cedar Cultural Center may take down their marquee to fix it, rather than going to the expense and trouble of fixing it while it is attached to the building.
- 14) At my request, Sherman Associates has committed to investing in off-duty police officers on the Riverside Plaza block this summer.
- 15) The downgrade of Sergeant Preston's license from a Class B to a Class E will come before the Public Safety and Regulatory Services committee next Wednesday, June 25.
- 16) National Night Out Planning Week is **June 16-22**. If you have NNO questions, visit [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno) or call 311. NNO event registration and street closure application is free! There is no charge to request a street closure for an NNO event before July 22, and you'll be eligible for a door prize drawing. From July 23-July 31, there is a \$100 late fee. Applications for street closure will not be accepted after July 31.
- 17) Partly due to a request by my office, Representative Phyllis Kahn has introduced a bill, for consideration next year, to substantially improve the traffic laws with regards to bicycles. For cyclists, the proposal would make stop signs function like yield signs, and stop lights function like stop signs. I will be working within the City to support this on our legislative agenda.
- 18) The City's annual sustainability report was published last month. The report tracks 24 indicators that reflect the over all health and well being of the city. You can read it here: [http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/docs/LivingWell\\_2008AnnualReport.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/docs/LivingWell_2008AnnualReport.pdf)
- 19) The African Development Center is hosting Homeownership Workshops on **July 5th** and **12th**, at Seward Tower West, 2515 S 9th St. For more information please contact Stephen Wreh-Wilson at 612-333-4772, ext 106, or 763-443-5914.
- 20) There are openings on the Civil Rights Commission (closes 6/27/08), Ethical Practices Board (7/3/08), Heritage Preservation Commission, Workforce Council (6/27/2008), Public Housing Authority Board Truth In Sale of Housing Appeals Board (6/27/2008) Truth In Sale of Housing Appeals Board (6/27/2008) and Zoning Board of Adjustment (6/27/2008). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email [cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).