

News from Cam Gordon
Council Member, Second Ward
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward2/>

Take the Minneapolis Energy Challenge! The Minneapolis Energy Challenge is a great opportunity for folks to learn how to lower your energy bill and protect the environment by lessening your impact on climate change. Two energy fairs will feature demonstrations and displays about taking the Energy Challenge, home energy audits, energy efficient furnaces, and financing options for energy saving improvements and renewable energy. There will also be kids' activities, and the first 500 people at each fair will receive a free compact fluorescent light bulb. The fairs are:

Monday, Oct. 16, 6-9 p.m. at Hale Elementary School, 1220 54th St. E., newscaster Don Shelby will speak at 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 24, 6-9 p.m. at Jenny Lind Community School, 5025 Bryant Ave. N., Arctic explorer Will Steger will speak at 7:30 p.m.

For more information on the Minneapolis Energy Challenge, call 612-335-5881 or visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/energychallenge/>

Ranked Choice Voting Roundtable, 10-26-06. As one of my ongoing series of roundtable discussions, I will be hosting a conversation about Ranked Choice Voting (also known as IRV) at Matthews Park on October 26th, 7-9pm. For more information on IRV, go here: <http://betterballotcampaign.org/>

Arsenic Ordinance. I have introduced an ordinance requiring that landlords within the South Minneapolis arsenic contamination site inform their prospective and current tenants about the level of contamination the EPA has found in their soil. It will also require that home sellers disclose known soil contamination to home buyers citywide. This ordinance will come before the HE&E committee for a public hearing on October 12th, at 1:30pm.

Appointment of Interim Chief Dolan. As you've likely heard, Mayor Rybak has nominated Interim Chief Dolan to be the permanent Minneapolis Police Chief. I am still undecided on this nomination. I have significant concerns about Tim's commitment to real community policing models and accountability for police officers. I welcome and ask for your input on this difficult decision. If the nomination is voted through the Executive Committee on October 11th, the public hearing on this appointment will take place on Wednesday October 18th at 1:30 pm at a special meeting of the PS&RS Committee.

Youth Violence Prevention. I have been working with the city-sponsored Youth Violence Prevention Community Leaders Forum I helped start to redefine youth violence as a public health (as well as public safety) issue. Working with community leaders we are developing a comprehensive approach to addressing and eradicating youth violence, using a public health perspective. Stay tuned and look for significant initiatives related to this to be coming forward next month.

Urban Windpower Task Force. My office has put together a group of wind industry experts to talk about how we can change the zoning code to broaden the uses of wind turbines within the city. It will meet in mid-October.

New Second Ward Website. The Second Ward website has a new look, including a graphic interface and individual neighborhood resource pages. Check it out here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward2/>. We are attempting to make it easier for

residents to access the resources available in their neighborhoods. Please look carefully at your neighborhood's resource page and let my office know if you have any changes or additions.

Taxi Cap. At the last PS&RS committee, I voted in favor of an ordinance change to gradually lift the artificial cap on the number of taxi licenses granted in Minneapolis. I believe that gradually lifting the cap on taxi licenses in Minneapolis will be good for taxi drivers (present and future), customers and the city at large, in the long term. I also supported Council President Johnson's proposal to create a task force on taxi policy.

I highlighted three things in particular that I thought the task force should focus on:

- Ending the prohibition on Minneapolis Licensed cabs from also being licensed in the suburbs.
- Exploring how to mitigate the hardship that phasing out the cap will place on current holders of licenses, and
- Examining further the recommendations of the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities regarding wheelchair accessible cab service.

Fuel-efficient taxis. An amendment I co-authored with CM Schiff passed the last PS&RS committee, which will require all newly-licensed taxicabs to be fuel efficient, and increase the percentage of every taxi company's fleet that is fuel efficient by 10% per year until 100% of Minneapolis taxis are fuel efficient in 2016. I also authored an amendment that will allow cab companies to use wheelchair-accessible or fuel efficient for three additional years (from 5 years to 8). These ordinance amendments are a great example of the importance of the recently-adopted Sustainability Indicators – they encourage us to think about sustainability in every action we take.

Rental Licensing Ordinance. I have introduced an ordinance that is working its way through the process, to strengthen rental license rules and make violations of the City's Building Code and unpaid water bills grounds for license revocation or refusal to renew. It will come up for a public hearing on October 11th at the PS&RS committee, at 1:30pm.

Plan to End Homelessness. The draft report from the City-County Commission to End Homelessness is now available online: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/homelessness/>. I enthusiastically support this report, and will work to make the City follow its recommendations.

Mayor's Recommended Budget. I welcome any and all comments on the Mayor's proposed budget, which you can view here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/city-budget/2007recommended/>.

Big Stone II. I will be introducing a resolution against the construction of the Big Stone II coal plant. This plant will provide electricity to the Twin Cities metro, and will certainly provide us with a plume of mercury-laden emissions. It will also undermine efforts to build new wind capacity in Southwest MN.

Department of Environment. I am working with the Mayor and Council Member Benson to create a new department in the City focused on Energy and the Environment.

There are currently five Empowerment Zone Resident vacancies. One (1) vacancy is for the unexpired term of an EZ Resident ending September 20, 2007. One (1) vacancy is for an EZ Resident between 14 and 20 years old for a term beginning immediately and expiring September 20, 2008. Three (3) vacancies are for EZ Residents with terms beginning September 21, 2006 and expiring September 20, 2009. Call 673-3358 or look here for an application: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open>.

As always, please feel free to contact me anytime if you have questions, ideas or concerns.

Yours, in peace and cooperation,

Cam Gordon
Minneapolis City Council Member, Second Ward
673-2202, 296-0579
cam@camgordon.org
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward2/>