



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

**Cam Gordon**

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**Council Member Cam Gordon's  
Report to Southeast Como, 9-1-09**

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:  
Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am  
SECIA Office, 837 15th Ave SE

**Items:**

- 1) 2010 Budget
- 2) Alliance Ordinance Changes Pass
- 3) Park Board Charter Amendment Kept Off Ballot
- 4) Central Corridor Moves Forward
- 5) Expansion of Premises Near Stadium
- 6) Doorknocking with Student Ambassadors
- 7) Police Policy Manual Discussion
- 8) SAC Fees
- 9) Crime Down Citywide
- 10) Youth Violence Prevention Efforts Continue
- 11) Downtown Garbage Burner
- 12) Como Student Coop
- 13) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) Mayor Rybak has delivered his 2010 budget address. As expected, the budget is severely strained due to significant cuts in State aid (cut by \$40 million in 2009-10), mounting pension obligations (\$25 million in 2010) and growing health insurance costs (\$48 million in 2009). I am happy to see that the Mayor is keeping our commitment to jobs, an especially important issue in this time of high unemployment and financial turmoil. The mayor has proposed a total of \$19 million in cuts to the general fund since last December and this will lead to about 225 position eliminations. My largest point of disagreement with the Mayor relates to the funding of our neighborhood organizations. He is recommending that we reduce overall neighborhood funding by at least 25% from the levels we committed to last year (which were, for me, a significant compromise in themselves). I will be working throughout the budget process to bring whatever cuts we must make to neighborhoods more in line with the cuts we're willing to make to our city departments.
- 2) The University District Partnership Alliance-supported ordinance changes I authored regarding off street parking requirements and the administrative review for new homes unanimously passed the City Council on August 14.
- 3) Last Friday, I voted against a motion to prevent the Park Board charter amendment from being placed on the ballot. I disagreed with the City Attorney's opinion that placing it on the ballot would be unconstitutional, because it would clearly only have gone into effect after an action of the Legislature. I believe that we must be very careful not to allow our personal judgments to impact decisions on questions that *citizens have petitioned* to place on the ballot. I wish that neither of the 'sides' of this argument had taken the actions they have this year, including three Council Members' proposal to scrap the Park Board, the proposal to abolish the board of Estimate and Taxation that has made it onto the ballot, and this most recent attempt by the park board to increase their powers. I will be advocating to all of my colleagues (including Park Commissioners) that we return to the spirit of the agreement reached earlier this year to form a blue ribbon committee next year to study the relationship between the City and the Park Board, and come up with constructive recommendations for improving it.
- 4) The Federal Transit Administration has released the Record of Decision on the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit project, which means that the project will go forward. Negotiations will continue with the University around vibration and electromagnetic interference, but this action by the FTA makes clear that this critical project will now move forward.

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact Matt Bower at (612) 673-2188 or

[Matthew.Bower@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:Matthew.Bower@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).

If you want help translating this call – Hmong– Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2188;

Spanish – Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2188;

Somali – Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' an wac 612-673-2188.

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- 5) I will be doorknocking in the Southeast Como neighborhood this Friday with the University Student Ambassadors, attempting to reach new student renters and welcome them to the neighborhood. Some of the major points we'll be stressing will be that this is a mixed neighborhood of longterm homeowners and student renters, that there are good ways for renters to avoid conflicts with their neighbors, and that resources, including my office and SECIA, are out there to help. I'm thrilled that this initiative – which I have been consistently asking the University to put in place since taking office – is getting off the ground.
- 6) At tomorrow's Public Safety and Regulatory Services committee, I expect us to set a public hearing for September 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss the ordinance I have introduced, which will increase the allowable opportunities for on sale liquor, wine and beer establishments near the University of Minnesota football stadium to temporarily expand their licenses and premises for special events. I am supportive of this idea provided there are strict conditions placed on the bars and the geographic area is limited to within a block or two of the stadium.
- 7) The Police Department will make a presentation this Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, to the Public Safety and Regulatory Services committee about including more input from non-MPD sources in future changes to their Policy and Procedure Manual. After several changes for the worse have been made in recent years, including changes to the Taser policy and the squad car video policy that I believe endanger the public, it is vitally important that people outside the Department, including the Council, the Mayor's Office, the Civilian Review Authority and the Attorney's Office, have an opportunity to weigh in before future changes are made.
- 8) I testified at a public meeting hosted by the Metropolitan Council on August 11<sup>th</sup>, to discuss their proposed changes to the Service Availability Charge or SAC fee system for outdoor seating. The Met Council has, for the last few years, been requiring that new outdoor seating pay a full SAC fee (a onetime cost of \$800 per four chairs). The City, led by Council Member Lisa Goodman and me, has advocated that this be reduced. Outdoor seating does not see as much use as indoor, because it is used at most half of the year and not commonly during inclement weather. The Met Council, responding to our concerns, has proposed to reduce the fee to 50% of the standard. I do not believe that reduction is enough, and advocated for a 25% rate.
- 9) For the third straight year crime in our city is on the decline, and it's falling to the lowest level in years. Minneapolis violent crime rates half-way through the year are at the lowest level in eight years and the city's homicide rate is the lowest in 25 years. Through June 2009, citywide violent crime is nearly 17 percent lower than this point in 2008, nearly 28 percent lower than in 2007, and nearly 39 percent lower than in 2006. Violent crime in Minneapolis is more than 20 percent lower than it was ten years ago. Along with violent crimes, part 2 "livability" crimes have consistently fallen over the past decade. Part 2 crimes last year were 22 percent lower than in 2001 and 13 percent lower than in 2006. Minneapolis has focused on proactive policing, targeting the most violent criminals and reducing youth violence to drive down crime rates, and that work is paying off.
- 10) The tragic homicide of a 7 week old infant in July, is the first homicide of a juvenile in Minneapolis. His 19 year old father has been charged in the case. In general juvenile violent crime arrests are showing a downward trend. A YTD comparison from 2007-2009 reveals a 30% city-wide reduction in violent crime arrests while total violent crime reports for juveniles are down 37% during the same time period. We recently submitted Byrne grant proposals for federal stimulus funds to support "shovel ready" community-based programs in their youth development/ violence prevention activities. Additionally, on September 8, the city and Minneapolis public school system will launch a new youth hotline, **1-800-SPEAK-UP**, where youth can report (via voice or text) weapons possession or potential threats in a confidential manner. See <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/yv.asp> for the full quarterly reports.
- 11) I expect that the downtown garbage burner's conditional use permit application will be held over at the next Zoning and Planning committee meeting this Thursday until mid-November. My understanding is that the County is still working with state officials from the MPCA and the state attorney general's office to determine if an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) (which could then lead to an Environmental Impact Statement or EIS) might be required.
- 12) Como Student Cooperative at 1024 27th Ave SE has been awarded a State Environmental Remediation Grant of \$712,437. The project site consists of three existing student housing buildings and adjacent green space. Contaminated fill material was discovered during recent waterproofing work on the buildings and during rain garden construction.
- 13) There are openings on the Minneapolis Zoning Board of Adjustment (closes 9/25). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email [cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).