

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Cedar Riverside, 9-19-07

**Cam's next Cedar Riverside Office Hours:
Tuesday October 4, 9:30-11:00am
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave**

Items:

- 1) Small Area Plan Public Meeting
- 2) 10th Ave Bridge Reopens
- 3) I-35W Bridge Redevelopment Concerns
- 4) Last Friday's Critical Mass
- 5) Local Produce Markets
- 6) Requiring Produce in Grocery Stores
- 7) Kwok
- 8) CLIC Appointee needed
- 9) Unpaid Judgments ordinance passes
- 10) Public Meetings on Transportation Plans
- 11) Street Lighting Policy Public Meetings
- 12) Proposed "Protest Permit" ordinance
- 13) Public Art Policies Phase III
- 14) DeLaSalle
- 15) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The City will host a third public meeting designed to gather input on the future direction of the Cedar Riverside neighborhood on **Tuesday, September 25, 2007, 7-9pm, Brian Coyle Community Center, 420 15th Avenue South**. Discussion items include better connections for pedestrians and bicyclists; Central Corridor station conceptual designs; economic development strategies; and development guidelines.
- 2) The 10th Avenue Bridge over the Mississippi River reopened Friday, August 31 in time for the first day of classes at the University and the Minneapolis Public Schools. City workers have added a walkway and new pedestrian viewing area on the upstream side. The bridge also carries one lane of mixed use traffic in each direction, a bike lane in each direction and the preexisting sidewalk. I have heard concerns from some residents about the configuration, and would appreciate your input on how well you believe it is working.
- 3) I have heard that MNDOT has some interest in closing 14th Ave S, between Seven Corners Apartments and I-35W. This would result in the loss of a critical parking area that serves Seven Corners residents and visitors. At a meeting this Monday, MNDOT committed to "try" to keep 14th open, and I have communicated to City staff that I fully support keeping 14th Ave S open and keeping the existing critical parking area. I have also been working to position Bluff Street Park as the most appropriate site for a memorial to the I-35W bridge collapse tragedy, and will continue to push for this as the rebuilding of the bridge progresses.
- 4) As you may have heard, there was a significant incident at last Friday's Critical Mass, a monthly group bicycle ride. Nineteen people were arrested, many more were pepper sprayed. The arrestees included one of the Second Ward Interns. I have serious concerns about the police's response on Friday, and will be pushing for a formal review of both the specifics of the event and the MPD's plans for dealing with future nonviolent protests, especially during next year's RNC convention.
 - 5) Responding to a staff directive I championed, City staff have come up with a new, cheaper and easier permitting process for small Local Produce Markets like the one that the City and the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy helped establish at Brian Coyle Center. These Local Produce Markets must have five vendors or fewer, all of whom grow their own produce. Their permitting fees will go from over \$400 to \$154, and the application will go from a large packet to one double-sided piece of paper. I consider this a major step forward on supporting local, sustainable agriculture and increasing access in poor communities to high-quality, nutritious foods.

- 6) Regulatory Services staff have presented the Council with a proposal that all businesses with grocery store licenses carry “staple” food items. I am working with my colleagues to strengthen this recommendation to ensure that all licensed grocery stores have an adequate stock of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- 7) I am very happy to report that K-Wok restaurant closed on the purchase of their property this morning at the Associated Bank office. Congratulations to Kwok’s owners and thanks to the City staff team who helped make this happen.
- 8) I am looking for a new appointee to the Capital Long Range Improvement Committee (CLIC) appointee. CLIC makes recommendations to the City Council and Mayor on capital improvement program development and annual capital improvement budgets. It meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, with additional meetings at the call of the chair. I welcome your recommendations and letters of interest.
- 9) The ordinance I introduced giving the City the authority to revoke or not renew rental licenses to landlords who have unpaid legal judgments against them has passed the Council. This ordinance is a win for tenants’ rights.
- 10) The City is hosting public meetings to discuss the City’s draft Ten-Year Transportation Plan and its Streetcar Feasibility Study. The public will have an opportunity to provide feedback on plan recommendations and to discuss key transportation issues facing Minneapolis. The meeting closest to Cedar Riverside will be on **October 24, 6:30-8:30 pm, at the Van Cleve Recreation Center.**
- 11) The City of Minneapolis is hosting a series of open houses in September to give folks the opportunity to learn about a proposed Street Lighting Policy and Program, and to share your feedback. Public Works is sponsoring the meetings, which are each scheduled from 7-8:30 pm at the following locations near the Second Ward: **Wednesday, September 26 at Van Cleve Park, and Thursday, September 6 at City Hall Room 220, 350 S Fifth St.** For more dates and locations, please see the City’s website: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us.
- 12) City Staff have drafted a proposed ordinance to require that protests obtain permits. I oppose this proposal, and will try to use the Free Speech Work Group I pushed to create to craft more constructive and constitutional methods for dealing with the inevitable protests we will see during next year’s convention.
- 13) The Council has passed Phase III of the Minneapolis Public Art Policies, as drafted by the Minneapolis Arts Commission’s Public Art Advisory Panel. For more information, go here: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070831/docs/09_PublicArtPoliciesPhaseIII.pdf
- 14) I was the only member of the Zoning and Planning committee to vote against vacating Grove Street on Nicollet Island for use as part of the proposed DeLaSalle football stadium, and voted against it at the full Council as well. In the end, I agreed with the many groups who have weighed in on this issue: the Heritage Preservation Commission, the Planning Commission, the Friends of the Mississippi, Clean Water Action and so many others that the vacation of Grove Street is not in the public interest, will negatively impact an important historic district and the surrounding community, and is not in keeping with the plans at all governmental levels for riverfront parkland along the Mississippi.
- 15) There are openings on the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People With Disabilities (closes 9/28/07), the Latino Advisory Committee to the Mayor and City Council (closes 11/16/2007), the Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) (closes 9/28/2007), the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee (closes 9/28/2007), and the Zoning Board of Adjustment (closes 9/28/2007). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.