



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

**Cam Gordon**  
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Second Ward

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## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 2-17-10

**Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:  
Tuesday March 2, 9:30-11:00am  
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave**

### Items:

- 1) Winter Parking Restrictions in Effect
- 2) Riverside Park Critical Parking
- 3) Dania Lot RFP Issued
- 4) New Ward 2 Intern
- 5) Great Streets Supporting WBBA
- 6) Central Corridor in President's Budget
- 7) Central Corridor Business Collaborative
- 8) Central Corridor Community Agreements
- 9) Social Host Ordinance
- 10) Department Heads
- 11) Recycling in Multifamily Buildings
- 12) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Public Works is has instituted Winter Parking Restrictions, which **bans parking on the even sides of residential streets** (all streets that are NOT Snow Emergency routes or Parkways). They took this step for the first time since 2001 to ensure that our emergency responders (fire trucks and other emergency vehicles) are able to navigate every Minneapolis roadway after the large amounts of snow we have received this winter. The parking restrictions went into effect at 8am **Thursday, February 11**, and stay in effect until April 1, though the restrictions may be lifted prior to April 1 if snow accumulations no longer pose a challenge for emergency vehicles. Any vehicles left on the even side of any residential street between February 11 and April 1 are at risk of being towed. Please help spread the word to your neighbors, so that this unfortunately necessary restriction causes as little disruption as possible.
- 2) I have passed along the Riverside Park neighborhood and West Bank Community Coalition's support for changes to the critical parking area along the park. City parking services staff has responded, informing me that the City does not have the authority to restrict parking through critical parking areas 24 hours per day, but only between 8:00am and 10:00pm. I understand that the neighborhood is reacting to this information, and I will support the 8am-10pm restrictions. I hope that we can get these changes made soon.
- 3) The City of Minneapolis Department of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED) has released the Request for Proposals (RFP) and other marketing documents for the City owned property at 427 Cedar Avenue. They can be found at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/dania\\_hall\\_site.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/dania_hall_site.asp). There will now be a 3-month response period starting February 1<sup>st</sup> and ending April 30<sup>th</sup>. I am hopeful that we will receive some great responses that can lead to a great, community-serving redevelopment of this extremely important site.
- 4) I am in the process of hiring Lolla Mohammed Nur to join the Ward 2 Office staff as a community outreach and research intern. Lolla is a junior in the honors program at the University majoring in journalism and political science. She has worked as a reporter for the Minnesota Daily and the Twin Cities Daily planet and has also interned for the Council on American-Islamic Relations. Her primary work objectives are to 1) improve communications, involvement and connection to the community with a special focus on East African populations and U of M and Augsburg students, and 2) to work on youth issues including youth violence prevention, student housing issues and youth development and employment. I have heard some concerns from members of the WBCC board about this hire, and am working to set up a meeting with Ms. Nur and those with concerns to try to address them.

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 dooneysa in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' an wac 612-673-2188.

- 5) The City's Great Streets program, which makes grants for façade improvement and other small-business support, will be providing \$50,000 to the West Bank Business Association.
- 6) As you may have heard, the Central Corridor LRT project is included in President Obama's proposed budget. It sounds like the negotiations with the University are making progress, and the three additional stations in St. Paul have been funded, hopefully reducing opposition to the line. Unfortunately, now Minnesota Public Radio has added itself to the list of those filing a lawsuit. While lawsuits in these kinds of projects are common, it is discouraging that the Met Council has been unable to resolve more of these concerns by now. I remain optimistic that we will be able to keep this important project on schedule.
- 7) In January I convened a meeting of leaders from the Stadium Village, West Bank and Southeast business groups to help start organizing for the construction and other impacts of the LRT. They agreed to form a Minneapolis Central Corridor Business Collaborative. This new group will likely work with the larger, existing Central Corridor Business Resources Collaborative, which also includes St. Paul businesses.
- 8) Over the past year I have been working with a group of community members, businesses, organizations and other elected officials to create a draft Central Corridor Community Agreement(s). Our intent is to establish a clear set of stakeholder agreements to ensure community benefits from development of the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit route. The first step toward an agreement is to create a "Coordinating Committee" to complete the agreement for adoption by different governments, organizations, and individuals and to oversee its implementation. I as first step we established a Nominating Committee to prepare a slate of community/business candidates for endorsement at a Community Assembly on **Sunday, March 28, 2010 at 2pm at the Central Corridor Resource Center in St. Paul**. They are now requesting nominations (self-nominations welcome). Please see [www.dcc-stpaul-mpls.org](http://www.dcc-stpaul-mpls.org) for more information.
- 9) I have authored a "Social Host" ordinance that will close a loophole that currently prevents the police from citing people who host events where alcohol is available to minors. The courts have ruled that this is not covered by the existing prohibition on providing alcohol to minors. A similar ordinance passed in St. Paul last year, a number of high-profile cases of alcohol-related accidents and crimes, both in the Second Ward and around the state, along with statistical data that clearly point to the dangers of underage drinking, prompted me to take this on. You can read more of the rationales for this ordinance at my blog. The ordinance has unanimously passed the full Council. The Public Safety and Health committee also passed a staff direction I put forward, making clear that the Council expects that appropriate Social Hosting citations will be eligible for restorative justice, and asking the Attorney's Office to report back to the Council on how the ordinance has been enforced one year from now. I will pay careful attention to this over the next year to evaluate its effectiveness, and consider possible improvements.
- 10) On February 3rd the Mayor took the first step to reappointing all of the department heads, except the Civil Rights director. He has moved the following to be appointed for 2 year terms and referred the names to the appropriate committees for public hearings in February and March: Patrick Todd, City Assessor; Susan Segal, City Attorney; Steven Bosacker, City Coordinator; Mike Christensen, Director, CPED; Alex Jackson, Fire Chief; Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner of Health; Steve Kotke, Director, Public Works; and Rocco Forte, Director, Regulatory Services. The Mayor has also formally put forward Timothy Dolan for Police Chief for another 3 year term. The Police Chief appointment will return to the Executive Committee in February for a vote and then, if the committee votes to forward his nomination, to a public hearing that will likely be held March 3<sup>rd</sup>. A search is being planned to find a new director of the Civil Rights Department.
- 11) I have introduced subject matter of an ordinance that will strengthen an existing law requiring that apartment buildings provide recycling service to their tenants. City staff has found the current law difficult to enforce, and that this significantly reduces compliance. Staff is recommending that we clarify the fines for violations, remove the underused and unnecessary system for building owners to request waivers from the ordinance, and make compliance with the ordinance a licensing standard for rental licenses. This matter is scheduled to come before the Regulatory Energy and Environment committee for a public hearing on **March 22**, at 1:30pm in Council Chambers.
- 12) There are openings on the Audit Committee (closes 2/26), Environmental Advisory Committee (closes 2/19), Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee (closes 2/26), Latino Advisory Committee (closes 4/2), Pedestrian Advisory Committee (closes 4/2), Public Health Advisory Committee (open until filled), Senior Citizens Advisory Committee (closes 3/05), and Workforce Council (closes 4/2). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email [cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).