

**Council Member Cam Gordon's
Report to Southeast Como, 2-12-08**

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:
Tuesday, February 11, 9:30-11:00am
SECIA Office, 837 15th Ave SE

Items:

- 1) March Roundtable: University District Partnership Alliance
- 2) State of the Second Precinct meeting
- 3) Stadium mitigation funds
- 4) Street resurfacing program
- 5) ABC School Board Election Referendum
- 6) Foreclosure Resolution and Investigation
- 7) Central Corridor
- 8) Results Minneapolis
- 9) Dangerous Animals Ordinance
- 10) Truck Weight Resolution
- 11) Bicyclist Protection Ordinance
- 12) Phthalate Resolution
- 13) Park Dedication Fee
- 14) Compost Bins Available
- 15) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The state legislature has appropriated \$750,000 to create the University District Partnership Alliance, a collaborative effort of the University of Minnesota, the City, and the neighborhood and business organizations that surround the Minneapolis University campus, and fund demonstration projects this year. If we can show that the Alliance is an effective tool for making positive change, we have a unique chance to leverage more resources and establish the Alliance as a lasting and effective organization for the future. The Alliance is currently collecting ideas for demonstration projects through February and will be deciding on what projects to fund in March. For more information see <http://www.community.umn.edu/alliance>. What should the demonstration project(s) be? How can the Alliance best address the challenges facing University-area neighborhoods? Please come learn more and share your thoughts at the next **Ward 2 Roundtable: The University District Partnership Alliance: What is it? What will it do? Monday, March 17, 7-9 pm at Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Ave SE.**
- 2) Please join me at the **State of the Second Precinct** on **February 23rd** from **10am-noon** at the **Aveda Institute, 400 Central Ave NE**. Inspector Skomra and members of the 2nd Precinct will update you on police initiatives, plans for burglary suppression, and the Neighborhood Policing Plans. If you have questions, contact Carol at 673-2874.
- 3) Neighborhoods that directly border the U of M campus can now apply for funds to address the new University stadium's impact on the community. Approximately \$69,000 in total funding will be available in 2008. Eligible applicants are member organizations of the Stadium Area Advisory Committee and their partners, and applications are due by April 1, 2008. For a complete list of eligible participants, fundable activities, criteria, and an application form, visit www.community.umn.edu/gnf. Funding announcements are expected to be made in July.
- 4) Public Works has proposed a new street resurfacing program to help improve and extend the life of our streets. The cost and time for street resurfacing is significantly less than the present renovation and reconstruction programs. Resurfacing will extend the life of a street at least 10 years. Because Minneapolis has a policy to assess property owners for some portion of street repair work along their property line, it is important to note that assessment rates for resurfacing will be ½ those of rates for a street renovation project. **18th Ave SE from Como to Hennepin** is on the list of 8 priority proposed resurfacing projects that could start this summer.
 - 5) I am supporting a school board election reform proposal known as the **ABC** Referendum Campaign that will help make the Minneapolis School Board more **Accountable, Balanced and Connected**. The proposal offers a way to improve representation, help hold elected officials accountable, make them more responsive, simplify Minneapolis' government structure, improve collaboration between jurisdictions and open up the system to political and geographic diversity. If enacted, it would change the School Board from the current 7 at large seats to 9 seats voted in with 3 at large seats and 6 district seats. The six districts would mirror the Park Board districts. Please vote **YES on ABC** on the 2008 election ballot.

- 6) I cosponsored a resolution calling for the largest lenders and loan servicers to voluntarily freeze foreclosure activity in Minneapolis for three months, by allowing borrowers to refinance to lower interest rates, freeze adjustable rate mortgages, and other constructive actions. I am thrilled that the six largest lenders in the nation have partnered with the Bush Administration in Project Lifeline to do almost all of what the Council asked. At my urging and the request of Minnesota ACORN, the City's Civil Rights Department is also working with the Institute on Race and Poverty, looking into data on possible discriminatory loan and foreclosure practices by major lenders and loan servicers in Minneapolis. The Public Safety committee has also voted to raise the fee for having a vacant and boarded building from \$2,000 to \$6,000, to cover our costs related to foreclosures and provide yet more incentive to lenders **not** to foreclose except as a true last resort.
- 7) On February 27, the Central Corridor Management Committee and the Metropolitan Council are schedule to make decisions about major aspects of this important project, including the Washington Ave tunnel. It is looking less and less likely that the tunnel will be included in the project, due to strong political consensus in Saint Paul and Ramsey County, the projected cost of the tunnel, and the complicated Federal funding formula. Other options being discussed include turning a portion of Washington into a transit and pedestrian mall, similar to Nicollet Ave in Downtown. I am working hard to ensure that any plan takes into account serve the neighborhood and helped mitigate the potential negative effects the at grade might have on traffic in the area. The next Community Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, February 21, 5–7 pm at Goodwill/Easter Seals at 553 Fairview Ave in St. Paul.**
- 8) I am very supportive and excited about the new management tool the City has developed to measure and increase the effectiveness of all our departments. It is called **Results Minneapolis** and helps us systematically track performance toward achieving the City's goals. As part of the program, a review panel of City leaders meets with a different department head each week to track progress and discuss strategies on key performance measures. By regularly tracking performance data we identify areas where we are excelling, as well as opportunities for improvement. I encourage you to look at specific measures for different departments and more information about this new and promising tool at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/results-oriented-minneapolis.
- 9) Last month, I led the fight to make the proposed new "dangerous animals" ordinance more reasonable and less draconian. I believe that the changes I made will allow the proposal to address truly dangerous dogs, while not leading to an increase in innocent dogs being declared dangerous. Please see my blog here for more information.
- 10) Along with Council Members Schiff and Colvin Roy, I am supporting a resolution calling for a moratorium on increases to freight trucks' size and weight until the impact of these larger vehicles on our bridges and infrastructure can be conclusively determined. I believe this is especially important in the aftermath of the 35W bridge collapse, given the number of fracture-critical bridges in Minneapolis.
- 11) Inspired by a new Chicago ordinance creating fines for drivers' actions that put bicyclists in danger – including turning in front of bikers, opening doors without checking, and passing with less than three feet clearance – I am planning to introduce subject matter of a similar ordinance later this month.
- 12) I plan to introduce a resolution supporting bills in the State Legislature that would create a task force to look into Bisphenol-A and phthalates.
- 13) The City Council recently reviewed a Park Board proposal to create a new Park Dedication Fee in Minneapolis. This proposal, which must be approved by the state legislature, would impose fees on new developments that could be used for new parks, improvements or expansions, but not for basic maintenance and repair. I supported this decision and the Council's added stipulations that it include commercial and industrial development, as well as housing, and that it requires that a "nexus" be established showing that the specific land development causes a need for the new park, improvement or expansion.
- 14) Hennepin County is announcing a great opportunity for county residents to purchase affordable compost bins for only \$35 through the program described below. Hennepin County has partnered with Bachman's, Lakewinds Natural Foods and The Reuse Center to sell compost bins. Residents must pre-order by April 1 online at www.hennepin.us/compostbinsale.
- 15) There are openings on the Minneapolis Capital Long-range Improvement Committee (closes 2/15/2008), Civilian Police Review Authority (2/15/2008), Latino Advisory Committee (2/29/2008), Public Health Advisory Committee (2/29/2008) Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners (2/15/2008), Rental Dwelling License Board of Appeals (2/29/2008), and Zoning Board of Adjustment (2/29/2008). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.