

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to SECIA, 7-11-06

**Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:
Tuesday, July 18th, 9:30-11:00am
SECIA Office, 837 15th Ave SE**

Items:

- I. Community Engagement Forum 7-25-06
- II. NNO street closing deadline
- III. Phone booth at Como and 15th
- IV. Rental license revocations in SE Como
- V. PPL Bunge application ranked fourth
- VI. Youth Violence Prevention Grants
- VII. Report on Somali Youth Problems
- VIII. CRA Work Group
- IX. Openings on City Boards and Commissions

I. As part of my ongoing series of roundtable discussions on issues important to the Second Ward, I will be hosting a forum on community engagement. It will be held on **Tuesday, July 25th from 7-9pm at Brackett Park, 2728 39th Ave S.** In the months ahead the City Council will consider ways to improve citizen participation. At the same time, many neighborhood organizations are struggling to survive and the future of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program is in question. We will be discussing these and other important questions:

- **How can we involve more people in City decisions?**
- **How can the City better support neighborhood organizations in their important work?**
- **How will citizen participation efforts and neighborhood groups be funded in the future?**
- **How can neighborhoods better support the work of City Hall?**
- **How can we all be more inclusive of those who too often go underrepresented in our meetings?**

II. Block clubs who apply by **July 18** will be able to close their street for **free** for National Night Out. This is a very significant deadline; after July 18 the fee is \$100. The City will not accept applications after **July 27**. More information is available at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno.

III. My office has learned that the owners of the phone booth at Como and 15th, FSH Communications, will be removing the phone booth late this month. This should resolve the complaints we have heard about lack of maintenance and upkeep.

- IV.** In June, the Council revoked the rental license for an absentee landlord who owns 3 rental properties in SE Como, for multiple housing code violations. I hope that this is a first step towards holding landlords, especially absentee landlords with multiple holdings, more accountable for the state of the housing they own.
- V.** Project for Pride in Living's Bunge site redevelopment was ranked fourth of ten projects for the City's application for Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Demonstration Account grants. The project is not sure to be funded, but there is a chance. This ranking clearly shows that the City is committed to the positive redevelopment of this site.
- VI.** The Youth Violence Prevention Grants I supported have gone out to local nonprofit organizations. It is my hope that these grants will have an impact on reducing violent crime in Southeast Minneapolis over this summer and next.
- VII.** The Department of Civil Rights has released a "Report on Somali Youth Issues," which explores some of the challenges facing Somali youth and makes recommendations for positive steps the larger community can take to help. The report will be available online at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/civil-rights/>, and in print/electronic form and in Somali in a few weeks.
- VIII.** The Civilian Police Review Authority work group that I helped form has made several very important recommendations, including: removing the Internal Affairs Unit (or other review or investigation of CRA sustained cases, establishing a process for administrative dismissal of complaints, formalizing the process for the CRA to recommend changes to the MPD's Policies and Procedures manual, initiating an audit of the Internal Affairs Unit, directing a staff group to work on an Early Intervention System, appointing Deputy Chief Lubinski as CRA liaison and changing the format for CRA output.

Written comments on any of the CRA work groups recommendations may be sent to Natalie Collins at natalie.collins@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or 350 S. 5th St., Room 307, Minneapolis, MN 55415. The City will hold at least one additional public hearing (date to be announced) associated with any recommended ordinance changes.

- IX.** There are openings on the Civil Rights Commission and the Civilian Police Review Authority. The Civil Rights Commission was created to implement the City's Civil Rights policies through public information and education; mediation and conciliation; and enforcement. The Civilian Police Review Authority was created to provide fair and impartial investigation of citizen allegations of misconduct on the part of officers of the Minneapolis Police Department and make conclusions based on findings of fact.

For more information on these two openings or for applications, call 612-673-3358 or visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/>. Both of these openings will close on July 28.