

**Dining out for Life.** Join me April 27<sup>th</sup> at St. Martin's Table, 2001 Riverside Avenue for lunch (12-1pm) and a portion of the proceeds will go to The Aliveness Project, which provides supportive services for HIV-infected Minnesotans. Then have dinner at one or more of the other Second Ward participating restaurants, (among the 103 statewide). They include the Cupcake, the Birchwood, Pizza Luce, the Clicquot Club, the Longfellow Grill, the Village Wok and the Signature Café. For more information, go here: [Dining Out for Life](#)

**Ward 2 Blog.** From now on, my office will be regularly updating a public policy weblog (commonly known as a "blog"). For a link, email me at [cam.gordon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:cam.gordon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us). The blog will outline some of what I'm working on, give the reasons for my votes and other actions, and share some stories of life in City Hall. Please feel welcome to comment on my posts. I hope this can be an effective tool for residents of the Ward to know what I'm up to, understand my reasoning and give me feedback in a public forum.

**Community Policing Initiative.** A report on the Minneapolis Police Department's Community Policing Initiative is posted on the City website: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/news/20060330CommPolicingInitiative.asp>. Please email comments to [police@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:police@ci.minneapolis.mn.us) by April 30.

**Youth Violence Prevention.** Recently I learned some startling statistics. Homicide is one of the top four leading causes of death for ages 1-24 in Minneapolis. It is the leading cause of death for ages 15-24. 36.7 % of the deaths for Minneapolis residents ages 15-24 were due to homicide (2001-2003). Motor vehicle accidents accounted for 13.6% and suicides accounted for 12.9%

With this in mind I was especially proud to lead efforts to bring City resources to youth violence prevention and support the Department of Health & Family Support's (HFS) plans for violence prevention. Under this plan, HFS will allocate up to \$500,000 of Local Public Health funds over two years for violence prevention grants to community based organizations serving youth. I successfully pushed to secure these funds for programs that will engage otherwise disconnected youth from 10 to 18 years in activities that will help keep them from being victims of, or engaging in acts of, violence. It is my hope that this program will have a direct impact on violence prevention this summer and next.

Additionally, the department will co-sponsor a community dialogue with the goals of 1) Identifying key components of a continuum of violence prevention activities; and 2) Developing indicators to measure progress.

**U of M Rental Housing Summits.** I participated in two Rental Housing Summits, co-sponsored by the graduate and undergraduate student associations, Southeast neighborhoods, myself and Council Member Diane Hofstede. We discussed problems and solutions related to crime and safety, rental housing quality and affordability, and overoccupancy.

**University Stadium.** My office, along with CM Hofstede and the Southeast neighborhoods, has been involved in ongoing discussions with the University about their

planned Gophers Football Stadium. We are continuing to push for an empowered Stadium Area Advisory Group with an adequate Mitigation Fund.

**People's Center Remodeling.** In March I helped the People's Center Clinic (425 29<sup>th</sup> Ave S) celebrate the beginning of their remodeling effort, aided by \$600,000 in revenue bonds secured by the City.

**Development on the West Bank.** I have been working on development issues in Cedar Riverside, meeting with residents, developers and city staff to discuss the upcoming development, the NRP and the community small area land use planning process that is set to begin this spring. I also helped bring City funds to resolve access issues to make future housing development near Riverside Plaza and the Coyle Center possible.

**Riverside Market site development planning.** I participated in the first meeting regarding the Riverside Market site, where I heard many ideas and concerns from neighbors. I will continue to be involved in the ongoing community process to plan what sort of uses neighbors would like to see at that site and all along E Franklin.

**Sustainability Indicators and Targets.** In March, the Council approved amended indicators and targets. They are available here:  
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2006-meetings/20060331/Docs/Sustainability-Indicators-Matrix.pdf>

**Transportation Plan Workshops.** The City of Minneapolis is hosting a series of workshops to give the public an opportunity to share their ideas on how the City can improve its transportation system. The workshops will provide an overview of the City's 10-Year Transportation Action Plan, which is under development, and will provide information on the transportation challenges facing the City. To find the location nearest you, go here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news>.

**Franklin LRT Station project.** The Council has accepted the Metropolitan Council's Hiawatha Light Rail Transit Land Assembly Fund Grant Award for the Franklin LRT Station project, which came in first on its list of nine projects.

**27<sup>th</sup> Ave S Reconstruction.** 27<sup>th</sup> Ave S will be reconstructed this year, construction running from April through October. The new avenue will include traffic-calming bump-outs down much of its length.

**Wi-Fi Community Meetings.** I hosted a forum about Wi-Fi on March 6<sup>th</sup>. Much of the discussion centered around the Community Benefits Agreement that the City has agreed to put in any contract. The City is also hosting a number of informational meetings and open houses so that the public can learn more about Wireless Minneapolis. Those who attend will also have the opportunity to share their ideas and feedback about what community benefits should be negotiated to help bridge the digital divide. The next of these meetings will take place on April 20<sup>th</sup>, 6-8pm, at Eastside Neighborhood Services, 1700 Second St NE, Minneapolis. For more information, go here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/wirelessminneapolis/wirelessmeetings.asp#TopOfPage>

**Response to the Bunge Elevator tragedy.** I met with a large group of neighborhood residents, SECIA staff, students and family members of Germaine Vigeant in early March to discuss next steps to ensure the safety of the site. Bunge has put in place a 24-hour security detail, and I will encourage PPL, when they take ownership of the site, to keep it in place.

**Instant Runoff Voting.** In March, the City Council passed a resolution creating a task force to work on the specifics of implementing Instant Runoff Voting in the City. I am now that task force's Chair, and we will be giving our first report back to a Council committee on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

**May is Bike Month,** and Minneapolis will again be celebrating the Commuter Challenge Bike/Walk Event, which encourages commuters to get to work using healthier, more environmentally-friendly transportation modes. This year's event will take place on May 19<sup>th</sup>. If you're interested in helping to plan the event and/or getting your neighborhood connected to it, please call Mackenzie Turner at 670-3987 or email her at [mturner@mplstmo.org](mailto:mturner@mplstmo.org).