

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Cedar Riverside, 10-18-06

**Cam's next Cedar Riverside Office Hours:
Tuesday November 7, 9:30-11:00am
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave**

Items:

- 1) IRV Roundtable 10-26-06
- 2) Minneapolis Energy Challenge
- 3) Police Chief Selection
- 4) Safe City Resolution
- 5) Civilian Review Authority reforms
- 6) Big Stone II Resolution
- 7) Rental Housing Ordinance
- 8) Arsenic Ordinance
- 9) Taxi Cap
- 10) Libraries

- 1) My As one of my ongoing series of roundtable discussions, I will be hosting a conversation about Ranked Choice Voting (also known as IRV) at Matthews Park on October 26th, 7-9pm.
- 2) The Minneapolis Energy Challenge is a great opportunity for folks to learn how to lower your energy bill and protect the environment by lessening your impact on climate change. You can take the challenge at <http://ci.minneapolis.mn.us/energychallenge>. I am interested in doing anything I can to help WBCC motivate Cedar Riverside neighbors to participate in this challenge.
- 3) As you likely know, Mayor Rybak has nominated Interim Chief Dolan to be permanent Police Chief. I voted to let Dolan's nomination through the Executive Committee last week, though I voted against the nomination today at the public hearing.
- 4) With Council Members Glidden, Hodges and Remington, I am working on a Safe City Resolution outlining the Council's expectation for the leadership of the Minneapolis Police Department. It incorporates many of the issues we raised in a memo to Mayor Rybak that has been discussed in the local media.
- 5) I was lead author of a resolution that passed the Council unanimously on October 6th, opposing the proposed Big Stone II coal plant. This plant, if built, will send its particulates and mercury towards Minneapolis and more than offset all of the carbon emission reductions we hope to make over the next fifteen years. I delivered the resolution to the Public Utilities Commission on Monday, and I hope that they will listen to the people of Minneapolis and deny the permits that will make this project possible.
- 6) The recommendations of the CRA task force I helped establish and Vice Chaired passed committee this week, and I expect them to pass the full Council on Friday. In my opinion, every one of these recommendations strengthens civilian oversight of the Police Department and empowers the CRA. I consider this a major victory for police accountability and reform in Minneapolis.

- 7) The rental licensing ordinance I authored will be up for a final vote this Friday. I expect it to pass. It will require corporations that own rental housing to disclose a list of their owners to the City upon request, and allow the City to revoke rental licenses for landlords who continue to do major work without getting a permit and allow the water to be shut off to their buildings. I am hoping this will help curb some of the behaviors of absentee landlords that are most destructive to tenants, neighborhoods, and our housing stock.
- 8) The arsenic right-to-know ordinance I authored will also be up for a final vote this Friday. I expect it to pass as well. It will require that landlords within the South Minneapolis arsenic contamination site inform their prospective and current tenants about the level of contamination the EPA has found in their soil. It will also require that home sellers disclose known soil contamination to home buyers citywide.
- 9) I supported lifting the cap on taxi licenses in Minneapolis before the last Council meeting, partly because I have heard from members of the Somali community that they would like to be able to operate cab companies that would serve Cedar Riverside. However, I could not in good conscience vote for the final ordinance amendment, because not enough effort was made to make lifting the cap easier on current drivers, many of whom are East African immigrants, and because the Council moved to dramatically weaken the fuel efficiency standards I had fought to include. The one piece of good news is that the Council accepted my proposal to make all new licenses granted by the City non-transferable, to prevent the huge increases in license cost (more than \$20,000) that we have seen in the past.
- 10) Working with Council Member Diane Hofstede, I am working to find stopgap funding to prevent the Library Board from closing three neighborhood libraries, including the Southeast Library.