



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 6-17-09

Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:
Tuesday July 7, 9:30-11:00am
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave

Items:

- 1) Dania Hall Site
- 2) Impact of Unallotment
- 3) Youth Violence Prevention Contract
- 4) Security at Coyle Center
- 5) Homegrown Minneapolis Passes Committee
- 6) Ranked Choice Voting
- 7) Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission
- 8) I-94 Open House
- 9) Downtown Garbage Burner
- 10) Bike Education
- 11) National Night Out
- 12) Central Corridor
- 13) Hiawatha Trail Lighting
- 14) Palmer's
- 15) Augsburg
- 16) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) The City is moving forward carefully with plans to sell the old Dania Hall site for redevelopment and has established an advisory committee and set up a Dania Site website here: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/dania_hall_site.asp to help with information sharing and planning efforts about this important decision. The website includes notes from the advisory committee meeting held earlier this month. The West Bank Community Coalition is also hosting a meeting June 24 regarding the interim use of the Dania site. I will do whatever I can to make sure that the interim use as well as what is built there in the future will be something that will serve the community in a way we can all be proud of.
- 2) Governor Tim Pawlenty is proposing to cut Local Government Aid (LGA) to Minneapolis by \$8.5 million in 2009 and \$21.3 million in 2010. This on top of the previous cuts to LGA, the City of Minneapolis receives 43 percent less from the State than we did six years ago. The State collects about \$74 million from our property taxes, and \$390 million in sales taxes generated in Minneapolis. Given Pawlenty's action, the State now only returns 15% of those dollars back to Minneapolis.
- 3) The City's Department of Health and Family Support has decided to devote \$40,000 of the \$75,000 in this year's budget for preventing Somali youth violence to a contract with Pillsbury United and the Somali Youth Neighborhood Council (SYNC) to create outreach jobs for Somali youth to engage youth at risk for violence in more positive activities. We hope to have this contract signed by July 1. The remaining \$35,000 of the City funding will be put into a Request for Proposals for programs that focus on identifying and addressing risk factors for violence in the community.
- 4) The Cedar Riverside Partnership has helped develop a framework of security priorities at the Brain Coyle Center. Thanks to the generous support of CPED, Pillsbury United Communities, Augsburg, Fairview, and Target, we are able to fund part time security at the Coyle Center at least through September 30. This progress shows how valuable the Partnership is, and it's my hope that, along with the beat cop funded by Sherman Associates, we can make this a quieter and safer summer at Coyle.

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact Matt Bower at (612) 673-2188 or 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, llame 612-673-2188;

Somali – Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' an wac 612-673-2188.

- 5) Yesterday, the Health, Energy and Environment committee unanimously passed a resolution I authored putting the City on record as supporting locally grown food, and creating a Homegrown Minneapolis Implementation Task Force. I will chair this group, which will focus on putting into action the recommendations of the Homegrown Minneapolis report: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/homegrown-home.asp.
- 6) The Council, with my strong support, has voted to use ranked choice voting for this November's municipal election. This was made possible by the unanimous decision by the Supreme Court on June 11th that ranked choice voting is constitutional. My office has worked hard since 2006 to make this happen, and I'm excited to move forward.
- 7) The membership of the City's new Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) has been decided. The neighborhood representative for the West Bank, which is part of the District 8 which includes 9 neighborhoods, is Marcea Mariani. Marcea lives in the Cooper neighborhood and is president of the Longfellow Community Council where she has been active for several years. The first NCEC meeting is **Tuesday, June 23, 4:30-6:30pm at Logan Park** (690 13th Ave. NE). You can also find information on the NCEC at: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/NCEC_Home.asp. It's my hope that this commission will help lead to better communication and community involvement in all City decisions, and improved and consistent funding to build the capacity of our neighborhood organizations.
- 8) Preliminary recommendations for Interstate 94 improvements between St. Paul and Minneapolis will be announced at an open house scheduled for **June 23, 5-8pm at Van Cleve Park**, 901 15th Ave SE. The recommendations are based on a draft study of I-94 between St. Peter Street in St. Paul and Highway 55 in Minneapolis that explored a variety of managed lane strategies in the corridor. For information about the I-94 Managed Lanes Study, go to <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/metro/projects/i94study>.
- 9) The proposal to increase the amount of garbage burned in the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) has been postponed two weeks by the Planning Commission. It will return to them for more discussion and possibly a final action on June 22.
- 10) The City's Bike Walk Ambassador Program is starting their Bike Education series classes to help bicyclists improve their skills and confidence, and learn from certified and trained Bicycle Instructors. Go here to find dates for courses, and to register online: <http://www.bikewalktwincities.org/ambassadors/registration.html>. Attendees must possess a driver's license. Please register ASAP- Class size is limited to 8 people.
- 11) This year, National Night Out is **Tuesday, August 4**. Online registration for National Night Out is now available. Simply log on to <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno/> and follow the onscreen instructions. You can also register and get more information by calling 311. Remember, if you register by July 14th you will be entered into a drawing for prizes donated by area businesses that you can distribute at your party!
- 12) The University has submitted letter outlining concerns about the vibration and other impacts of the proposed Central Corridor Light Rail line. The Metropolitan Council has indicated that this may delay the start of construction on Central Corridor. If this occurs, the project cost will increase, due to inflation, potentially endangering the mitigation funding Minneapolis, St. Paul and the University have already been promised by the Project Office, for intersections like Cedar and Riverside. .
- 13) The City has requested \$1,000,000 in federal SAFETEA_LU funding for the Hiawatha Trail lighting project. I've been a strong proponent of getting this project finished as soon as possible.
- 14) Palmer's Bar has received a license upgrade to a class "B" liquor license, after my office facilitated a meeting between the bar's ownership and the nearby Dar Al-Hijra mosque.
- 15) Augsburg College's application to vacate all of 7th St S between 20th Ave S and 21st Ave S has been approved by both the Planning Commission and the City Council. Augsburg has also been authorized by the Legislature to receive a liquor license, and will be approaching the City for this license in the coming weeks.
- 16) There are current openings on the Civil Rights Commission, (closes 7/10), Family Housing Fund Board of Directors (closes 6/26) and Public Health Advisory Committee (open until filled). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.