

**Council Member Cam Gordon's
Report to Cedar Riverside, 10-17-07**

**Cam's next Cedar Riverside Office Hours:
Tuesday November 6, 9:30-11:00am
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave**

Items:

- 1) Quarterly Safety Meeting
- 2) I-35W Bridge, 10th Ave Bridge, Seven Corners
- 3) Central Corridor
- 4) Library Consolidation meeting
- 5) Hard Times
- 6) West Bank School of Music
- 7) Requiring produce in grocery stores
- 8) 2008 Budget
- 9) Organic composting pilot project
- 10) Non-Motorized Transportation grants
- 11) Transportation plan & Streetcar study meeting
- 12) South Minneapolis listed as Superfund site
- 13) Street Furniture policy
- 14) Street Lighting policy
- 15) City Logo
- 16) Facsimile Firearms
- 17) Currie Flats gets grants
- 18) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The West Bank Quarterly Safety Meeting will take place next **Tuesday, October 23, 7-9pm** in the **Augsburg College, Christensen Center, 720 22nd Ave S, East Commons Room on the 2nd Floor**. This is the regular WBCC Safety Committee meeting combined with a quarterly crime and safety forum I have organized. The MPD will present updated crime statistics, trends, and safety tips. The Sector Lieutenant, Crime Prevention Specialist and I will be on hand to answer questions. If you like, you can email questions in advance to Hani or to Luther Krueger at luther.krueger@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.
- 2) The Council has passed a resolution approving the Highway Project Review Package submitted by MnDOT for the reconstruction of the I-35W Bridge. The Council also passed a resolution urging MnDOT to arrange for the presence of an Independent Construction Safety Officer on-site at all times during the reconstruction of the bridge. I have presented the WBCC's idea of using the Bluff Street Park site for the memorial of the collapse to City staff, my colleagues and MnDOT, and will continue to work on this idea. Thanks in part to the valuable input from West Bank residents and business owners, a second northbound lane is now carrying traffic on the 10th Avenue Bridge, helping ease traffic congestion. Additionally, the pedestrian area was narrowed to allow the southbound bicycle lane to be moved to that side of the bridge. It is hoped that this will significantly ease the traffic backups that have been occurring headed northbound. I am also working with staff to alleviate congestion in Seven Corners.
- 3) The Met Council has set a timeline for seeking public input through the first quarter of 2008 on proposed features of the Central Corridor LRT Project. Getting feedback by next spring is necessary to give consultants time to consider them in their preliminary engineering work that must be submitted to the Federal Transit Administration in less than a year. Key issues (see Issues Matrix here: <http://www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/BAC/BACIssuesMatrixSept202007.pdf>) will be considered at the Community and Business Advisory Committees and go to the Central Corridor Management Committee, which advises the full Metropolitan Council. The Met Council will have the final say on the decisions. Meeting schedules for all of these bodies are posted at www.centralcorridor.org Outreach coordinators will be holding special meetings and contacting stakeholders for each of these issues.
 - 4) The City is hosting one more public meeting to discuss the City's draft Ten-Year Transportation Plan and its Streetcar Feasibility Study on **October 24, 6:30-8:30 pm, at the Van Cleve Recreation Center**.
 - 5) I am continuing to work with the Hard Times to help them navigate the City's processes and reopen.
 - 6) I am also working with the West Bank School of Music on their purchase of their building from the City.

- 7) The Council and Library Board will meet jointly on **November 7, 6pm** at the **Central Library**, 300 Nicollet Mall, to discuss the merger of the Minneapolis Public Library and the Hennepin County Library systems.
- 8) At my urging, the PS&RS committee voted to send proposed amendments to our grocery store licensing ordinance back to Regulatory Services staff. The committee directed them to work with staff from Health and Family Support and outside food policy experts like the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, to ensure that all licensed grocery stores have an adequate stock of fresh fruits and vegetables and other healthy foods.
- 9) The Currie Flats project being proposed near the Cedar Riverside Station and the Coyle Center on the West Bank, has received \$370,000 in County Transit-Oriented Development funds (http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20071005/docs/04_TOD_Program_Agrmts_RCA.pdf)
- 10) The Mayor has presented his proposed 2008 budget, which includes a tax increase of 8% and calls for funding 18 additional police officers, spending more on public safety technology, community prosecutors, Restorative Justice programs, ex-offender re-entry support, gang graffiti prevention, a Juvenile Curfew-Truancy Resource Center in City Hall, the new "You(th) Are Here" circulator buses and four more 911 operators. The budget also supports targeted funding to help implement the (soon to finished) youth violence prevention plan, promote renewable energy, improved commercial corridors, more stable housing, job training, bridge repair and rehab, improved water and the implementation of several transportation initiatives. For more details visit: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/city-budget/2008recommended/>
- 11) The Council has authorized the Solid Waste & Recycling department to develop a pilot program to collect source-separated organic materials from Linden Hills residents and, hopefully, schools. The City will be applying for Hennepin County grants to support this pilot program. The goal is to learn lessons that could help the City build a citywide organics composting program, to divert a large portion of our waste away from the garbage burner and into reuse.
- 12) The City has received a grant for more than \$5.7 Million to work on pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure improvements, and a \$900,000 grant to fund three years of a bicycle and pedestrian Ambassador program, to help connect more experienced rides and walkers with people who are not currently walking or biking but want to start. The City has also hired a consultant to complete the Citywide Pedestrian Master Plan.
- 13) The EPA has added the arsenic cleanup site in south Minneapolis to the Superfund list. This will release more funds, and now more properties can be cleaned up to eliminate arsenic contamination. Superfund money will be made available for cleanup of residential properties that are below an arsenic concentration of 95 parts per million, but the final level of cleanup remains undetermined. Community input will be sought throughout the process.
- 14) The City is seeking public input into improving public amenities along city sidewalks. This is part of the City's Coordinated Street Furniture Program that seeks to coordinate the design of selected street furniture elements for improved appearance and quality and enhance pedestrian circulation and safety. A request for proposals (RFP) to prospective vendors is planned for release in November 2007. The RFP will result in a long-term contract between a vendor and the City, in which the City will receive street furniture, maintenance, and revenue in exchange for advertising space on the street furniture. For more information, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/street-furniture/.
- 15) The meetings about the new proposed City street lighting policy are over, but I would still like input from residents about the proposal, especially about the proposed fee. I am committed to fighting for Dark Sky Compliant lighting fixtures, which will help save energy and reduce glare and light pollution.
- 16) The Council has approved a process to research and develop a new brand identity for the City, including a new logo. This plan must come back to Council for approval, will require no additional money, and should be finished to coincide with the Minneapolis Sesquicentennial.
- 17) With my support, the Council has passed an ordinance defining, and regulating the carrying and possession of "facsimile firearms." This will help improve public safety by taking the restrictions that already exist on real guns and placing those same restrictions on gun replicas that closely match the real thing. According to the new ordinance, carrying or having a facsimile firearm in a public place is prohibited. Facsimile firearms must be transported in the same way as real firearms, secured in a closed container and locked in the trunk of a vehicle.
- 18) There are openings on the Minneapolis Arts Commission Vacancy (closes 11/9/2007), Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People With Disabilities (10/19/07), Minneapolis Ethical Practices Board (10/19/2007) Housing Board of Appeals (10/26/2007), Latino Advisory Committee to the Mayor and City Council (11/16/2007), Public Health Advisory Committee (10/19/2007), Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (10/19/2007), Senior Citizen Advisory Committee (10/19/2007), and Zoning Board of Adjustment (10/19/2007). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.