

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 5-5-09

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:
Tuesday, May 12, 9:30-11:00am
SECIA Office, 837 15th Ave SE

Items:

- 1) Central Corridor Federal Funding Requests
- 2) Spring Jam Riot
- 3) Chindian Café
- 4) Sporty's Pub
- 5) Bike Walk Week
- 6) Homegrown Minneapolis
- 7) Beekeeping
- 8) Diversity Audit of City Boards and Commissions
- 9) Ranked Choice Voting
- 10) 2009 Greenprint
- 11) Trader Joe's
- 12) Minneapolis Twitters
- 13) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) Last Friday, the Council voted to submit a request for federal funding for the traffic mitigations necessitated by (but not funded by) the Central Corridor LRT project. This request includes the connection between E River Pkwy and Main St SE, the improvements to the intersection of Franklin Ave SE, 27th Ave SE and E River Pkwy, the completion of Granary Road and better access to I-35W to relieve pressure from University and 4th St SE. I strongly supported this application, and hope that it will be fully funded.
- 2) I was dismayed to learn about the riot that took place Spring Jam weekend. I believe that the University District Partnership Alliance should address both this specific event and future U-related events that may create similar situations. I will be interested to hear an after-action report from the Police Department, to help me assess the appropriateness of their response and the amount of City resources expended. I also challenge the University to hold their students accountable for their off-campus behavior and potentially review whether Spring Jam is a net positive for the greater University community. I will be working with Council Member Hofstede to pressure the University to collect a security surcharge on each ticket sold at the new U Stadium, part of which should go to the Minneapolis Police Department to be spent on increasing safety and addressing negative behaviors in the U-area neighborhoods.
- 3) Chindian Café has applied for a beer/wine class E license. My aide attended the public hearing yesterday evening, and reports that the residents who attended were very supportive of Nina Wong's application, while expressing some concerns about hours, parking, graffiti and other issues, and encouraging Nina to keep her current, neighborhood-supportive business model. I plan to support the application when it comes before committee and the full Council, and share residents' hopes that Chindian will be successful.
- 4) I have heard from Sporty's Pub owner Joe Radaich that he is seeking an upgrade to a standard strong beer and wine license from his current 3.2 license. He is not interested in renewing the Charter beer and wine license due to the more stringent requirements regarding service of food with every drink and the 70/30 revenue requirement. This is the only City license available to him, due to the small size of the commercial node at Como and 22nd Ave SE. Therefore, he is seeking a license directly from the State. Though there is no role for the City to play in this request, Joe has kept my office updated on the process. I am sympathetic to the difficulties he has had, and I have noted that he's been an active member of the community. I encouraged him to speak to SECIA and gain your support. It sounds like he has reached out to at least one SECIA committee and had a productive conversation.
- 5) I encourage everyone to help make this year's Bike Walk Week a success. Bike Walk to Work Day is Thursday, May 18th, and there's still time to join or form a group to bike or walk to work. The downtown celebration will again be held in Government Plaza, from 6:30-9am. For more information, please visit: <http://www.bikewalkweek.org>.

- 6) The Homegrown Minneapolis initiative has completed its draft recommendations for how the City can increase the amount of locally and sustainably grown food both produced and consumed in Minneapolis. They will be holding two public meetings to solicit input from members of the public who have not yet been involved in coming up with the recommendations. The first is on Tuesday, **May 12th, 6:30 – 8:30pm** at North Commons Recreation Center, 1801 James Ave N. The second is on **Monday, May 18th, 6:30 – 8:30pm** at the Martin Luther King Recreation Center, 4055 Nicollet Ave S. Healthy snacks will be provided at both events. You can also find the draft recommendations and send comments electronically here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/homegrown-home.asp>. I expect that these recommendations come before the Health, Energy and Environment committee in mid-June. I'm extremely supportive of this initiative, and have dedicated a significant amount of my staff's time to helping lead it.
- 7) The Council, with my strong support, has approved a new ordinance amendment that allows and regulates beekeeping in Minneapolis. The proposed ordinance includes an application process similar to that which is required for the keeping of chickens with the exception that 100% of the immediate neighbors must approve the request. I successfully moved a small amendment to the action today to strip out what I felt to be an unnecessary requirement that beekeepers indemnify the City for any lawsuits that result from keeping bees. As we look to increase the amount of local food being consumed in the city, this is a good step in the right direction, both for the honey that bees produce and for their help in pollinating vegetable gardens.
- 8) I am initiating a Diversity Audit project of all the City's Boards and Commissions that include individuals appointed by the Mayor and/or the City Council. Working with the City Coordinator's office my office will inventory the gender, racial/ethnic and age make up of over 40 Boards and Commissions. I expect this work to be completed next fall.
- 9) The Council is moving forward with a potential Charter amendment to put back the nonpartisan primary that Ranked Choice Voting replaced, in the event that the Supreme Court rules against us before the June deadline. I will only support this step away from ranked choice voting if we lose in court.
- 10) The 2009 Minneapolis Greenprint was released on April 13. It provides a framework for measuring our progress towards improving our natural environment based on 11 key environmental indicators and goals, and allows us to track our successes and ongoing challenges. This year a new indicator that focuses on green jobs was added to the report. Challenges include the need for increased solar power to meet energy goals, maintenance and growth of the urban forest while battling insects and disease, and improving air and water quality.
- 11) I opposed and spoke against supporting legislation that would allow Trader's Joes to get a liquor license in a location (2309 Lyndale Ave S) that does not conform with current City policies. Unfortunately, it passed (7 to 6), so the City is now on record supporting state legislation to allow a liquor license at this address. It can still be stopped either at the legislature or when it returns to the Council when they apply for the actual license.
- 12) You can now get info on news and events happening in City government through Twitter. You must first have your own Twitter account. Click the "Follow us on Twitter" link on the City's home page, or visit www.twitter.com/CityMinneapolis and click the "follow" button underneath the City of Minneapolis logo.
- 13) There are openings on the Minneapolis Workforce Council (closes 5/8) and Public Health Advisory Committee (open until filled). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.