



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 4-5-11

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:
Tuesday, April 12th, 9:30-11:00am
Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como Avenue SE

Items:

- 1) City "Unfreezes" Some NRP Funds
- 2) Urban Agriculture Topical Plan
- 3) Southeast Strategic Compliance Team
- 4) CleanSweep
- 5) Local Food Resource Hubs
- 6) Central Corridor Construction
- 7) Homegrown Business Development Center
- 8) Green and Healthy Housing
- 9) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) The Council has moved to "unfreeze" \$2.68 million of the allocated Neighborhood Revitalization Program Phase II money held back from neighborhoods in December. This is a result of freezing more than the originally estimated \$10 million. Instead, it turned out that \$12.68 million in Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funding was frozen. The Ways and Means committee has voted to ask the NRP Policy Board to determine how the funds will be distributed.
- 2) The Urban Agriculture Topical Plan has been delayed at the Zoning and Planning committee until this Thursday. I am concerned that some Council Members may attempt to weaken it, and am organizing to ensure that we adopt the strongest plan possible. If you support the local food movement, and want the Urban Ag plan to move forward without being watered down, please get in contact with my office. For more information, visit my blog.
- 3) On March 30, 2011 I attended a meeting of the University District Alliance Livability Committee and learned about the results of its Southeast Strategic Compliance Team. U of M and City Staff as well as community volunteers have clearly helped leverage our resources to address livability concerns in the area. The partnership between Housing Inspections, Police, the City Attorney and U of Mn staff with community members has helped educate renters, identify and address problem properties and reduce Code of Conduct warnings and violations as well as unruly and noisy assembly violations. In Southeast Como there were 148 such violations in 2009, 88 in 2010 and so far only 5 in 2011. My thanks go to Committee Members: Paul Buchel, Bill Dane, Katie Fournier, Diane Hofstede, Hilary Holmes, Haila Maze, Wendy Menken, Mary Mellen, Jan Morlock, Dick Poppele, Jo Radzwill, Narin Sihavong, Kendre Turonie, Peg Wolff, and John Worden.
- 4) Minneapolis CleanSweep is a program offered through our Solid Waste and Recycling department that partners with communities to help keep our City clean. People can clean out garages, sheds, attics, basements, yards, alleyways and boulevards. Local, neighborhood-level, organizers can decide what items will be the focus of your clean-up (tires, construction waste, appliances, electronics, furniture, etc). Local organizers provide the volunteers and the City provides the garbage trucks, disposal and driver(s) for a flat fee of \$96 per truck per hour, all-inclusive. There is no additional fee for disposal for any of the materials collected. To participate, fill out an application (at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/police/first/docs/2011csp.pdf) and return it as soon as possible. Possible dates begin on April 23rd and run through October 15th (excluding May 28th, June 4th, July 2nd, July 9th, September 3rd or September 10th.)

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.

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- 5) The City, as part of the larger Homegrown Minneapolis effort and through a contract with Gardening Matters has formed three new Local Food Resource Hubs, one on the Northside and two on the Southside of Minneapolis. The Hubs are intended to help residents to grow their own fresh produce, to ensure greater food security and healthy food access. In this first year, Local Food Resource Hubs will have 5 main focus areas: 1) serve as local points of distribution for physical resources; 2) provide physical space for education classes; 3) focus on building leadership capacity at the community level and, 4) develop a community network of gardeners and urban farmers that are able to support one another. Spring class and membership information is will be available soon. See <http://www.gardeningmatters.org/hubs> for more information.
- 6) Construction, lane closures, traffic delays and changes in bus service can all be expected in the months and years ahead as installation of our newest light rail line gets underway this spring. Major construction has begun on University Avenue at the St. Paul city limits, and the Washington Ave Bridge will see lane closures. Preliminary work is going on in Prospect Park, Stadium Village and on the West Bank. Construction will start in May on Washington between Pleasant and Oak streets. This work will permanently remove auto traffic from Washington between Pleasant and Walnut Street to construct the campus transit mall. For updates on bus changes, watch for signs at bus stops and check www.metrotransit.org/detours-alerts.aspx. Also during this long construction period please **support our local business**. To find businesses and save money through a new **Discover Central Corridor Card** program see www.centralcorridorperks.com. At www.metrocouncil.org/transportation/ccorridor/centralcorridor.asp you can sign up to get updates directly to your e-mail. The 24 hour construction hotline is (651) 602-1404.
- 7) In an effort to promote the local food economy and foster the development and expansion of businesses that promote sustainable agriculture and food production within Minneapolis and the surrounding region the City is planning to create the Homegrown Minneapolis Business Development Center. The Center will provide financing and technical assistance to Minneapolis based businesses that process and manufacture local food products. Loans of up to \$10,000 will be available for business projects that involve the production, distribution, marketing and manufacture of food products that include a minimum of one ingredient grown within approximately 200 miles of Minneapolis. It is proposed that Homegrown Business Development Center be launched on a pilot basis and administered by MCCD. City staff have also worked with Grow Good Consulting to create a Guide to Starting a Local Food Business.
- 8) The Council has adopted an ordinance that will improve our ability to make rental property safer, healthier, more economical and more environmentally sustainable. All landlords would be required to do a furnace/boiler safety test by a licensed mechanical or gas contractor within two years of their regularly scheduled inspection. Owners of single family rentals with code violations related to lack of weather stripping, loose-fitting windows, water damaged surfaces that appear to be caused by loose-fitting windows or doors or holes in the foundation or roof, or lack of or loose-fitting storm windows or storm doors would be required to get an energy audit with a blower test and thermal scan by a certified auditor. If the property fails the initial blower door standard, air sealing must occur resulting in at least a 20% improvement on the initial blower door test or attic bypasses and major air leaks discovered by the thermal scan must be sealed. Also, all owners of 1-3 unit rental properties built before 1978 where the City has found chipping or peeling paint would be required to get a lead safe clearance test by a third party lead certified technician. All of these changes are within the City's appropriate role of protecting tenants, and all will increase the livability, safety and health of our housing stock. As an added benefit, they may also reduce utility costs for renters – which renters often pay but can seldom control – and represent one of the City's only ways to get serious about the problem of climate change. Unfortunately, what ended up passing the Council was an extremely watered-down version of the original proposal, and will do much less to protect renters or the environment than it could have, if the Council had shown more leadership.
- 9) There are openings on the Animal Care & Control Advisory Board, Charter Commission, Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee, Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Latino Advisory Committee, Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, Public Health Advisory Committee, Advisory Group for Redistricting 2011-2012 of the Charter Commission, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Minneapolis Telecommunications Network (MTN), Thinc.GreenMSP Steering Committee, Workforce Council and Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.