



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Seward Neighborhood 10-27-10

Cam's next Seward Office Hours:
Tuesday, November 22nd, 9:30-11:00am
Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St

Items:

- 1) Street Sweeping
- 2) Franklin Parking
- 3) Community Participation Guidelines
- 4) Hiawatha Powerline
- 5) Seward Commons Site Grants
- 6) Access and Outreach Team
- 7) Commercial Recycling
- 8) Hello Neighbor
- 9) FBI Raids Minneapolis Activists
- 10) Gang Prevention Grant
- 11) Solar on Convention Center
- 12) Construction along Hiawatha Trail
- 13) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) The 2010 comprehensive fall street sweep and leaf collection began this week. The first day of posting was Monday, October 25 and the first day of sweeping was Tuesday, October 26. It will last about 4 weeks. Please watch for signs, warn your neighbors and check the city website at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/streetsweep/> for more detailed schedules to help prevent cars from being ticketed and towed.
- 2) My office has worked with the Seward Civic and Commerce Association and Seward Redesign to set up a meeting with property owners and businesses on Franklin between Minnehaha and 29th Ave S to try to craft a comprehensive set of on-street parking rules. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 4th.
- 3) The Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) has approved a set of the Community Participation Program Guidelines that outline how \$3,000,000 will be provided to neighborhood organizations in 2011. Preliminary allocations based on the proposed formula were released as well. The recommended allocation for Seward is \$50,774.48. The NCEC's recommendations will come to the City Council for possible amendments and approval in November. For further information on the guidelines and allocations see <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/>.
- 4) The Administrative Law Judge, Beverly Jones Heydinger, has formally recommended to the Public Utilities Commission that the Xcel Hiawatha Powerline, proposed to be above ground along the Midtown Greenway, be buried under E 28th Street. I am very supportive of this recommendation, although I continue to question the need for the powerline itself and would prefer to see an investment in conservation, alternative energy sources and upgrading the existing lines. The judge also recommended that the substations be at Xcel preferred locations. The one nearest Seward would be east of Hiawatha Avenue adjacent to the greenway where there is current green space. The PUC will wait to make a decision until after the required Certificate of Need process has been completed. Because Xcel has not applied for the certificate of need it looks like the earliest the PUC could act is November of next year.
- 5) The City has accepted an award of \$290,472 from the state Department of Employment and Economic Development to make roadway improvements, storm water management boulevard improvements within the public right-of-way, pedestrian facilities, and connections to trails and bike paths to support the Seward Commons project at the old Bystrom Brothers site.

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email Ahmed.Muhumud@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may call 311 or 612-673-3000. TTY users may call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

Attention: If you want help translating this information in language other than Hmong, Spanish or Somali, call 311

Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

- 6) The Neighborhood and Community Relations Department had formed a new Access and Outreach team that specializes in addressing and removing barriers to participation and meaningful engagement where cultural norms, practices or language limit access. These services are available to both City departments and neighborhood organizations. The Access and Outreach team has the cultural experience and the ability to communicate in Spanish, Somali, Oromo, Amharic, Hmong and American Sign Language. To learn more about how to take advantage of this visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/access-and-outreach.asp>
- 7) I have introduced my new commercial recycling ordinance that would require commercial entities to recycle. Prior to that, working with the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, I helped produce a survey to businesses on current recycling practices and their opinion on a mandate. The results were very favorable. I have also had several discussions with business owners and business associations and believe that the business community is open to a fair and understandable recycling mandate. It's also clear that the City has the capacity to enforce this new requirement. The Fire Department has been charged with inspecting all commercial buildings in Minneapolis and could easily include compliance with the recycling requirement as one of the things they look for. St. Paul and Bloomington both have mandatory commercial recycling ordinances and the adoption of one in Minneapolis will be a significant step in the direction of diverting a greater percentage of the waste to recycling, decreasing the amount of material going into landfills and the garbage burner.
- 8) This month the City, through a grant from the Bush Foundation and in partnership with several resettlement organizations, is beginning a new program called Hello Neighbor. Hello Neighbor is a holistic effort to establish a human connection with newly arrived immigrants at an early stage with the hope that these new residents will learn about city services and resources, feel part of a community, connect with civic and neighborhood organizations, and improve their overall quality of life. Starting in November, Hello Neighbor volunteers from local resettlement agencies and the City will greet recent immigrants at their homes with one-on-one personal welcomes and give them a hand-made gift bag filled with useful gifts, coupons and information about city services and resources. The program will begin as a pilot focused on areas of the city with a large East African population and hoping to reach approximately 500 new arrivals in the first year. Volunteer opportunities exist for those who want to be greeters. To get involved contact Mohamed Hajin in the Neighborhood and Community Relations department at 612-673-5475.
- 9) The Federal Bureau of Investigation has served subpoenas on local peace activists, including at least two Second Ward residents. The FBI is investigating "activities connected to the material support of terrorism" by the "Joint Terrorism Task Force." I have released a statement in support of the activists, which you can read at the Second Ward blog, and spoke at a protest against these raids. I am very concerned about the chilling effect these kinds of actions have on our ability and willingness to organize and speak out for better government. A website has been set up in response to this at <http://stopfbi.net/>.
- 10) The City has been awarded a \$325,000 grant from the Department of Justice for youth gang prevention. This will provide much needed support for our ongoing work to implement the Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence and stop youth violence in Minneapolis.
- 11) The installation of the Upper Midwest's largest solar photovoltaic system is underway at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The solar array, which has 403 of its 2,613 panels installed, will connect directly to the convention center's internal electrical system and produce 750,000 kWh of renewable energy per year when completed. For more information visit: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/20101006MCCSolarArrays.asp>.
- 12) Met Transit has started work on the maintenance facility between 24th and 26th streets just east of the Hiawatha line. This work requires a silt fence to control erosion, according to federal law. This may have an impact on how much of that trail can be plowed by City crews this winter, possibly reducing the usable width of the trail. In addition, the trail is now closed for approximately two weeks to allow water main work. Met Transit worked with my office to find a good detour route utilizing the new Minnehaha Ave bike lanes. Lastly, Met Transit has agreed to install lights on the trail between 26th and 24th, one of the portions of the trail I have heard the most complaints about.
- 13) There are openings on the Commission on Civil Rights, Public Health Advisory Committee, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, and Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.