



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon

City Council Member
Second Ward

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**Council Member Cam Gordon's
Report to Southeast Como, 6-2-09**

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

Items:

- 1) Downtown Garbage Burner
- 2) Bike Lane Meeting
- 3) Chindian Café
- 4) Sporty's Pub
- 5) ZPRR Report and Meeting
- 6) National Night Out
- 7) Ranked Choice Voting
- 8) Central Corridor
- 9) Sandwich Board Signs
- 10) New Rental Licensing Ordinance
- 11) 2010 Census
- 12) Inspector Skomra Retiring
- 13) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) Covanta energy, on behalf of Hennepin County Environmental Services, has submitted an application to amend their existing conditional use permit for their downtown garbage burner, known as the Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC). They are asking to be allowed to burn an average of 212 more tons of garbage a day. The maximum allowed now is 1000 tons so this is a 21 percent increase. It could amount to over 77,000 more tons a year. This matter will now go forward to the Planning Commission for a public hearing and a decision on **June 8th**. The staff report should be completed by June 2. The report will also likely include a recommendation. The Planning Commission is the decision making body about this issues since it is considered an amendment to a Conditional Use Permit. If the Planning Commission decision is appealed it will go the city Council's Zoning and Planning committee and then to the full Council. If this does come to the Council on appeal, I am bound to withhold a final decision until the committee meeting and to base it on the public record. So, while I will be careful not to make a final decision prematurely, I will also be very careful to encourage and heed any and all information and views provided and I will help make sure that they are made part of the public record. If you have questions that you would like to ask planning staff or if you have comments or information you would like entered into the public record you can contact Kimberly Holien, City Planner at 612 673-2402 or at kimberly.holien@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.
- 2) Public Works staff is scheduling a meeting for **June 10th**, from **6-7pm** at Augsburg College's Oren Gateway Center (2211 Riverside Ave), to discuss the plans for bike lanes on **Minnehaha** from 31st St E, continuing up **20th Ave S**, then up **19th Ave S** across the **10th Ave bridge**, and following **10th Ave SE** up to **Como Ave SE**. It will be preceded by a bike ride along the length of the planned route. Attendees should meet at the intersection of Riverside Avenue and 20th Avenue at 5pm, next to the old North Country Co-op on the southwest corner. This is the first of the Non-Motorized Transportation Program bike infrastructure projects to move forward in the Second Ward. Other Second Ward NTP projects include bike lanes on Riverside and Franklin Ave, the University of Minnesota trail, bike lanes on 27th Ave SE and bike lanes on Como Ave SE.
- 3) As I reported last month, Chindian Café has applied for a beer/wine class E license. City staff is recommending a list of conditions, many of which address the unpaved lot to the east of Chindian, and will require that the lot be paved and landscaped, no longer used for storage of inoperable vehicles, and that the existing barbed-wire fence be removed.

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, llama 612-673-2188;

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

If you need disability related accommodations, please contact Matt Bower at (612) 673-2188 or Matthew.Bower@ci.minneapolis.mn.us. TTY: 612-673-2626.

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- 4) Sporty's pub has received a license upgrade from the State Legislature. I advocated for a clause that was added to the legislation that requires local approval. I look forward to working with Sporty's owner Joe Radaich and SECIA on this local approval process.
- 5) The joint City/neighborhood ZPRR committee is bringing forward a report to Council. It includes a proposed ordinance establishing a University Area zoning overlay district, and requiring .5 parking spaces per bedroom for all new residential buildings constructed in the district. There is a public meeting to discuss this proposal and other outcomes of the ZPRR committee, tentatively scheduled for June 24th.
- 6) National Night Out is coming up fast, and now is the time to start making preparations on your block for the night that brings neighbors together. This year, National Night Out is **Tuesday, August 4**.
- 7) The last opportunity for the Council to decide not to use ranked choice voting in this November's election is fast approaching. The presumption is that we are moving forward, unless the Council certifies, by ordinance, that we are not prepared to implement the system this election. Council President Johnson has given intent of an ordinance that would do just that. I plan to vote against the introduction of the ordinance, and vote against it again if it comes before us. I believe that the test election conducted last month by Elections staff proves that the City is capable of conducting a successful ranked choice election this fall. We are still waiting to hear the outcome of the appeal to the Supreme Court, but if this decision is not made before the Council makes our final decision, I will advocate strongly for moving forward. Lastly, Elections Director Cindy Reichert is leaving her position with the City for another elections administration job. I wish her the best of luck. I will fight to hire a project manager to work specifically on the ranked choice aspect of this fall's election, and I believe there are other strong advocates for that position, including the City Coordinator. It is my hope that by the end of this month, it will be clear to everyone that Minneapolis will make history by using ranked choice voting for the first time this November.
- 8) The University has submitted a 26-page letter outlining their concerns about the vibration, electromagnetic, construction and traffic impacts of the proposed Central Corridor Light Rail line, and what they consider to be inadequate funding for mitigating these concerns. The Metropolitan Council has made clear that this sort of move by the University will very likely delay the start of construction on Central Corridor from the planned start date of next year to 2011. This means that 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. I am disappointed that the University has chosen to take this action, and am concerned that by doing they have put at risk not just the mitigation funds but the light rail project as a whole.
- 9) As part of a larger change to the way the City regulates business signage, Council Member Lisa Goodman has introduced language that would ban all free-standing signs (such as sandwich board signs) from the public right of way. This was delayed one cycle, until the next Council meeting on June 12th. I know that a number of businesses in the Second Ward use sandwich board signs without negatively impacting the pedestrian environment, and I'm reluctant to go along with this motion. I hope to be able to craft a compromise that could deal with some of Council Member Goodman's concerns (mostly regarding sidewalk congestion downtown) while also preserving the right of small businesses to let the public know where they are.
- 10) The Council has passed an ordinance requiring an inspection, along with a fee of \$450, for all changes of ownership of rental dwellings. I successfully introduced an amendment exempting properties that have been inspected in the past 6 months from both the inspection and fee.
- 11) The City has contracted with the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs at the University of MN for Census outreach coordination. I look forward to helping them, and the Census, count every Second Ward resident so that we can be sure that everyone will be fairly represented at all levels of government for the next ten years.
- 12) Second Precinct Inspector Robert Skomra is retiring. A reception in his honor will be held on Monday, June 8, from 6-9pm at Jax Café. I look forward to hearing from Police Chief Dolan about who will replace him.
- 13) There are openings on the Minneapolis Workforce Council (closes 06/05). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.