



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon

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Second Ward

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**Council Member Cam Gordon's
Report to Southeast Como, 2-9-10**

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

Items:

- 1) New Council
- 2) 2010 Opens to Violence
- 3) Social Host Ordinance
- 4) H1N1 Vaccinations at Van Cleve
- 5) Changes to Dinkydome Project
- 6) Reappointment of Department Heads
- 7) Recycling in Multifamily Buildings
- 8) Fifteen Police Officers Rehired
- 9) Changing the Redistricting Process
- 10) New Ward 2 Intern: Lolla Nur
- 11) Solar on Convention Center
- 12) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) The new Council was sworn in on January 4, and the President, Vice President, committee chairs and committee assignments have been chosen. Council Member Johnson was again elected President and Council Member Lilligren Vice President. For the first time, I will be chairing a Council committee: Elections. This is not a "standing" committee that meets once every cycle, but only as needed. This will enable me to continue to lead on issues such as ranked choice voting - especially pursuing RCV-capable voting equipment - changing the redistricting process, as well as voting rights, turnout and registration. I will be vice chair of the Regulatory Services Energy and Environment and Public Safety and Health committees. I will also serve on the following committees: Executive (as Minority Leader), Community Development, Zoning and Planning, Rules, Taxes and Claims. I continue to serve as City Council representative on the following outside, multi-jurisdictional boards: Joint City County Lead Task Force, Minneapolis/St. Paul Family Housing Finance Board, Red Rock Corridor Commission, Youth Violence Prevention Executive Committee, and, at my request, I will now also serve on the Youth Coordinating Board.
- 2) Despite another year in 2009 of significant reductions in violent crime, the first week of 2010 was marked by five homicides, several involving youth and a shocking increase in violence in Minneapolis. The worst of these occurred in Seward, where three men were shot and killed in the Seward Market at the corner of 24th and Franklin. Two 17 years olds have been arrested and charged with this crime. There was also a nonfatal shooting on the East Bank campus. These events demonstrate how far we still have to go to prevent violence in our city and I will be calling us to move more quickly on an effort I initiated last year calling for a formal "morbidity review" process for every instance when a homicide (or other violent crime) involves a youth. This will allow us to deconstruct the circumstances and possible causes behind these events and identify where we went wrong and what we can do better to prevent these in the future.
- 3) I have authored a "Social Host" ordinance that will close a loophole that currently prevents the police from citing people who host events where alcohol is available to minors. The courts have ruled that this is not covered by the existing prohibition on providing alcohol to minors. A number of high-profile cases of alcohol-related accidents and crimes, both in the Second Ward and around the state, along with statistical data that clearly point to the dangers of underage drinking, prompted me to take this on. You can read more of the rationales for this ordinance at my blog: www.secondward.blogspot.com. The ordinance passed the Public Safety and Health committee unanimously on February 3, and I hope that the full Council will also support it. Part of the committee's action was to pass a staff direction I put forward, making clear that the Council expects that appropriate Social Hosting citations will be eligible for restorative justice.

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.

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- 4) The City Health Department and the Minnesota Visiting Nurses, will be offering H1N1 vaccinations at Van Cleve Park on **Saturday, February 13** from 10am-noon. The walk-in clinics are for ages six months and older. This includes children nine and under needing their second dose. There is no charge for the vaccine, but please bring an insurance card if you have one. Parents or guardians must accompany those under 18.
- 5) Doran Companies is requesting that the City allow them to transform the upper two floors of the Dinkydome from commercial space into housing, while leaving the street level commercial. I will be closely following this application and weighing the need for additional residential space near the U versus keeping the existing commercial services, and as always giving strong consideration to the historic nature of the building.
- 6) On February 3rd the Mayor took the first step to reappointing all of the department heads, except the Civil Rights director. He has moved the following to be appointed for 2 year terms and referred the names to the appropriate committees for public hearing in February and March: Patrick Todd, City Assessor; Susan Segal, City Attorney; Steven Bosacker, City Coordinator; Mike Christensen, Director, CPED; and Executive Director of the MCDA; Alex Jackson, Fire Chief; Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner of Health/Department of Health and Family Support; Steve Kotke, Director, Public Works; and Rocco Forte, Director, Regulatory Services. The Mayor has also formally put forward Timothy Dolan for Police Chief for another 3 year term. The Police Chief appointment will return to the Executive Committee in February for a vote and then, if the committee votes to forward his nomination, to a public hearing that will likely be held March 3rd. A search is being planned to find a new director of the Civil Rights Department.
- 7) I have introduced subject matter of an ordinance that will strengthen an existing law requiring that apartment buildings provide recycling service to their tenants. City staff has had difficulty enforcing the existing law. I am open to multiple approaches, including clarifying the fine schedule for violations and making compliance with it a rental licensing standard.
- 8) Fifteen Minneapolis police officers who received layoff notices last year are back on the street because the US Department of Justice approved the City's application to modify a previously awarded COPS Hiring Recovery Program grant of federal stimulus dollars. This has allowed us to re-hire 13 officers. Six of those officers had previously been serving in the Patrol Division of the MPD; the other seven graduated from the Police Academy last month. Additionally, the City of Minneapolis Department of Regulatory Services agreed to provide funding that allowed the MPD to rehire two more officers. This funding is slotted to cover one officer who will work in conjunction with Regulatory Services personnel on problem properties and one officer who will work with Animal Control on enforcement issues.
- 9) After the 2010 Census, the City will have to re-draw our ward maps. I believe that the citizens of Minneapolis deserve a redistricting process they can understand, participate in and have confidence in. To change the redistricting process, however, will require a charter amendment. I believe that such a change should not be made by the Council, but by the voters. To present a proposal for an improved process to the voters in 2010, work needs to begin now to compile accurate information, research and expertise as well conduct a community involvement process. I believe that the Charter Commission is the appropriate body to lead that research and community involvement effort. On January 6 I presented this issue to the Charter Commission and they agreed to set up a task force to work on it. At their request, I convened this task force. The Charter Commission has sent a letter to the Council requesting the support of City staff to help them review best practices and alternative to the redistricting process.
- 10) I have hired Lolla Mohammed Nur to join the Ward 2 Office staff as a community outreach and research intern. Lolla is a junior in the honors program at the University majoring in journalism and political science. She has resided in St. Paul with her parents and three siblings since moving to Minnesota a year ago. She has lived in the Middle East and has visited her home county of Ethiopia several times. She has worked as a reporter for the Minnesota Daily and the Twin Cities Daily planet and has also interned for the Council on American-Islamic Relations. Her primary work objectives are 1) outreach to the community with a special focus on East African populations and U of M and Augsburg students and, 2) work on youth issues including youth violence prevention, student housing and youth employment.
- 11) The Council has directed our staff to negotiate and execute a solar development contract with Best Power International. Unlike the vendor we originally attempted to contract with, EyeOn Energy, Best Power has brought a project of this scope to fruition in another location. They seem to have the capacity to actually deliver. We are now working to convince the Office of Energy Security and the Public Utilities Commission to re-designate the \$2 million grant that we received jointly with EyeOn Energy as a grant solely to the City of Minneapolis. I am hopeful that we will be successful, and be able to move forward on what will be the largest solar installation in the state.
- 12) There are openings on the Audit Committee (closes 2/26), Environmental Advisory Committee (closes 2/19), Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee (closes 2/26), Public Health Advisory Committee (open until filled) and Senior Citizens Advisory Committee (closes 2/12). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.