



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon
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Second Ward

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Seward Neighborhood 5-25-11

Cam's next Seward Office Hours:
Tuesday, June 28th, 9:30-11:00am
Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St

Items:

- 1) Road Work in Seward
- 2) Riverside Avenue Reconstruction
- 3) Bike Lanes on Franklin and 26th Avenues
- 4) Seward Dual-Stream Recycling Pilot
- 5) Smoke-Free Policies
- 6) Seward Commons Land Sale
- 7) Commercial Recycling Public Hearing
- 8) Vikings Stadium
- 9) Neighborhood Environment Network
- 10) Tornado Strikes North Minneapolis
- 11) Urban Agriculture Amendments Moving Forward
- 12) Community Forum on the Minneapolis Disparity Study
- 13) Youth Violence Prevention Conference
- 14) Translation Services Available to Neighborhoods
- 15) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) It is going to be a busy summer of road work in Seward. The resurfacing of Franklin Ave will begin on June 14th, and last approximately two weeks. This is a Hennepin County project, and for more information you can contact the County's Milling and Paving Operations staff Jake Bronder at jake.bronder@co.hennepin.mn.us. The City will also be resurfacing S 9th St and Butler Place this year. Construction will occur during the summer or fall, though the actual start date is not yet scheduled. This will also only take a few days to a week if the weather is good. MnDOT will also be working on upgrading the driving surface of I-94 that runs along the edge of Seward, and expect to close the Riverside ramps during at least one weekend in late summer or early fall.
- 2) The Riverside Avenue reconstruction project is officially moving forward. It will begin construction in early to mid July. During construction, the road will be closed to traffic for some time and there will be detours, primarily on Franklin and Cedar. Staff will present the detour route and answer questions at two public meetings on **Wednesday, June 1st**, one at 10am and one at 7pm, at the Seward Tower East Advantage Center. The second section of Riverside from 23rd to Cedar will be finished in 2012. Property owners along the first phase of the Riverside Avenue reconstruction project have opted to pay an extra, voluntary assessment for upgraded pedestrian-level lighting. I thank Augsburg College and Fairview for their willingness to contribute towards improving the neighborhood, and Public Works staff for their additional work to provide the information that made it possible for the institutions to come to this decision.
- 3) In the next few months, Hennepin County will be striping bike lanes on Franklin from Riverside to Minnehaha and on 26th Ave S from the Midtown Greenway to Franklin. My office, along with the Bicycle Advisory Committee, the Seward Neighborhood Group and Seward Redesign, has reviewed the plans and suggested potential improvements. I thank the County for being willing to build these important bicycle facilities into their projects, and for working so well with the neighborhood.
- 4) If you are within the boundaries of the Seward Dual-Stream Recycling pilot, I encourage you to both participate and encourage your neighbors to participate, either by contacting them directly or by agreeing to put up a recycling lawn sign. For more information and to see the pilot area map, visit sewardprofile.posterous.com/seward-is-pilot-for-new-minneapolis-two-sort#more. To get a lawn sign, contact Mike Trdan at mnmichaelrecycle@gmail.com.

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.

- 5) The Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support is working on a number of smoke-free policies for low-income housing in various parts of the city, including three buildings in Seward: 2728 E Franklin (the senior highrise) and Seward Towers East and West. The Minneapolis Public Housing Authority has decided to transition 2728 to a smoke-free building slowly, "grandfathering in" all existing smokers but requiring that new tenants be non-smokers. I support smoke-free policies, both for reasons of health – especially children's health – and for reasons of social equity, as families living in multiunit buildings don't have the same opportunities to provide a smoke-free environment for their kids. I have encouraged the Seward Towers Board to take whatever action they deem appropriate to move towards smoke-free policies in the Towers.
- 6) The Council has voted to sell a small piece of land in the old Bystrom Brothers site to make the next phase of development possible.
- 7) The Commercial Recycling ordinance that I have been working on for some time is coming before the Council's Regulatory, Energy and Environment committee on Monday, **June 6th** at 1:30pm, in room 317 of City hall, 350 S 5th St. This ordinance will require all businesses and business property owners in Minneapolis to have recycling service or provide recycling service to their tenants. I believe that the time has come for us to move past thinking that recycling is optional, and shift to a shared expectation that recycling is simply the way we deal with waste.
- 8) I have taken a clear position against the most recent proposal for public funding for a Vikings Stadium in Minneapolis. In this time of economic turmoil, shrinking support from the state, rising property taxes and likely cuts to essential services, I can not support spending \$190 million in public dollars on stadiums. I am especially concerned about the proposed extension of the downtown restaurant tax to Second Ward small businesses which, in my opinion, will not benefit in any tangible way from a new Vikings stadium. Read more on the reasoning behind this position on my blog.
- 9) The Minneapolis Citizens' Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC), the official body tasked with advising City Hall on the environmental impacts of its policies has started an electronic newsletter to share environmental efforts and opportunities throughout Minneapolis, and they're calling it the Neighborhood Environment Network. You can submit items and sign up to be added to the mailing list by sending an email to MinneapolisNEN@gmail.com.
- 10) North Minneapolis was struck by a devastating storm this past Sunday, May 22. There were at least three tornado touchdowns in the metro area, killing one person in Minneapolis, injuring at least 30 others, knocking out power to thousands and leading to a curfew and school closings in north Minneapolis. A second person died while helping with clean up efforts. The Jordan neighborhood was hit the hardest with downed trees, snapped power lines, gas leaks and roofs torn off houses. Roads were blocked and close to 200 people displaced by the storm stayed at emergency shelter at the Northeast Armory, near Broadway and Central Avenue Sunday night. In response the Mayor declared a state of emergency. Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis offered a one-day Project Connect: Tornado Assistance Center on May 24 for county families affected by Sunday's storms at the Minneapolis Convention Center. The Minneapolis Foundation has established the Minnesota Helps - North Minneapolis Recovery Fund to assist with both short-term and long-term housing and recovery-related needs on the North Side. To make a donation visit www.GiveMN.org or send checks to The Minneapolis Foundation, 80 S. 8th St., Suite 800, Minneapolis, MN, 55402. You can also donate to the Red Cross at www.redcross.org. The City and Urban Homeworks, (<http://urbanhomeworks.com/>) a local nonprofit, will be making a call for volunteers in the coming days, but at this point it is not safe to bring folks in. Companies that want to donate goods or volunteer staff (not individual contributions): please email information including name, phone number and rough idea of quantity and type of goods and email to Marc Dronen (marc.dronen@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).
- 11) I have given notice of intent to introduce all of the zoning code text amendments recommended by the recently passed Urban Agriculture Policy Plan. I expect this introduction to go through on May 27th.
- 12) There will be a Community Forum on the Minneapolis Disparity Study - **Tuesday, June 28th** 6:00-8:00PM at the Minneapolis Central Library, Pohlad Room, RSVP by June 14, 2011, RSVPCivilRightsForum@ci.minneapolis.mn.us
- 13) The city's Access and Outreach Team will assist neighborhood organizations to assist in translating documents and interpreting at a community meeting or event. The demand for translation and interpretation has steadily increased from January to March. For more information please visit: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/access-and-outreach.asp>
- 14) There are openings on the Latino Advisory Committee, Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Public Health Advisory Committee, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, and Minneapolis Telecommunications Network (MTN). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.