



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

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## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood, 6-27-11

Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:  
Pratt School, July 19, 9:30-11am

### Items:

- 1) Central Corridor Small Business Loan Program
- 2) Commercial Recycling Ordinance Passes
- 3) Federal Community Development Block Grants
- 4) Nice Ride Expands in Prospect Park
- 5) Cupcake Applies for Charter Beer/Wine License
- 6) Site Plans for Proposed Developments Now Available Online
- 7) Outdoor Areas Ordinance
- 8) Rental Licensing Fine Increased
- 9) New City Domain Name
- 10) Minneapolis-Hennepin Recycling and Drop-off Center
- 11) Elections Division Report
- 12) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The Minneapolis businesses along the Central Corridor route may begin applying for assistance Monday, June 27 to help keep their operations up and running during the construction phase of the light rail line. The loan program offers a total of \$4 million in forgivable loans, giving qualified small retail businesses in both Minneapolis and Saint Paul access to up to \$20,000 each. Loans to eligible businesses will be interest-free and forgiven in equal installments over five years if the business can certify that it is operating on the Central Corridor each year. Funds may be used for working capital and current business expenses. See [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/business/CCLRT\\_Loan\\_Program.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/business/CCLRT_Loan_Program.asp) to download an application. Once completed, applications can be dropped off at Metropolitan Consortium of Community Developers, 3137 Chicago Ave. For more information, contact MCCD at 789-8448.
- 2) The commercial recycling ordinance I have been working on for over a year unanimously passed the full Council Friday June 17th. You can find the ordinance and the staff report here <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2011-meetings/20110617/REE2011-0606agenda.asp> I was pleased that groups as diverse as the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce and the Sierra Club supported of the new ordinance. It will go into effect September 1, and puts in place the requirement that all commercial properties in Minneapolis that have garbage service will also have recycling service. That requirement is already in place for all residential property. So soon, wherever you live, work or do business in Minneapolis, you will be able to recycle. I see this as a major step forward for waste reduction and greening our city, and think that it helps set a baseline expectation that recycling is not new and not difficult, but simply the way that we deal with waste in Minneapolis.
- 3) Federal cuts to the Community Development Block Grant (CDGB) program have forced the City to adjust allocations it approved as part of the 2011 budget. I voted against a proposal that passed out one Committee because of what I saw as disproportionate cuts to Public Health grants that provide critical services to residents of Minneapolis, including one for \$75,000 to the Living at Home/Block Nurse program that supports the good work of the Southeast Seniors program. These programs were cut 60% while other Public Service CDGB-funded projects were not cut at all. At the Council Meeting on June 17th I attempted to amend this proposal to reinstate some of the funding cut to the Public Health grants by spreading the cuts across more programs but my amendment failed. I subsequently voted against the proposal that was passed by a majority of the Council.

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact Matt Bower at (612) 673-2188 or [Matthew.Bower@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto: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.

- 4) Two new Nice Ride bicycle sharing kiosks have come to the Prospect Park area this summer. One has been installed at Yale and 27<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, the other on University and 29<sup>th</sup> Ave SE. I welcome this expansion, which will make it easier for neighborhood residents and visitors to get to the U, downtown Minneapolis, and now even St. Paul.
- 5) The Cupcake has applied for a Charter Wine license to go with their existing restaurant. As their location has not been previously licensed, there will be a public hearing at the Regulatory Energy and Environment committee on July 11<sup>th</sup>, at 1:30pm in Council chambers.
- 6) City staff has announced a significant step toward providing more online information about proposed development projects in Minneapolis. The public now has easier access to development plans for any project that has submitted a site plan review application for City Planning Commission review (generally, this is required for new non-residential or mixed use buildings and developments with five or more new residential units). Links to development plans are available directly from online Commission agendas, which you can find here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/agendas/planning-commission/>. The inclusion of development plans further advances the City's goal of providing easier access to information about planning and development-related activities. It's important to note that the plans will be draft form. These projects will be in the review process and will therefore be subject to revision based on City Planning Commission decisions and/or other factors that affect proposed new developments. Agendas (and the related staff reports and plans) will typically be available online Wednesdays prior to City Planning Commission meetings.
- 7) The Regulatory Energy and Environment committee has voted to increase the fine for occupying a rental unit after the license has been revoked from \$500 to \$2,000. I expect this change to pass the full Council this Friday. This is yet another example of the City getting serious about addressing the issues caused by a few problem landlords.
- 8) The Council has delayed consideration of a new ordinance related to the regulation of outdoor dining areas for a month. While I understand the concerns of residents who live near bars and restaurants with patio spaces, I do not think this ordinance is a fair or effective way to address those concerns and I intend to vote against the ordinance. I have received a formal position from the West Bank Business Association against the proposed ordinance and several Second Ward restaurant businesses have contacted me to voice their opposition. I will, however, be encouraging city staff to better enforce current rules and local business owners to work harder to address noise complaints from near by residents on their own. I am also concerned about the fairness of the ordinance. As it is written it would have one set of regulations for downtown, and a more stringent set of regulations in the rest of the city. I fear that this will leave Second Ward businesses at a competitive disadvantage. I also fear that the ordinance might end up costing some businesses thousands in Sewer Availability Charges (or SAC).
- 9) The City of Minneapolis is transitioning to a new, shorter, easier domain name and Internet address in mid-July: [www.minneapolismn.gov](http://www.minneapolismn.gov). The new formula for e-mail addresses will be: [First.Last@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:First.Last@minneapolismn.gov). The current domain (ci.minneapolis.mn.us) and e-mail addresses will still be valid.
- 10) I joined the rest of my colleagues on the Zoning and Planning committee in unanimously voting against the appeal of the Zoning Administrator's finding that the proposed Minneapolis-Hennepin Recycling and Drop-off Center is a recycling center, not a waste transfer station. While I am sympathetic to many of the concerns of the affected neighbors, there are a few reasons that I voted against the appeal. The most important is that the Zoning Administrator's findings are **proscriptive**, meaning that the proposed facility will **have** to conform to the definition of a recycling facility into the future. I will continue to pay close attention to this project as it moves forward. Many of the legitimate concerns brought up by the appellants – including traffic, screening, noise and more – will be more effectively addressed by the Conditional Use Permit process that this project must still undergo.
- 11) In June the Council voted not to explore contracting with Hennepin County for elections responsibilities. The vote followed a report provided by a consultant that commended the election division for its work on the senate recount of 2008, the implementation of Rank Choice Voting in 2009, and the Governor recount of 2010. The report identifies immediate needs to purchase RCV-capable voting equipment and wrote that, "The City election staff, in partnership with the Secretary of State, Hennepin County and other counties in the State of Minnesota, should join arms to work cooperatively to develop required RFP specifications. There can be significant cost savings to all jurisdictions (cities and counties) through a joint effort to purchase new equipment." The vote by the Council will allow us to move ahead filling the position of Election Director that has remained vacant since mid 2009.
- 12) There are openings on the Latino Advisory Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email [cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).