

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood, 9-24-07

Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
Pratt School, Tuesday October 16, 9:30-11am

Items:

- 1) October Roundtable: Community Engagement
- 2) Motley Meeting
- 3) University Alliance
- 4) Unpaid Judgments ordinance
- 5) 10th Ave Bridge
- 6) August 31 Critical Mass incident
- 7) Local Produce Markets
- 8) Requiring Produce in Grocery Stores
- 9) Seeking CLIC Appointee
- 10) Transportation Public Meeting
- 11) Street Lighting Policy Public Meeting
- 12) Phase III Public Art Policies
- 13) DeLaSalle
- 14) Animal Protection Ordinance
- 15) Bait Bicycle program
- 16) Contract Compliance report
- 17) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Please join me for the October Roundtable Discussion on **Community Engagement: 10/15, 7-9pm Augsburg College Christensen Center Minneapolis Room, 2nd Floor, 22nd Ave S & 7 ½ Street**. After three months of work, the Community Engagement Task Force that I worked to form has approved a preliminary report that will go to the City Council for possible action later this fall. Now we need your input and ideas. The draft includes principles, recommendations, and characteristics of organizations that are eligible to receive city resources for activities related to engaging the public. Call or email my office to get a copy of the report.
- 2) Last week, I convene a meeting with residents of the "Motley" section of Prospect Park with the U of MN Police Chief, Greg Hestness and Minneapolis' 2nd Precinct Sector Lt. for the area, Greg Reinhardt, to discuss safety and traffic concerns in Motley. My intern Paul has been working to help residents change their Critical Parking area in light of upcoming parking pressures from the Stadium, and has completed a count of users of the pedestrian bridge over Huron. Residents are divided on this bridge, with many strongly advocating closing it and others strongly in favor of it remaining open. I encouraged the advocates there to bring this issue to PPERRIA for broader community discussion.
- 3) The Stadium Area Advisory Group has decided on a formal structure for the University Alliance. The Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association gets a seat worth two votes and SEBA and SVCA gets a seat worth one each. I encourage all organizations to appoint representatives and stay in close communication with them through this important process.
- 4) The ordinance I introduced giving the City the authority to revoke or not renew rental licenses to landlords who have unpaid legal judgments against them unanimously passed the Council. I count this ordinance as a major win for tenants' rights.
 - 5) The 10th Avenue Bridge over the Mississippi River reopened August 31 in time for the first day of classes at the University and the Minneapolis Public Schools. City workers have added a walkway and new pedestrian viewing area on the upstream side. The bridge also carries one lane of mixed use traffic in each direction, a bike lane in each direction and the preexisting sidewalk. I have heard concerns from some residents about this configuration, and would appreciate your input on how well you believe it is working.

- 6) As you may have heard, there was a significant incident at the August 31 Critical Mass, a monthly group bicycle ride. Nineteen people were arrested, many more were pepper sprayed. The arrestees included one of the Second Ward Interns. I had serious concerns about the police's response, and organized a meeting between MPD Administration officials and Critical Mass participants to discuss ways to prevent similar confrontations in the future. I am hopeful that this Friday's ride will be more peaceful.
- 7) Responding to a staff directive I championed, City staff have come up with a new, easier permitting process for small Local Produce Markets. These Local Produce Markets must have five vendors or fewer, all of whom grow their own produce. I consider this a major step forward on supporting local, sustainable agriculture and increasing access in poor communities to high-quality, nutritious foods.
- 8) Regulatory Services staff have presented the Council with a proposal that all businesses with grocery store licenses carry "staple" food items. I am working with my colleagues to strengthen this recommendation to ensure that all licensed grocery stores have an adequate stock of fresh fruits and vegetables.
- 9) I am looking for a new appointee to the Capital Long Range Improvement Committee (CLIC) appointee. CLIC makes recommendations to the City Council and Mayor on capital improvement program development and annual capital improvement budgets. It meets on the first and third Tuesdays of each month, with additional meetings at the call of the chair. I welcome your recommendations and letters of interest.
- 10) The City is hosting public meetings to discuss the City's draft Ten-Year Transportation Plan and its Streetcar Feasibility Study. The public will have an opportunity to provide feedback on plan recommendations and to discuss key transportation issues facing Minneapolis. The meeting will be on **October 24, 6:30-8:30 pm, at the Van Cleve Recreation Center.**
- 11) The City of Minneapolis is hosting a series of open houses in September to give folks the opportunity to learn about a proposed Street Lighting Policy, Program and fee proposal, and to share your feedback. Public Works is sponsoring the meetings, which are each scheduled from 7-8:30 pm at the following locations near the Second Ward: **Wednesday, September 26 at Van Cleve Park.** For more dates and locations, please see the City's website: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us.
- 12) The Council has passed Phase III of the Minneapolis Public Art Policies, as drafted by the Minneapolis Arts Commission's Public Art Advisory Panel. For more information, go here: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070831/docs/09_PublicArtPoliciesPhaseIII.pdf
- 13) I opposed vacating Grove Street on Nicollet Island for use as part of the proposed DeLaSalle football stadium. I agreed with the many groups who have weighed in on this issue: the Heritage Preservation Commission, the Planning Commission, the Friends of the Mississippi, Clean Water Action and so many others that the vacation of Grove Street is not in the public interest, will negatively impact an important historic district and the surrounding community, and is not in keeping with the plans at all governmental levels for riverfront parkland along the Mississippi.
- 14) As you've likely heard, the Animal Protection ordinance I co-sponsored with Ralph Remington was defeated 7-6 in favor of an ill-conceived "regulation" ordinance that I believe will have little impact on the welfare of circus animals or the public safety risks animal circuses pose. This ordinance was referred back to committee for more work, to reduce the expense to City staff and increase its effectiveness.
- 15) Last month, the PS&RS Committee passed a motion I wrote, directing the Police Department to explore creating a "**Bait Bicycle**" program, similar to the "Bait Vehicle" programs we currently have in place. It also directs them to pursue Non-Motorized Transportation grants to fund a pilot project. I'm happy to report that the MPD has begun working with Abbott Northwestern hospital's security staff on a pilot program.
- 16) The Civil Rights Department has reported major discrepancies between our Contract Compliance Unit goals and their implementation. The report states that entities governed by the Civil Rights Ordinance are **not** in full compliance with the hiring, contracting, reporting, monitoring, and enforcement mandates. I introduced a motion directing the Civil Rights Director to report back to the HE&E Committee in October with further analysis and with recommendations. To see the report, please go here: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070629/docs/CCU_Report_5-24-07.pdf.
- 17) There are openings on the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People With Disabilities (closes 9/28/07), the Latino Advisory Committee to the Mayor and City Council (closes 11/16/2007), the Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) (closes 9/28/2007), the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee (closes 9/28/2007), and the Zoning Board of Adjustment (closes 9/28/2007). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.