



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

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Second Ward

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## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood, 4-26-10

**Robin, Ward 2 Senior Policy Aide, will be filling in at  
Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:  
Pratt School, May 18, 9:30-11am**

**Items:**

- 1) Supplemental Budget
- 2) New Central Corridor Committee
- 3) U and Met Council Agreement
- 4) Parking Meters
- 5) River Terrace Water Line
- 6) I-35W Bridge Collapse Resurfacing Projects
- 7) Prospect Park Street Resurfacing
- 8) U of M Energy Resolution
- 9) Free Hot Spots
- 10) U of M Trail
- 11) Emerald Ash Borer
- 12) Prospect Park Historic Preservation
- 13) 2nd Precinct Open House
- 14) New Civil Rights Director Nominated
- 15) Apartment Building Recycling Ordinance
- 16) Mobile Food Vendors
- 17) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) In response to the projected \$10.9 million state cut to City's Local Government Aid for this year the Mayor presented a supplemental budget proposal to the Council in April. Fortunately, the City is in a reasonably good position to absorb these cuts. Due to good fiscal management we ended up with a positive fund balance at the end of last year. The Mayor's proposal includes department cuts totaling \$5.59 million, the use of \$4.5 million in contingency funds, and one time resources of \$6.46 million. He has also proposed a one time increase to the Public Works budget to provide funding for street maintenance. The proposed supplemental budget will be acted on by the Council on April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- 2) I have been elected by the Council to serve on the newly formed Central Corridor Community Agreements Coordinating Committee, a cross-jurisdictional group of residents, business owners and elected officials from Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Hennepin and Ramsey Counties. Prospect Park resident, Phil Anderson and area business operators, Dave Barnhart and Chris Ferguson, also serve on the committee. Its purpose to help guide development and coordinate community benefits into future decisions and investments along the line.
- 3) I am pleased that University of Minnesota and the Metropolitan Council (with the help of a skilled mediator) have reached an agreement on Central Corridor Light Rail and how to address concerns about vibration and research at the University.
- 4) The Council has chosen the next generation of parking meters. For high-traffic areas (such as downtown), we will install multi-space meters. For medium-traffic areas (such as Stadium Village), we will install upgraded single-space meters, many of which will be solar-powered. These first two types of meters will accept more forms of payment, including credit cards. For low-utilization areas, we will be installing upgraded "standard" meters. I have long believed that our meters could be both more environmentally sustainable and more supportive of our neighborhood commercial nodes, and I'm thrilled to see the City moving in this direction.
- 5) Funds for the relining of the East River Terrace water main have been secured and work will be done this summer or early in the fall. This will not cost residents anything as the funding comes from the Water Fund. I will be working with staff and neighbors to help coordinate timing and minimize inconvenience during construction.

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, llama 612-673-2188;

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

- 6) \$2.3 million in Federal funding will help the City restore streets that sustained extra wear and tear for 13 months while a replacement 35W bridge was built. They include 15th Avenue SE, 18th Avenue SE, Industrial Boulevard and 25th/26th Avenue South. The County is also working on some similar projects in the Ward, including Cedar Avenue from I-94 to Seven Corners.
- 7) The Public Works' proposed resurfacing plan for most of the streets in Prospect Park this year has been approved by a council committee. I expect it to pass the full Council on April 30th and resurfacing to begin this summer. Half the cost of the project will be paid through assessments on property owners. I will be working to correct one assessment that is appears unfair before Friday. If a property owner is elderly/on a fixed income or disabled, they may contact Suzette Hermstead at 612-673-2401, about a deferment of the assessment until the property sells or is passed on to another owner.
- 8) I am working on a resolution honoring the good work of the U students participating in the Campuses Beyond Coal campaign, thanking the University for working towards carbon neutrality and encouraging them to stop burning coal at their Southeast Minneapolis plant.
- 9) As part of the City's contract with US Internet, they will be providing some free wireless internet nodes in public areas around the City. Some of the Ward 2 locations include Matthews Park, Brackett Park, Luxton Park, Van Cleve Park and one node at 4<sup>th</sup> and Oak.
- 10) The Council has approved moving forward this year on construction of the University of Minnesota Bike Trail, a new off-street facility which will connect Bridge 9 to the intersection of 5<sup>th</sup> St SE and Oak St SE, near the Transit way trail. This trail will be a major improvement for people biking to or near the University.
- 11) Emerald Ash Borer has been found in Minneapolis, in Tower Hill Park in the Prospect Park neighborhood. In response, the Park Board's Forestry Division has begun removing ash trees in the surrounding area. This infestation is a major problem because approximately 20 percent of the tree canopy in Minneapolis consists of ash trees. Robin, my policy aide, is the Council's new appointee to the Tree Advisory Committee, and Ward 1 Council Member Kevin Reich's policy aide Shannon McDonough is the alternate. They will help us to coordinate between the City and the Park Board on this emerging challenge.
- 12) The Council has granted the Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association's appeal, overturning the Heritage Preservation Commission's (HPC) decision to extend interim historic protections in the proposed Prospect Park historic district for another six months. Interim protections are no longer in place. I will be working to ensure that any sort of neighborhood vote on the proposed local district is tabled while the report is finished by staff and we carefully consider next steps. I am committed to working closely with the neighborhood association and am interested in sponsoring a "conservation district" ordinance that could give neighborhoods a wider range of options for adopting historic protections that meet their needs.
- 13) Please join me at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Police Precinct Open House on Monday, May 10, from 11am-2pm at the Precinct, 1911 Central Ave NE. There will be information displays from Bomb Squad, Minneapolis Fire Department, Horse Patrol, Ambulance and SWAT Team.
- 14) The Mayor has nominated Velma Korbel to be our next Civil Rights Director. Ms. Korbel come highly recommended and has an impressive resume that includes serving as Commissioner for the Department of Human Rights since 2003, where she has enacted some significant improvements. I have met with her, talked to one of her colleagues and look forward to getting to know her better through the appointment process.
- 15) My amendment to the City's multifamily housing recycling mandate has passed the Council unanimously. This measure will clarify and increase the enforceability of the City's existing mandate, by laying out a defined fine schedule and removing the unused "waiver" system by which property owners can make the case that they cannot offer recycling services.
- 16) The Council has approved a new ordinance allowing more types of food to be sold by street vendors in downtown. I view this ordinance as a good first step and a "pilot," and look forward to broadening it next year. I'm interested in allowing vendors to operate outside of downtown in certain commercial areas of the Second Ward, including Stadium Village and University Avenue. I'm also interested in addressing the health and sustainability issues that were not adequately considered as part of this first step.
- 17) There are openings on the Minneapolis Ethical Practices Board (closes 5/7/2010) and the Latino Advisory Committee (open until filled). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email [cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).