



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

## Cam Gordon

City Council Member  
Second Ward

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## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 6-7-11

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:  
Tuesday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am  
Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como Avenue SE

### Items:

- 1) Commercial Recycling Ordinance passes REE
- 2) Recycling and Drop-off Center Appeal
- 3) Vikings Stadium
- 4) Tornado Hits North Minneapolis
- 5) Neighborhood Funding at the Legislature
- 6) 2011 Residents Survey
- 7) Neighborhood Environment Network
- 8) Minneapolis Disparity Study Community Forum
- 9) Urban Ag Amendments Introduced
- 10) New Hours at Park Buildings
- 11) Pension Reform Bill
- 12) Advisory Committee on Redistricting
- 13) Cyclist Killed in Ward 2
- 14) Free Wood Chips
- 15) City E-mail and Website Get New Domain Name
- 16) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) The commercial recycling ordinance I have been working on for over a year unanimously passed the Regulatory, Energy and Environment yesterday. Groups as diverse as the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce and the Sierra Club have come out in support of it. I hope and expect that it will pass the full Council on June 17<sup>th</sup>. Once it has passed, my office will work with staff from Solid Waste and Recycling, Sustainability and Regulatory Services to develop an implementation plan, including technical assistance for businesses that do not currently recycle and educational materials. 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.
- 2) This Thursday at 9:30am, the Council's Zoning and Planning committee will hear an appeal of the unanimous action of the Zoning Board of Adjustment, which denied an appeal of the Zoning Administrator's interpretation that the proposed use of the Minneapolis-Hennepin Recycling and Drop-off Center at 340 27th Ave NE is a recycling facility. I understand that the appellants will be asking for a continuance, but I am unsure whether it will be granted.
- 3) 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, 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 here: <http://secondward.blogspot.com>.
- 4) North Minneapolis was struck by a devastating tornado on May 22. To help, 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](http://www.GiveMN.org) or send checks to The Minneapolis Foundation, 80 S. 8th St., Suite 800, Minneapolis, MN, 55402. People can also donate to the Red Cross at [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org).
- 5) The fight between the City and neighborhood organizations that the Council majority started last December – over my strenuous objections – moved into the Legislature in May. Minneapolis Representative Phyllis Kahn and Senator Ken Kelash brought forward legislation to undo the Council's decision to take back millions of dollars in funding promised to neighborhoods under NRP. The legislature failed to take action

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.

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<http://secondward.blogspot.com>

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on this bill before adjourning. I was a little torn, but disappointed the legislature was unable to intervene. While I generally do not support having the Legislature reach down and directly meddle in local affairs, the Council made the wrong decision in December, and NRP was, after all, a creation of the state legislature.

- 6) The 2011 Resident Survey is now complete and the results are available. To view the results, please go to: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/results-oriented-minneapolis/survey2011.asp>
- 7) The Minneapolis Neighborhood Environment Network (MNEN) is a project of the Minneapolis Citizens' Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC), the official body tasked with advising City Hall on the environmental impacts of its policies and operations. MNEN is a newsletter to share environmental efforts and opportunities that may affect your neighborhood. Please submit items to [MinneapolisNEN@gmail.com](mailto:MinneapolisNEN@gmail.com). To receive the newsletters, please send an email to [MinneapolisNEN@gmail.com](mailto:MinneapolisNEN@gmail.com) with your name and email address to be added to the mailing list.
- 8) There will be a Community Forum on the Minneapolis Disparity Study - **Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup>** 6:00-8:00PM at the Minneapolis Central Library, Pohlad Room, RSVP by June 14, 2011, [RSVPCivilRightsForum@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:RSVPCivilRightsForum@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)
- 9) I have introduced all of the zoning code text amendments recommended by the recently passed Urban Agriculture Policy Plan. These will be referred to staff at the Zoning and Planning committee meeting on Thursday. My hope is that the community stakeholders who helped make the Plan itself such a success will continue to be engaged, and work with Planning staff to get a good set of recommendations to the Council in time for the new rules to be in place for the 2012 growing season.
- 10) 47 recreation centers in Minneapolis Parks launched new hours beginning May 31. Van Cleve's hours this summer (Memorial Day - Labor Day) will be Mon-Thurs 12-9 pm; Fri 12-6 pm; Sat 11am-6pm; Sun 12-4 pm. For more information on the new recreation center hours, see the news release and graphic on the MPRB website here: <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=52&prid=1509>
- 11) I was supportive of a proposed legislation that would merge the Minneapolis Police and Firefighters Relief Associations' pension programs into the statewide public employee's retirement program. The proposed agreement would have potentially provided property tax savings exceeding \$100 million over the next 20 years, including \$21 million next year. I am grateful to Representative Jim Davnie for authoring this but disappointed that the legislature did not pass it before it adjourned. Hopefully it will be considered and passed during the expected special session that could occur this summer.
- 12) The Minneapolis Charter Commission has announced appointments to the Advisory Committee on Redistricting that will make recommendations on Ward, Park District, and School District Boundaries as part of this decade's redistricting process. The appointed representatives to the Advisory Committee include: Jay Bad Heart Bull, (Ward 12, Howe,) Matthew Brown, (Ward 1, Audubon Park), Terra Cole, (Ward 3, Hawthorne), Jill Garcia, (Ward 8, Field), Denny Heinle, (Ward 4, Lind-Bohanon), Jeanne Massey, (Ward 8, Kingfield), Sandra Richardson, (Ward 8, Regina), Gary Thaden, (Ward 10, Lowry Hill East) and Adosh Unni, (Ward 6, Whittier).
- 13) A young woman named Audrey Hull was hit and killed on her bicycle at the corner of 15<sup>th</sup> Ave SE and 4<sup>th</sup> St SE in late April. There is a very clear pattern emerging: of the last six bicycle fatalities in Minneapolis, four were caused by large trucks making turns. My office has organized a meeting between members of Public Works, the Police Department, and the Attorney's Office to begin an interagency discussion about how best to address this deadly conflict between bicyclists and trucks. I also plan to hold community meetings to get ideas from cyclists, truck drivers and others about how to prevent future deaths.
- 14) The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board offers woodchips for free to Minneapolis residents on a first-come, first-served basis at 11 park sites throughout the city. Woodchips can go quickly and the Forestry department does not monitor quantities after delivery to sites. To find a location near you, go to: [www.minneapolisparcs.org](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org).
- 15) 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.
- 16) 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).