

**News from Cam Gordon**  
**Council Member, Second Ward**

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward2/>

**Remember to Vote.** Next Tuesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> is Election Day. Keep in mind that the charter question on whether to use Instant Runoff Voting (<http://www.betterballotcampaign.org>) in Minneapolis elections will be on the ballot.

**Take the Minneapolis Energy Challenge!** <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/energychallenge/>. Second Ward neighborhoods are in the running, but definitely not in the lead yet – Longfellow is 3<sup>rd</sup>, Southeast Como is 7<sup>th</sup>, Seward is 9<sup>th</sup>, Prospect Park is 40<sup>th</sup> and Cedar Riverside is not on the list. We can do better – Take the challenge today!

**CRA Reform.** The recommendations of the Civilian Review Authority Work Group that I helped form passed the Council unanimously last Friday. In my opinion, every one of these recommendations strengthens civilian oversight of the Police Department and empowers the CRA. I consider this a major victory for police accountability and reform.

**Rental License Ordinance.** The rental license ordinance I authored passed the Council unanimously. I am optimistic that this will be an important tool that Housing Inspections can use to more effectively address some of the illegal activities of absentee landlords, protect tenant rights and keep our neighborhoods livable.

**Arsenic Ordinance.** The arsenic right-to-know ordinance that I authored passed the Council unanimously. The new law requires landlords within the South Minneapolis arsenic contamination site to inform their prospective and current tenants about the level of contamination the EPA has found in their soil and home sellers to disclose known soil contamination to home buyers citywide. I will be working with City staff, rental housing associations and environmental organizations to see that it is enforced.

**Safe City Resolution.** With Council Members Glidden and Hodges, I helped craft the Safe City Resolution outlining the Council's expectation for the leadership of the Minneapolis Police Department. It incorporates many of the issues we raised in a memo to Mayor Rybak that has been discussed in the local media. Specifically, it requires the Chief to commit to a goal of 100% MPD discipline for CRA sustained complaints and report back to the Council on the actual level, diversify the force, work to end racial profiling, use more than just crime rate data to discuss the Department's progress, complete the Federal Mediation Agreement, and create a real community policing model for the City. This resolution passed the Council unanimously, sending a clear signal to Chief Dolan that these are policymakers' expectations, and the standards by which his performance will be judged.

**Police Chief Dolan.** The City Council has voted to confirm Mayor Rybak's nomination of Tim Dolan as Minneapolis's new Chief of Police. He will serve a three year term beginning in January. Initially I had concerns about his commitment to community policing, ending racial profiling and dealing effectively with police misconduct. But working with the Mayor, other City Council Members and through discussions with the Chief, these were addressed to my satisfaction and in the end I voted for Chief Dolan's appointment. I look forward to working with him to prevent youth violence, improve police community relations, build an effective system of community-centered policing and make this a safer City for everyone.

**Big Stone II Resolution.** I was lead author of a resolution that passed the Council unanimously on October 6<sup>th</sup>, opposing the proposed Big Stone II coal plant. This plant, if built, will send its particulates and mercury towards Minneapolis and more than offset all of the carbon emission reductions we hope to make over the next fifteen years. I delivered the resolution to the Public

Utilities Commission, and I hope that they will listen to the people of Minneapolis and deny the permits that will make this project possible.

**Taxi Cap.** I initially supported lifting the cap on taxi licenses in Minneapolis, partly because I have heard from members of the Somali and other immigrant communities that they would like to be able to operate cab companies. However, I could not in good conscience vote for the final ordinance amendment, because not enough effort was made to make lifting the cap easier on current drivers, many of whom are East African immigrants, and because the Council moved to dramatically weaken the fuel efficiency standards I had fought to include. One piece of good news is that the Council accepted my proposal to make all new licenses granted by the City non-transferable, to prevent the huge increases in license cost (more than \$20,000) that we have seen in the past.

**Green Cleaning.** Working with Council Member Benson and Public Works staff, we have created a policy for selecting cleaning products to use in Minneapolis buildings that are nontoxic or less toxic. Under this policy, staff are to use Green Seal Certified products (<http://www.greenseal.org/>) whenever possible.

**Youth Violence Prevention.** I am working with Council Member Samuels, the Department of Health and Family Support and the Police Department to pass a resolution recognizing youth violence as a public health threat. The resolution will also create an advisory council to develop strategies with measurable outcomes to prevent youth violence.

**Library Funding.** Working with other Council Members, staff and community activists, I am fighting to find funding to prevent the permanent closure of the three neighborhood libraries, including the Southeast Library, and address the longer term funding needs of the library system. We must fight to keep the option of reopening these libraries later viable and we must find explore creative ways to keep library services in the communities that lose their libraries.

**Industrial Land Use.** The City Council approved the Industrial Land Use and Employment Policy Plan that clearly defines Industrial Employment districts in the City, including in South Seward and Southeast, east and north of the University (SEMI). This has been a major undertaking and sets the framework for making better use of our industrial areas in a thoughtful way, to provide quality jobs in Minneapolis.

**Second Ward Website.** The Second Ward website has a new look, including a graphic interface and individual neighborhood resource pages. Check it out here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward2/>. We are attempting to make it easier for residents to access the resources available in their neighborhoods. Please look carefully at the resource pages and let my office know if you have any changes or additions.

**2007 Budget.** Over the next month, the City Council will be making major budget decisions based on the Mayor's recommendations. I welcome any and all comments on the Mayor's proposed budget, which you can view here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/city-budget/2007recommended/>. The date for the Budget Mark-up by the Ways & Means Committee is Wednesday, November 29, 2006.

**Truth in Taxation.** The Truth-in-Taxation Hearing, which is an opportunity for public comment, will take place on Thursday, November 30, 2006, starting at 5:05 pm in Council Chambers. The Budget Adoption is scheduled for Monday, December 11 at 5:05 pm.

**Openings on City Boards and Commissions.** There are openings on the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee (CEAC), the Latino Advisory Committee and the Empowerment Zone Board of Governance. CEAC provides advice to the Council and to City Staff on environment policy.

For more information on these three openings or for applications, call 612-673-3358 or visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/>.

Yours, in peace and cooperation,

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