

# Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 8-14-07

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:  
Tuesday, September 11, 9:30-11:00am  
SECIA Office, 837 15th Ave SE

## Items:

- 1) August Roundtable: Biking and Walking in Mpls, 8-23-07
- 2) I-35W Bridge Collapse Updates
- 3) Unpaid Judgments Ordinance
- 4) "Bait Bicycle" Program
- 5) DeLaSalle Football Stadium
- 6) Farm Stand Policy
- 7) Lead Safe Work Practices Ordinance
- 8) Public Safety for Public Housing
- 9) New CPED Director
- 10) Compensation Philosophy
- 11) Free Speech Work Group Guiding Principles
- 12) Contract Compliance
- 13) Air Quality Study
- 14) Internal Affairs Audit
- 15) Sale of City-Owned Parking Ramps
- 16) Green Convention 2008
- 17) Animal Protection Ordinance
- 18) Employee Free Choice Act Resolution
- 19) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Please join me for my next Roundtable Discussion on **Thursday, August 23: Biking and Walking in Minneapolis**. The Council has approved a Downtown Transportation Action Plan, incorporating some improvements to the bike and pedestrian grid downtown. Staff will be exploring the "Copenhagen Model" of enhanced bike facilities. A citywide Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan is being drafted this summer. Non-Motorized Transportation funds continue to support new bike/ped projects. The City is even working on a "bait bike" program to catch and deter bike thieves. Come find out what changes are coming for downtown and what new projects will be coming to your neighborhood, and share your ideas for how we can get even more neighbors walking and biking: **Brackett Park, 2728 39th Ave S, 7-9pm**.
- 2) Some recent updates on the City's response to this catastrophe: 1) Two public meetings have been scheduled to discuss the bridge in Southeast Como. The first is tomorrow, August 15, 7-9pm at Van Cleve Park. Its purpose is to discuss the larger issues of the official traffic re-route and design of the new bridge. Council Member Ostrow and I have scheduled a second meeting for Monday, August 20, to discuss traffic impacts this disaster is having on the east side neighborhoods. 2) The west end, but not the east end, of Bridge #9 will be opened to bike and pedestrian traffic, starting tomorrow, August 15.
- 3) 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 has been reviewed by the City's Rental Property Advisory Committee for review. I believe we are close to a compromise that will assuage some of the concerns of the landlord community, and I am hopeful that it will pass. I am encouraging supporters of this ordinance to write other Council Members.
- 4) 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. Bike theft is a serious concern in the Second Ward, and few bike thieves are caught. This program could potentially help increase bike mode share by deterring thieves and making potential riders feel comfortable riding and parking bikes in our city.
  - 5) I was the only member of the Zoning and Planning committee to vote against vacating Grove Street on Nicollet Island for use as part of the proposed DeLaSalle football stadium. I plan to vote against this at the full Council meeting on Friday as well.
  - 6) My office is continuing to work to make it easier and cheaper for small farm stands selling local produce to navigate the City's bureaucratic processes, to increase access to healthy foods in communities with little access at this time.

- 7) The ordinance I introduced requiring that anyone repairing chipped or peeling paint on a pre-1978 housing unit, as required by a City violation order, must have attended a Lead Safe Work Practices training, unanimously passed the Council unanimously last month.
- 8) The Council has voted to put \$350,000 in additional funding into the Public Housing Authority and Police Department partnership for keeping public housing residents and the surrounding communities safe. I strongly supported this measure, both for the good of the many Second Ward residents of public housing and for the communities that surround them.
- 9) Mike Christenson has been unanimously confirmed by the Council as the new Director of the Community Planning and Economic Development department.
- 10) The Council rescinded the 2% wage increase cap for City employees last week, and replaced it with a more comprehensive employee compensation philosophy.
- 11) The Free Speech Work Group that I helped form has drafted our guiding principles for protecting free speech during the RNC Convention next year. The Council unanimously approved these principles last month:  
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070720/COW20070719agenda.asp#TopOfPage>.
- 12) The Civil Rights Department has reported that there is a major discrepancy between the goals for our Contract Compliance Unit and the implementation of these goals. The report states that Governmental and non-governmental entities governed by the Civil Rights Ordinance are **not** in full compliance with the hiring, contracting, reporting, monitoring, and enforcement mandates described in the contract compliance provisions of the Ordinance. It goes on to state that the City is not holding firms that are not in compliance accountable. I take this report very seriously, and introduced a motion directing the Civil Rights Director to report back to the HE&E Committee in October with further analysis as to the scope of non-compliance, and with recommendations to improve the contract compliance in small and underutilized business program processes and for other potential Council actions. To see the report, please go here: [http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070629/docs/CCU\\_Report\\_5-24-07.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070629/docs/CCU_Report_5-24-07.pdf).
- 13) The Environmental Management Department has released an Air Quality Study, designed to look at air quality across the entire city in areas where citizens live, work and play. Samples were collected in each season and analyzed for volatile organic compounds. Fifty monitors were deployed four times throughout the year to collect information on 31 different chemicals. To see the report, please go here:  
[http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/airquality/docs/AirQualityReport\\_July2007.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/airquality/docs/AirQualityReport_July2007.pdf).
- 14) The Police Department has released a Request For Proposals to find a contractor do conduct an audit of the Internal Affairs department, as a step towards the greater goal of increasing police officer accountability.
- 15) The Council has decided to sell eight City-owned parking ramps, including the Seven Corners ramp in the Second Ward. For more information, please go here: [http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070629/Docs/08\\_Parking\\_Ramp\\_Set\\_PH.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070629/Docs/08_Parking_Ramp_Set_PH.pdf)
- 16) I have been involved in the effort to bring the Green Party 2008 Convention to Minneapolis, to further increase the visibility of our wonderful City and help offset the Republican Convention later this year.
- 17) The Animal Protection ordinance that my colleague Ralph Remington has sponsored and that I support, prohibiting wild animal circuses in Minneapolis, has been postponed due to the bridge collapse. It will come before the PS&RS Committee for a public hearing on September 12 at 1pm.
- 18) The Council has passed a resolution calling on Congress to pass the Employee Free Choice Act, to make it easier for working people to join labor unions.
- 19) There are openings on the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People With Disabilities (closes 8/31/07), Minneapolis Empowerment Zone Governance Board (closes 8/31/2007), Minneapolis Ethical Practices Board (closes 9/7/2007), Public Health Advisory Committee (closes 8/31/2007), Senior Citizen Advisory Committee (closes 8/31/2007), Zoning Board of Adjustment (closes 8/24/2007). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email [cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).