

# Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood, 5-21-07

Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:  
Pratt School, Tuesday June 19, 9:30-11am

## Items:

- 1) Roundtable: NRP & Neighborhood Orgs
- 2) Roundtable: Community Policing
- 3) Community Engagement and NRP
- 4) Youth Opportunities this Summer
- 5) EPA Award
- 6) Minneapolis: *Living Well*
- 7) 311 in rental dwellings
- 8) Police Department plans
- 9) Grand Rounds Citizens Advisory Committee
- 10) Homeownership Work Group
- 11) Maximum Occupancy
- 12) LCDA Grants to SEMI
- 13) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Please join me, City Coordinator Steven Bosacker and others for a Roundtable Discussion **Thursday, May 24, 7-8:30 pm, Matthews Park, 2318 28th Ave S** on Neighborhood Organizations and NRP: What now? What next? The City Council is taking a look at Neighborhood Organizations and the future of NRP. How can the City do a better job of supporting the work of neighborhood organizations? How can we help shape the future of citizen participation in city government and the future of neighborhood revitalization in Minneapolis?
- 2) Please join me and the new Second Ward Community Outreach Interns for a Roundtable Discussion on Community Policing, Block Clubs and Walking Groups, **June 19<sup>th</sup>, 7-9 PM at Luxton Park.**
- 3) The City Council Committee of the Whole directed staff to begin work on some recommendations and approved a work plan which identifies a timeline and next steps to improve the City's community engagement system, including its relationship with neighborhood organizations and with the future of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP). You can download the City Coordinator's report, recommendations and work plan here <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070427/COW20070426agenda.asp#TopOfPage>
- 4) Minneapolis has plenty of opportunities for youth this summer. There are more than 750 activities and programs covering a wide array of topics available for children and teens. For students old enough to work, the **Step-Up** summer jobs program recruits, trains, and places Minneapolis teens in jobs that provide them with solid work experience, puts them on career paths, and lets them earn some money in the process. There are around 2,000 summer jobs available through Step-Up this summer, 600 more than last year. Find out about many of these programs by going to the Minneapolis' new youth Web page at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/residents/youth.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/residents/youth.asp). Also, call the "**What's Up?**" youth information line at (612) 399-999 or search the organization's database at [www.whatsup.org](http://www.whatsup.org).
- 5) The US Environmental Protection Agency has recognized Minneapolis (as one of only two winners nationwide) with a Clean Air Excellence Award and Minneapolis in the "Regulatory/Policy Innovation" category. Air quality in Minneapolis is among the best of major metropolitan areas in the United States, and the City is working to make it even better.
  - 6) The full Minneapolis Sustainability Report, entitled *Minneapolis: Living Well* has been released: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070525/docs/Living-well-Report.pdf>. This document includes the already-released *Greenprint*, but covers all 24 Sustainability Indicators. It shows that we have made some good progress on many of our indicators, but also shows where we have room for improvement.
  - 7) I supported CM Schiff's ordinance requiring city-prepared information on 311 to be posted in all rental dwellings in the City. This is a small step that can help better connect renters to City services, especially regarding Snow Emergencies and rental housing inspections.

- 8) The Minneapolis Police Department has released their 2007-2011 Business Plan. You can read it here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070511/docs/MPD-5-Year-Plan.pdf>. It references the "Safe City Resolution" that I helped craft during last year's budget cycle, and includes measures of Department performance other than crime and arrest rates, such as complaints against officers, City liability and crime prevention. It refers to the ongoing work of the Youth Violence Prevention Steering Committee. The Internal Affairs Unit is going out for an external audit, and has released their yearly report, which you can read here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070511/docs/IAU-Annual-Report-final.pdf>. I believe that we are making slow progress in making the MPD more accountable and prevention based.
- 9) The Park Board plans to create a Citizens Advisory Committee to meet over the course of the next 12-15 months to develop recommendations about completing the last link of Grand Rounds Scenic Byway. The study area is bordered by 35 W on the west and north, the Mississippi River to the south and St. Paul to the east. Please let me know if you or anyone you know would be interested in participating.
- 10) The Southeast Como Homeownership Working Group that I initiated to explore strategies and identify resources to promote homeownership in the Como neighborhood met for the first time today. The group includes Elizabeth Ryan and Mark Anderson from the City Community Planning and Economic Development staff, Jim Roth from the Minneapolis Consortium of Community Developers, Carol Lansing from the Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation, Deanna Foster from Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), Jan Morlock from the University and Katie Fournier and James De Sota from SECIA. Arvonne Fraser from Marcy Holms will also be attending.
- 11) The group I have set up to talk about possible reforms to the Minneapolis Maximum Occupancy codes has met four times. We have reviewed the current codes, laid out our goals for "ideal" maximum occupancy regulations and studied how Minneapolis has regulated occupancy in the past and other municipalities regulate it today. The consensus of the group was to move towards regulating the maximum number of adults, regardless of their "relatedness," who can share a dwelling unit based on the habitable square footage of the unit. I will also be putting together a package of other reforms to help deal with the concerns that I do not feel the current maximum occupancy code is effectively addressing, including: limitations on increasing the maximum occupancy of a unit by increasing its size; more regular inspection of all rental units; a system of rental license classifications, which would reward good landlords and direct more City resources to dealing with bad landlords; targeted grants and loans to increase homeownership in Southeast; clarifying and strengthening the definition of "impervious surface, to prevent yards from being effectively paved; and the creation and distribution of "welcome packets" to all new student residents.
- 12) The City of Minneapolis' application for \$971,000 in Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA) funding for the SEMI/University Research Park project has been ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> of 8 projects by the Community Development Committee. This funding will allow for infrastructure improvements to provide necessary access to approximately 75 acres of land now occupied by vacant or underused grain elevators, railroad right-of-way, and remnants of the 19th century milling industry; access to land-locked parcels provides future redevelopment opportunities for commercial and office space, residential housing and open/public space, as well as serving as a reliever of traffic on University Avenue during construction of the Central Corridor light rail line. For more information, please go here: [http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070525/docs/LCDA\\_Appls\\_RCA.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070525/docs/LCDA_Appls_RCA.pdf).
- 13) There are openings on the Advisory Committee on People With Disabilities, the Empowerment Zone Governance Board, the Heritage Preservation Commission, the Housing Board of Appeals, the Private Industry/Workforce Council, the Public Health Advisory Committee, the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee and the Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email [cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)