

## **Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 6-3-08**

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:  
Tuesday, June 10, 9:30-11:00am  
SECIA Office, 837 15th Ave SE

### **Items:**

- 1) Safety Walk
- 2) NRP
- 3) Arrest in Sexual Assault
- 4) Central Corridor
- 5) Free Speech
- 6) State Funds for SEMI
- 7) Grand Rounds Public Hearings
- 8) Lurking and Loitering
- 9) Pre-Employment Drug Testing
- 10) No-Heat/Low-Heat
- 11) City Sustainability Report
- 12) National Night Out
- 13) Anti-Idling Ordinance
- 14) Bicycle Rules Statute
- 15) Bicycle Master Plan Open House
- 16) U of M Farmer's Market
- 17) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) Please join me and the Como Safety Committee June 12 for one of three safety walks. The walks are an excellent opportunity to meet your neighbors, see the community and get some exercise. Bring the family dog, or even the whole family. Other dates include June 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at 6 pm at Joe's Market on Como Ave.
- 2) Thanks to great organizing by neighborhoods and our state legislators, the state legislature approved allowing the City to continue to use tax increment funds to pay principal and interest on bond obligations issued by the city of Minneapolis or the Minneapolis Community Development Agency for the Target Center, including payment of principal and interest on any bonds issued to repay bonds or loans and for neighborhood revitalization purposes. The legislation leaves it in the City Council's hands to determine what percentage of the tax increment goes to Target debt relief and what to neighborhood revitalization and we have yet to see how the City Council will respond to this, but clearly it makes an extension or continuation of NRP (reformed or not) possible. **NRP Framework for the Future.** The Council will hear a report back from the NRP Framework for the Future Task Force and City staff at Committee of the Whole on **June 19<sup>th</sup>**, 10am.
- 3) As you may have read, Minneapolis Police have arrested Christopher Karls for the high-profile sexual assault that occurred in the Southeast Como neighborhood on May 4.
- 4) The Council held a public hearing on the Central Corridor today but you may submit written public comments until June 9 to [kelly.moriarty@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:kelly.moriarty@ci.minneapolis.mn.us). The Transportation and Public Works committee will discuss this project at their regularly scheduled meeting on **June 10**, at 9:30am, and the Council will make a final decision about local approval on **June 20**. The County will also hold a public hearing on **June 17, 1:30 pm** - Hennepin County Government Center A-2400, 300 S. 6th St., Minneapolis. Open house in Room A-2350 at 12:30 pm. The Metropolitan Council has voted to proceed with the Washington Ave alignment, rather than the Northern alignment alternative. This decision was driven in large part by the data that showed that the number of anticipated riders did not justify the cost of Northern Alignment and it would not fit into the federal government's Cost Effectiveness Index. I am hopeful that this decision will now allow this project to go forward. The central corridor has the potential to be of great benefit to the neighborhoods in the area, the city of Minneapolis and to the larger region.
- 5) This Friday, the Council will vote on a resolution which could significantly change the way people assemble and protest on City sidewalks. To read more about my reasons for opposing the proposed Ostrow/Remington resolution, and to find links to the alternatives I plan to offer at the Council meeting, please visit my blog at [secondward.blogspot.com](http://secondward.blogspot.com).

- 6) The just Legislature also approved \$3,500,000 in State bonds for infrastructure in a State Bio-Science zone in close proximity to a higher education research institution (SEMI). The Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) has sent us a draft agreement that we are in the process of reviewing and expect soon to execute. I want to thank Carl Robertson and Michael McLaughlin for taking the time to testify in support of these funds at the Legislature, it worked. I'm expecting this summer to be a very busy one. With any luck we'll have near final infrastructure designs and perhaps a redevelopment proposal that can be shared.
- 7) The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) has recommended a route for the completion of the Grand Rounds (from St. Anthony Boulevard, down Industrial Boulevard, through the industrial property in SE Minneapolis, over the rail yard and connecting south to 27th Ave SE) to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. See here [www.minneapolisparcs.org/documents/design/missing/draft\\_gr\\_study.pdf](http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/documents/design/missing/draft_gr_study.pdf). The Park Board has set two Public Hearings for **June 18**, to be held at MPRB Headquarters and on **June 23**, at Van Cleve Park (at this point, a time has not been set for either meeting).
- 8) On **Wednesday June 11** the Public Safety and Regulatory Services committee will continue the Public Hearing that started at its May 21 meeting on my proposal to repeal the City's Lurking ordinance and increase the scope of the Loitering ordinance. Arrest records show that the Lurking ordinance disproportionately impacts homeless persons, people of color, and the poor. It rarely leads to convictions or long terms solutions to the livability concerns some hope it is addressing. I believe that we must redirect our precious law enforcement resources to behaviors that actually harm someone, strategies that actually make our communities safer and laws that carry meaningful consequences.
- 9) I voted against a Human Resources proposal to require pre-employment drug testing for all City employees when it came before the Executive Committee earlier this month. I am unconvinced that this sort of policy would serve any purpose other than intruding unnecessarily into the private lives of City employees. It is unclear whether this will pass when it comes before the full Council on June 6th.
- 10) The No-Heat / Low-Heat ordinance I cosponsored has finally passed the Council. The new ordinance simplifies regulations about when landlords must keep rental units adequately warm by basing them on date rather than external temperature.
- 11) The City's annual sustainability report was published last month. The report tracks 24 indicators that reflect the overall health and well being of the city. You can read it here: [http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/docs/LivingWell\\_2008AnnualReport.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/sustainability/docs/LivingWell_2008AnnualReport.pdf)
- 12) National Night Out Planning Week is **June 16-22**. If you have NNO questions, visit [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno) or call 311. NNO event registration and street closure application is free! There is no charge to request a street closure for an NNO event before July 22, and you'll be eligible for a door prize drawing. From July 23-July 31, there is a \$100 late fee. Applications for street closure will not be accepted after July 31.
- 13) The Council is considering an ordinance making it illegal to idle any gasoline vehicle for more than 3 minutes, or any truck more than 5 minutes. This builds on the anti-idling ordinance focusing solely on trucks that passed last year. I strongly support this ordinance. It is not necessary to idle modern cars for performance reasons, and idling significantly negatively impacts air quality. Additionally, a reduction in vehicle idling will help the City meet our sustainability goals regarding carbon emissions and air quality.
- 14) Partly due to a request by my office, Representative Phyllis Kahn has introduced a bill, for consideration next year, to substantially improve the traffic laws with regards to bicycles. For cyclists, the proposal would make stop signs function like yield signs, and stop lights function like stop signs. I will be working within the City to support this on our legislative agenda.
- 15) The City is hosting an open house to solicit public input for a new Bicycle Master Plan on **Wednesday June 18**, 4:30–8pm, in City Hall room 319. Unlike the last bicycle plan, this document will include policies and design guidance in addition to a map of future facilities, and a prioritized list of projects and initiatives. A brief presentation will be given at 5PM, 6PM, and 7PM. Members of the City of Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee will be present to answer questions.
- 16) Be sure to check out the new **University of MN Farmers Market**, Church Street Mall, East Bank Campus, Wednesdays from 11am-2pm, July 9 – August.
- 17) There are openings on the Civil Rights Commission (closes 6/27/08) and Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email [cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).