

**Council Member Cam Gordon's
Report to Seward Neighborhood, 11-30-06**

**Cam's next Seward Office Hours:
Tuesday, December 26, 9:30-11:00am
Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St**

Items:

- 1) New Office Hours Location
- 2) Second Ward Update
- 3) Minneapolis Energy Challenge
- 4) Youth Violence Prevention Resolution
- 5) Community Engagement Report
- 6) Riverside Market
- 7) Traffic Calming Bike/Ped Awareness Event
- 8) IRV Passes
- 9) Library Funding
- 10) 2007 Budget
- 11) Industrial Land Use and Employment Policy Plan
- 12) Claim It!
- 13) Arsenic study volunteers needed
- 14) Morningstar Coffee
- 15) Chief Bleskachek
- 16) Youth Roundtable
- 17) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) My new Seward/Cooper office hours location is Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St.
- 2) You should have received, or should soon receive, a copy of the Fall 2006 Second Ward Update in the most recent copy of the Bridge. This is being distributed ward-wide and offers me a chance to reflect back and report on the progress made during my first year in office. It has been a great year and I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to serve you as your Council Member.
- 3) The **Minneapolis Energy Challenge** is underway. Seward is currently coming in 12th. Go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/energychallenge to take the challenge.
- 4) Working with Council Member Samuels, Health Commissioner Musicant and Chief Dolan, I co-authored a resolution that recognizes youth violence as a public health problem and creates a steering committee to coordinate City, County, private and nonprofit initiatives to prevent youth violence. The resolution unanimously passed the Council. I believe that this is an important step towards building a more holistic model of youth violence prevention. The steering committee is now going through the City's Open Appointment process (see item 17 of this report). The resolution includes a charge to establish a Steering Committee to plan and oversee efforts to significantly reduce youth violence in Minneapolis by doing the following:
 - Develop a multi-year implementation plan that includes components addressing outreach, education, communications and infrastructure to oversee implementation plans and outcomes. Special emphasis will be placed on strategies to engage and support parents and opportunities for youth to connect trusted adults and with their culture.
 - Develop a timeline and assign responsibility for implementation of various plan components;

- Define and measure community-wide outcomes;
 - Coordinate City and County efforts to prevent youth violence;
 - Facilitate cross-community partnerships and communication among various groups with a stake in project outcomes;
 - Identify gaps in services, policy and funding; advise the City Council, Mayor and other policy makers and funders on needs for resources, programs and policies.
- 5) A new Community Engagement Report, which reviews and summarizes a variety of reports and recommendations on the City's current community engagement system and activities is now available for public review and comment. The City Council plans to discuss the Community Engagement report early in 2007. I encourage you to review this report and get your comments in as soon as possible (by Friday, Jan. 5, 2007). I would like to learn your thoughts on this report and you can also submit comments to Clara Perrin, Community Engagement Coordinator, 301M City Hall, 350 S. 5th Street, Minneapolis, MN 55415; or by e-mail to: clara.perrin@ci.minneapolis.mn.us. You can read the report on line at http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/20061121CE_Report.asp. If you need a paper copy of the report, or if you need this information in a different format, please contact Ms. Perrin at (612) 673-3163 or at the e-mail address above.
 - 6) There has been some conflict over the art project that SNG and Seward Redesign put together for the old Riverside Market building. I was able to convince the City's Solid Waste and Recycling department not to paint over the murals, but SNG and Redesign will have to vigilantly monitor the building and keep it free from any unauthorized markings.
 - 7) My office is collaborating with the Longfellow Community Council and the Park Board on a traffic calming and pedestrian/bicyclist awareness event for West River Parkway for next Spring. I encourage SNG to be part of this event, and the activities surrounding it.
 - 8) By a staggering margin of 65%, Minneapolis voters have chosen to use Instant Runoff Voting in future elections. I consider this an important step forward for our local democracy. Kudos to Seward resident and outgoing FairVote Minnesota President Tony Solgard, without whom this victory would not have occurred.
 - 9) Working with other Council Members and the Mayor, I was hopeful that we could keep all of our libraries open through 2007, and was disappointed that the Library Board still voted to close three neighborhood libraries. I find some hope in the fact that they decided not to sell these libraries immediately, and in the change in the Minnesota House, which may mean a reversal of the Local Government Aid cuts. I will continue to work to seek creative solutions, especially during budget discussions this month, so that we can keep all of our libraries open.
 - 10) 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 Budget Adoption is scheduled for Monday, December 11 at 5:05 pm.
 - 11) In October the Council approved a new Industrial Land Use and Employment Policy Plan that will help protect our diminishing industrial land, clearly define designated employment districts and pursue industrial redevelopment opportunities. There are designated employment districts within Seward.

- 12)** The Greater Twin Cities United Way is working with the City on a campaign to help increase by 10,000 the number of qualified individuals claiming the earned income tax credit (EITC), by offering free tax preparation services. They are looking for volunteers to help provide these services, and asking that we all encourage those of our neighbors who might qualify to apply for the tax credit. To volunteer or get more information, contact Laura Gutierrez at 612-340-7616 or gutierrezl@unitedwaytwincities.org.
- 13)** The Environmental Protection Agency is looking for volunteers who live in the South Minneapolis Arsenic Contamination Site to have their indoor dust tested for arsenic, in order to come up with the most accurate possible risk assessment model. Please contact my office if you're interested in volunteering.
- 14)** My office has been actively working to get City Staff to address the nuisance odors coming from Morningstar Coffee. I expect staff to require a new odor control plan from Morningstar within the next several weeks.
- 15)** The Executive Committee unanimously rejected the current terms of the proposed lawsuit settlement presented by Fire Chief Bleskachek's attorney and took the next steps in her removal as Chief. Our primary concern is keeping the excellent level of Fire Department service in Minneapolis, while also working to rebuild public trust and maintain the morale of Fire Department employees.
- 16)** I am working with the Youth Coordinating Board on a Ward 2 conversation about the youth opportunities in our community, and how to coordinate and utilize them better. I recognize that SNG has done a lot of good work with youth, so I encourage SNG staff to attend. The conversation is scheduled for December 11, from 9:30–11:30 am at Brian Coyle Center. I would also encourage you to inform me of organizations serving youth in Seward which you think should take part in this discussion.
- 17)** There are openings on the Empowerment Zone Governance Board, the Heritage Preservation Commission, the Latino Advisory Council, the Housing Board of Appeals, the Minneapolis Arts Commission and the Youth Violence Prevention Steering Committee. For more information and for applications, please go here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/> or call 673-3358.