



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon
City Council Member
Second Ward

350 South 5th Street - Room 301M
Minneapolis MN 55415

Office 612-673-2202
Fax 612-673-3250
Cell 612-296-0579

Email:

cam.gordon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward2/

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood, 9-27-10

**Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
Pratt School, October 19th, 9:30-11am**

Items:

- 1) U Funds Public Safety
- 2) Temporary Parking Ordinance Passes
- 3) Permeable Driveway Ordinance Passes
- 4) 2011 Budget
- 5) Draft Community Participation Program Guidelines
- 6) Community Development Block Grant RFP
- 7) Bicycle Master Plan
- 8) Census Participation
- 9) Unisys Contract
- 10) Institutional Food License
- 11) Energy Efficiency in Apartment Buildings
- 12) River Terrace Water Main
- 13) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The Council has formally accepted \$60,000 from the University to provide enhanced police enforcement in neighborhoods around U and \$14,200 to provide security the Gopher Football Stadium. I thank the University for working with the City to increase the livability of U-area neighborhoods.
- 2) The Council has unanimously passed my ordinance that creates a new category of commercial parking lot licenses to permit the issuance of temporary event parking lot licenses near the University of Minnesota Gopher football Stadium. A Class C commercial parking lot license would be available to parking lot owners for up to 15 events per year. Eligibility is limited to nonresidential properties with approved on-site accessory parking lots.
- 3) The permeable driveway ordinance I authored has passed the Council unanimously. It will allow homeowners and others to use more types of permeable materials for driveways and parking areas, to reduce storm water runoff.
- 4) The Mayor has presented his 2011 budget proposal to the City Council. It increases expenses for all City funds to \$1.36 billion, an \$81 million dollar increase from 2010. The General Fund, which includes funding for the operations of nearly all city departments, increases from \$371.6 to \$393.6 million. The budget includes an increase of 6.5% to the total property tax levy. This will bring in \$17 million more to cover City expenses, including a \$17.7 million jump in pension obligations. The mayor said that without these pension costs he would have proposed to lower property taxes by 0.1%. There will also be an additional \$15 million in revenue coming from a recertification of a tax increment district dedicated to neighborhood revitalization purposes and paying off the Target Center debt. Additional increased revenue will come from an increase from the 2010 Local Government Aid to the 2011 certified level. The budget calls for over 80 positions to be eliminated. Many of these will likely be accomplished through attrition and not filling current vacant positions, but there will be some lay-offs. One new position, "a high-level coordinator of transit-oriented development" would be added. The proposed budget increases spending on street and other infrastructure improvements, including a new program aimed at more residential street improvements. The budget does count on the state following through with its \$87.5 million Local Government Aid commitment. Contingency plans may be needed if the State Government reduces this, as has happened in the past two years. You can see the Mayor's proposed budget at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/city-budget/2011recc/index.asp>. The Council will have the opportunity to amend it before final approval in December. There will be public comments taken on the levy and budget on November 18 and also at the formal Public Hearing on the budget on December 13. I welcome your comments.

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact Matt Bower at (612) 673-2188 or Matthew.Bower@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

If you want help translating this call – Hmong– Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2188;

Spanish – Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2188;

Somali – Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' an wac 612-673-2188.

- 5) The Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) has approved draft guidelines for a new Community Participation Program that will support and help guide the work of neighborhood organizations in 2011 and beyond. You can view them at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/>. The guidelines include a funding formula which would allocate funds based on a set of 8 variables including population, income and crime statistics. The 45 day comment period ends Monday, October 11th at 5:00 pm. They anticipate presenting a final draft of the proposed neighborhood program to the Minneapolis City Council in early November.
- 6) The Department of Health and Family Support has issued a Request for Proposals for federal Community Development Block Grant funds to serve eligible individuals for the period of June 2011 through May 2013. Approximately \$400,000 will be available in grants of up to \$75,000. Approved projects may receive a second year of funding based on performance and availability of funding. Eligible applicants are not-for-profit agencies, for-profit organizations, or governmental agencies providing health services, human services, and community development services benefiting low and moderate income Minneapolis residents. Successful proposals must address one of the following three topic areas: 1. Youth Violence Prevention; 2. Teen Pregnancy Prevention; 3. Senior Health and Independent Living. You can download the RFP here: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs.
- 7) The City is seeking comments on our draft Bicycle Master Plan, which establishes goals, objectives, and benchmarks to improve safety and mobility for bicyclists and also increase the number of trips taken by bicycle. The comment period will last for 45 days and be open until October 1. For more information and to comment on the draft plan online, go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles.
- 8) Minneapolis had tremendous success this year in increasing our census participation rate. As of May, the City's mail back participation rate was 76%, up from 68% in 2000 and the highest response rate of any city with populations of 300,000 or more in the country. You can see a map of the response rate by census tract here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/2010census/docs/2010v2000CensusParticipation.pdf>.
- 9) The City's Business Information Services staff brought forward a proposal to extend the City's contract for information services with Unisys Corporation for four years, for a total cost to the City of over \$45 million. I had concerns about not conducting an analysis of alternatives, including potentially going out for open bids on this contract, exploring moving some of this work back in-house, and investigating whether open-source software can meet some of the City's needs. I was able to get my colleagues to agree to a two-week delay on this action, but unfortunately the Council majority voted to move forward with a three year contract extension on an 8-5 vote.
- 10) The Ordinance I sponsored that would create an "Institutional Food" license type has passed the Council unanimously. The ordinance is in response to a new state law change that requires the city to license more kinds of kitchens. This license would apply to schools, child care centers, shelters and employers with cafeterias. This license will be less expensive than the existing Food Manufacturer and Restaurant licenses. Implementation will likely begin in spring of 2011.
- 11) A city-wide, low-interest loan program to provide financing for energy efficiency upgrades is available for large multi-family residential properties in Minneapolis. The loans for structures of four stories or more containing more than 10 dwelling units are being established through the City's Department of Community Planning and Economic Development. The program is aimed at helping property owners to obtain the capital needed to make energy efficiency improvements. The loans target upgrades including boilers, water heating and distribution systems, and control systems. For more information, visit http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/multifamily_energy_loan_program.asp.
- 12) Work is underway to reline the main water pipe under East River Terrace that serves 68 properties in the PPERRIA area. Preliminary work setting up an alternative water supply system (above ground) is well underway, as well as the digging of 7-9 access holes. The liner will be installed in early October and all work should be completed by early November. A community meeting about this project was held for area neighbors September 16. Any questions about this can be directed to my office or to the Minneapolis Water Works Maintenance Division at 673-5600.
- 13) There are openings on the Arts Commission, Citizen Environmental Advisory Committee, Commission on Civil Rights, Civilian Police Review Authority, Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee, Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Housing Board of Appeals, Heritage Preservation Commission, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Public Health Advisory Committee, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission, Telecommunications Network Board, Youth Violence Prevention Executive Committee and Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.