

# Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 12-4-07

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

## Items:

- 1) Diverters on Talmadge
- 2) Grand Rounds
- 3) 2008 Budget
- 4) New CLIC Appointee
- 5) Entertainment License Changes
- 6) No Heat/Low Heat
- 7) School Board Election Reform
- 8) Step-Up
- 9) Building Blocks Awards
- 10) Ruhland Award
- 11) Reappointments of Department Heads
- 12) Minnesota Innovation Center
- 13) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Responding to residents' concerns about illegal parking on diverters on Talmadge north of Como and requests from my office, "No Parking" signs have been installed to inform drivers that they can and will be ticketed for parking on a diverter curve. I'm hopeful that these signs will help cut down on parking violations in Como.
- 2) I encourage residents to review the new draft of the Comprehensive Plan that is available in public libraries and at [www.minneapolisplan.info](http://www.minneapolisplan.info). You can submit comments on the at [www.minneapolisplan.info](http://www.minneapolisplan.info), emailed to [lanupdate@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:lanupdate@ci.minneapolis.mn.us) or mailed to: Haila Maze, Senior City Planner, CPED, 350 South 5<sup>th</sup> St., Rm 210, Minneapolis, MN 55415. The closest meeting to Southeast Como is at Eastside Neighborhood Services, 1700 2nd Street NE, **January 29, 4-6pm**.
- 3) I will be appointing Becca Vargo Daggett to the Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee (CLIC). Becca has lived in Minneapolis since 1996. She has an MS in Science, Technology and Environmental Policy from the Humphrey Institute, and got to know city government while working on the New Rules Project of the Institute for Local Self-Reliance. She now works for financial services company UBS.
- 4) The Public Safety and Regulatory Services committee has voted to eliminate the requirement that small restaurants and coffee shops have a "Place of Entertainment" license for storytelling, readings, and music performed by 3 or fewer non-amplified musicians. I think this is a step in the right direction for supporting small businesses and local artists. I am also interested in allowing more musicians to play at once and changing our regulatory scheme from prohibiting amplified musicians (no matter how quiet) and allowing acoustic musicians (no matter how loud) to focusing on the actual sound levels being generated.
- 5) On December 11<sup>th</sup> at 5 pm, the City will hold its Truth in Taxation public hearing with adoption scheduled for December 12<sup>th</sup>. The proposed budget, as amended by the Ways and Means Committee, includes a 1.8 million decrease in LGA (Local Government Aid), an increase of 8% to the property tax levy and the removal of the 2% wage cap for employees. Many departments were required to reduce their budgets for 2008 because of reduced available funding, including the BIS, Public Works, and Regulatory Services Departments. The full budget is available for review at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/finance](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/finance)

Some new spending highlights of the proposed budget include:

- \$300,000 to hire 4 new 911 operators
- \$4.3 M to the police department
- \$150,000 for community micro-grants to prevent gang graffiti
- \$100,000 to fund the Youth Violence Prevention Committee Implementation plan
- \$75,000 to fund the Youth are Here buses of the Youth Coordinating Board
- \$75,000 to fund Youth Violence Prevention grants
- \$75,000 to help residents plant trees on private property
- \$100,000 to fund the next round of climate change micro grants.

- 6) I am working with Council Member Remington and Children and Family Services to reform the City's No-Heat/Low-Heat ordinance and policies. We have already succeeded in changing our administrative citation policies to begin giving fines to property owners after a building is inadequately heated for 24 hours, down from a previous deadline of 72 hours. In addition, we are proposing a change to the complicated ordinance that currently requires landlords to turn on heat when the temperature gets below 60 degrees. Our enforcement clock resets when the heat goes over 60 degrees, leaving tenants of bad landlords without heat for much of the fall. We are proposing to change this to a simple date range (September 21 through May 1) during which landlords must start providing adequate heat.
- 7) I encourage residents to consider supporting a school board election reform proposal (known as the "Davnite Bill") that will be coming to the School Board next month and possibly, if they do not approve it, to the voters in 2008. I think the proposal offers us a way to improve representation, help hold elected officials accountable and make them more responsive, simplify our government structure, improve possible collaboration between jurisdictions and open up the system to political diversity. If enacted, it would change the School Board from the current 7 at large seats to 9 seats voted in by 3 at large seats and 6 district seats. The six districts would mirror the Park Board districts (although district lines could be redrawn after 2010). The enabling legislation states that the School Board can implement this law or let it go to on the 2008 election ballot. The School Board is scheduled to vote on this issue during their **December 11** meeting.
- 8) Students who would like to participate in the STEP-UP summer jobs program can submit an application now through January 11. STEP-UP is a paid summer jobs program for Mpls youth ages 14 to 15, and ages 16 to 21. STEP-UP for students ages 14 to 15 is a program operated by the [Minneapolis Employment and Training Program](#), which teaches youth good work habits and provides them with wages and an opportunity to contribute to a local community-based organization. STEP-UP for youth ages 16 to 21, is operated by [Achieve!Minneapolis](#) and provides the youth with paid positions with local employers and teaches them skills they need to succeed on the job. More information and applications are available on the Web at: [http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/metp/stepup\\_home.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/metp/stepup_home.asp).
- 9) Nominations are now being accepted for the annual Building Blocks Awards. All block clubs that did not win this award in 2006 are eligible to apply. To nominate a block club (your own or a neighbor's), answer these questions: How has life on the block improved through the block club's efforts? How does the block club build connections between people? In what ways does the block club work with the Minneapolis Police Department? Describe the events, activities and meetings of the block club. When did the block club start? What are the boundaries of the block club? Be sure to include the name, address, phone number, and e-mail address of each block club leader for the club you are nominating, as well as your own (the nominator's) name, address, phone number, and email address. Nominations must be received by Tuesday, Jan. 15, 2008 one of the following ways: you can e-mail them to [ccpsafe@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:ccpsafe@ci.minneapolis.mn.us); you can fax them to (612) 673-2512, or you can mail them to: Community Crime Prevention/SAFE, c/o Building Blocks Awards, 4119 Dupont Ave N, Minneapolis, MN 55412.
- 10) The MPD is also seeking nominations for its 2007 Teresa S. Ruhland Youth Award, which is given annually to a Minneapolis resident volunteer who does an outstanding job of getting youths involved in the community. Self-nominations are welcome. To submit a nomination for this award, write a brief essay about how the nominee's involvement has improved the quality of life for adults and youths in the block club. Consider how the nominee has helped youths build community, involved youths in safety education and crime prevention, and worked with youths to resolve community problems. Be sure to include the same information as for the Building Blocks Awards, and send it to one of the same places.
- 11) The Executive Committee has voted to advance the reappointments of City Coordinator Steven Bosacker, City Assessor Patrick Todd, Fire Chief James Clack, Civil Rights Director Michael Jordan, Health Commissioner Gretchen Musicant, Public Works Director Steve Kotke, and CPED Director Mike Christensen. These reappointments will go before the appropriate committees for public hearings.
- 12) This Month the Council will accept a Redevelopment Program Grant award from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) in the amount of \$520,000 to demolish the Del Mar IV grain elevator to facilitate construction of the Minnesota Innovation Center. The Minnesota Innovation Center project is the first phase of the redevelopment of an obsolete industrial area into a University-related Research Park (URP). The presence of several 200-foot tall concrete grain elevators presents a significant impediment to redevelopment of the area.
- 13) There are openings on the Civilian Police Review Authority (closes 12/7/2007), Heritage Preservation Commission (closes 12/31/2007), Latino Advisory Committee to the Mayor and City Council (closes 12/28/2007), Minneapolis Telecommunications Network (Closes 1-4-08), Rental Dwelling License Board of Appeals (closes 12/14/2007), and Zoning Board of Adjustment (closes 2/1/2008). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email [cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).