

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Prospect Park, East River Road Neighborhood, 9-25-06

Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
Pratt School, Tuesday October 10, 9:30-11am

Items:

- 1) IRV Roundtable 10-26-06
- 2) Central Corridor Roundtable recap
- 3) CRA Work Group
- 4) Interim Chief Dolan
- 5) Minneapolis Energy Challenge
- 6) Solar Pilot Project
- 7) Urban Windpower task force
- 8) Arsenic ordinance
- 9) Rental Licenses
- 10) Alley Ordinance
- 11) Ending Homelessness
- 12) Ending Youth Violence
- 13) Department of Peace
- 14) New Second Ward Website
- 15) Mayor's Recommended Budget
- 16) Gophers Stadium Update
- 17) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) As one of my ongoing series of roundtable discussions, I will be hosting a conversation about Ranked Choice Voting (also known as IRV) at Matthews Park on October 26th, 7-9pm.
- 2) Last Thursday, I met with Prospect Park residents, Commissioner McLaughlin and his staff, and others to discuss the Central Corridor LRT project. Some continue to be concerned about the University Ave alignment, though many attendees' concerns were assuaged by specific facts: trains on University will follow all traffic rules, including the speed limit. Altogether, it was a good discussion.
- 3) The CRA work group I helped form has finished its work. The full list of recommendations now goes to the Council. You can view the recommendations here:
http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cra/docs/CRA_WorkingGroupReport.pdf
- 4) As you've likely heard, RT has nominated Interim Chief Dolan to be the permanent Minneapolis Police Chief. I am still undecided on this nomination. I have significant concerns about Tim's commitment to real community policing models and accountability for police officers. I welcome and ask for your input on this difficult decision. The public hearing on this appointment will take place on Wednesday October 18th at 1:30 pm at a special meeting of the PS&RS Committee.
- 5) The City has decided to partner with the Center for Energy and the Environment on the **Minneapolis Energy Challenge**. I ask PPERIA to organize Prospect Park neighbors to take the easy steps available to us to reduce their energy consumption. After October 1st, go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/energychallenge for more information.

- 6) On August 18, the Council approved my directive to regulatory services to waive up to \$3,300 in permit fees for participants in the Solar Thermal Pilot Project. This investment was matched by a grant from the CEE, providing up to \$550 in relief to each participant.
- 7) My office has put together a group of wind industry experts to talk about how we can change the zoning code to broaden the uses of wind turbines within the city. It will meet in mid-October.
- 8) I have introduced an ordinance requiring that landlords within the South Minneapolis arsenic contamination site inform their prospective and current tenants about the level of contamination the EPA has found in their soil. It will also require that home sellers disclose known soil contamination to home buyers citywide. This ordinance will come before the HE&E committee for a public hearing on October 12th.
- 9) I have introduced an ordinance that is working its way through the process, to strengthen rental license rules and make violations of the City's Building Code and unpaid water bills grounds for license revocation or refusal to renew.
- 10) Spurred by the overwhelming response from Second Ward residents, especially Prospect Park residents, I led the opposition to the proposed "no strangers in alleys" ordinance and successfully prevented it from becoming law. You can read my rationale for opposing the ordinance on my blog.
- 11) The draft report from the City-County Commission to End Homelessness is now available online: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/homelessness/>. I enthusiastically support this report, and will work to make the City follow its recommendations.
- 12) I have been working with the city-sponsored Youth Violence Prevention Community Leaders Forum I helped start to redefine youth violence as a public health (as well as public safety) issue. Working with community leaders we are developing a comprehensive approach to addressing and eradicating youth violence.
- 13) I co-authored a resolution with CMs Schiff, Hofstede and Remington to call on the Federal Government to create a Department of Peace. The resolution passed the Council by a wide margin.
- 14) The Second Ward website has a new look, including a graphic interface and individual neighborhood resource pages. Check it out here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward2/>. We are attempting to make it easier for residents to access the resources available in their neighborhoods. Please look carefully at the Prospect Park resource page and let my office know if you have any changes or additions.
- 15) 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/>.
- 16) Pavement and utility work is continuing on the East Bank for the new Gopher Stadium. Read more about the construction at: <http://www1.umn.edu/stadium/construction.html>
- 17) There are currently five Empowerment Zone Resident vacancies. One (1) vacancy is for the unexpired term of an EZ Resident ending September 20, 2007. One (1) vacancy is for an EZ Resident between 14 and 20 years old for a term beginning immediately and expiring September 20, 2008. Three (3) vacancies are for EZ Residents with terms beginning September 21, 2006 and expiring September 20, 2009. Call 673-3358 or look here for an application: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open>.