

# Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 12-5-06

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:  
Tuesday, December 19, 9:30-11:00am  
SECIA Office, 837 15th Ave SE

## Items:

- 1) Second Ward Update
- 2) Minneapolis Energy Challenge
- 3) Globe Tool
- 4) Community Engagement Report
- 5) Library Funding
- 6) Youth Violence Prevention Resolution
- 7) Chief Bleskachek
- 8) Youth Roundtable
- 9) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) You should have received, or should soon receive, a copy of the Fall 2006 Second Ward Update at your door. 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.
- 2) The **Minneapolis Energy Challenge** is underway. Southeast Como is currently coming in 12<sup>th</sup>. Go to [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/energychallenge](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/energychallenge) to take the challenge.
- 3) At the request of SECIA staff, I wrote a letter to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency asking that they not approve the air pollution permit for Greatbatch Globe Tool until there has been an opportunity for public input. This letter seems to have sparked some interest from Globe Tool in meeting with neighbors, and my office will participate in the meeting later this month. I'm very interested in doing what we can to reduce or eliminate the large quantity of trichloroethylene emissions from the facility.
- 4) 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](mailto:clara.perrin@ci.minneapolis.mn.us). You can read the report online at [http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/20061121CE\\_Report.asp](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.

- 5) I am continuing to seek creative solutions during budget discussions this month to keep all of our libraries open. The Council has offered more than \$1.1Million in one-time money, and it is my hope that the Library Board will use these funds to keep all of our community libraries open next year while we continue to work on ways to solve the long-term problems with library funding.
- 6) 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.
- 7) 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.
- 8) I am working with the Youth Coordinating Board on a Ward 2 roundtable conversation about "out of school" opportunities for our youth. The meeting will be a chance for providers and civic organizations to discuss how we best utilize the resources we have, and explore what else is needed. The intent is to identify what each of us – public and private sector – can do to give children what they need to learn and develop. I encourage a representative from SECIA to attend. The conversation is scheduled for December 11, from 9:30–11:30 am at Brian Coyle Center. Please let me know of organizations serving youth in Southeast Como which you think should take part in this discussion so I can insure that they have been invited.
- 9) 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.