



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon
City Council Member
Second Ward

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Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may call 311 or 612-673-3000. TTY users may call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

Attention: If you want help translating this information in language other than Hmong, Spanish or Somali, call 311

Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 1-20-11

Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:
Tuesday, February 1st, 9:30-11:00am
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave

Items:

- 1) 620-624 20th Ave S
- 2) Mobile Food Vending
- 3) Request for Pedestrian Planning Grant
- 4) Snow
- 5) Draft Urban Ag Topical Plan
- 6) Summer Jobs for Teens
- 7) Bicycle Advisory Committee
- 8) CSCM Gets Environmental Education Grant
- 9) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The Community Planning and Economic Development department has released a Request for Proposals for the purchase and construction of housing on the City-owned lots at 620-624 20th Ave S. The RFP Overview can be found at: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/rfp.asp>. Proposals are due by 4pm on Thursday, February 10. A question and answer session about the RFP was held on January 10. For further information regarding submission requirements, you can call Earl Pettiford at 612-673-5231. The neighborhood organization will have the opportunity to make recommendations about the proposals, and I understand that the Greater Minneapolis Housing Corporation (GMHC) is planning to respond to this RFP. I am optimistic that we will see construction of new housing at the site this spring or summer.
- 2) The Mobile Food Vending ordinance that passed last year is being reopened for revisions. As you may recall, the ordinance was only open to vendors in downtown Minneapolis. During that discussion, I heard from a number of small businesses, including some on the West Bank, that they would be interested in having the West Bank included in any possible expansion. Before March of this year, we have the opportunity to discuss whether to expand the mobile vending ordinance to cover the West Bank. It is also possible that, as part of this change, mobile vendors could operate from parking spaces, rather than just on sidewalks and in commercial parking lots. I am asking that the West Bank Community Coalition and West Bank Business Association provide input on both whether to allow mobile vending on the West Bank and what sorts of specific regulations should be put in place. Among the specific questions I'd like input on:
 - Should mobile vending be allowed only on sidewalks and in commercial parking lots, or in on-street parking spaces as well?
 - Should mobile vending be allowed adjacent to residential uses, or only commercially or institutionally zoned lots?
 - Should there be a limit on the number of mobile vendors allowed per commercial parking lot?
 - Should mobile vending be allowed near events?
 - Should there be a limit on the proximity of mobile vendors to other sidewalk uses, such as sidewalk cafes?
 - What limits should be put in place on hours of operation for mobile vendors?
 - Should mobile vendors be required to be open a certain number of days per year (as they are in downtown)?

I will also be asking other Second Ward neighborhoods to weigh in on this question, and I plan to work with the University District Alliance to see if there can be one coordinated set of rules for the whole Alliance area.

- 3) My staff worked with the Cedar Riverside Partnership and the West Bank Community Coalition to draft an application for Non-Motorized Transportation funds from Transit for Livable Communities. If successful, this application will fund a plan for improving the pedestrian experience on 6th St from Cedar to 15th, 15th Ave from 6th to 4th, and 4th from 15th to Cedar. This plan will help inform the City's planned reconstruction of 15th and 4th, and the improvements to 6th St that were funded by the Riverside Plaza renovation project. I am hopeful that TLC will fund this strong proposal, and glad that my office could play a central role in exploring this opportunity.
- 4) This winter has been one for the record books. According to Public Works staff, in a typical winter season we will have some 20 to 25 minor precipitation events that require moderate responses, and 3 to 4 Snow Emergencies – for an entire season. That's about a 6:1 ratio of minor to major events. So far this year, **five of the eight** snow events have resulted in Snow Emergencies and one of them (the 17 inch snowstorm) resulted in two back-to-back Snow Emergencies. This ties the record of six in a season, and it is still December. As you've likely heard, this has led the city to declare Winter Parking Restrictions, which prohibit parking on the even side of all Non-snow-Emergency routes until enough snow thaws to allow good access to all residential streets. Please help your neighbors comply with these restrictions, and with any further Snow Emergencies that are declared. Thank you for your patience and help as we get through this snowier-than-usual winter.
- 5) The draft Urban Agriculture Topical Plan has been released. This is a major step forward in the work of Homegrown Minneapolis. The plan recommends some significant policy changes such as allowing commercial growing of food in Minneapolis and allowing more community gardens. You can view the draft plan here: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/urban_ag_plan.asp. One more community meeting will be held to discuss the content of the plan tomorrow, **Thursday, January 20th**, from 2-3:30pm at North Central Library, 1315 Lowry Ave N. There will be a public hearing on the plan in February at the Planning Commission.
- 6) Although it's winter, now is a great time to be thinking about summer jobs. Teenagers should start applying now for the Minneapolis STEP-UP Program so they'll be ready to earn money once school ends. Business owners and managers should also get motivated to so they can start hiring and training tomorrow's workforce. Thousands of Minneapolis youth have landed summer jobs since 2004 through the City of Minneapolis STEP-UP Program. All Minneapolis youth, ages 14-21, are eligible to apply. The program trains and places youth in paid internships at local businesses. Youth selected for STEP-UP must attend work readiness training in April to be considered for a summer position. Earn \$7.25 to more than \$10.00 per hour and work part-time for up to nine weeks during the summer. Applications will be accepted from now until February 4, 2011. Call 612-673-5041 for more information or see the website (www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/stepup.asp) for more information.
- 7) I have appointed longtime cyclist and Seward resident **Bob Hain** to be the Ward 2 representative on the new Bicycle Advisory Committee (or BAC). Bob has been active on the previous BAC for several years, as well as participating in various ways in the Seward Neighborhood Group. It was a difficult decision, because there were four great applicants from the Second Ward, including three past or current BAC participants. I look forward to working with Bob as the new group gets underway. My Policy Aide, Robin Garwood, will be seeking the Council Staff position on the new BAC, and given his years of work on the BAC and on bicycling issues generally, I'm optimistic that he will be appointed.
- 8) Congratulations to the Confederation of Somali Community in Minnesota for applying for and receiving a Hennepin County grant to implement an environmental education projects this year. The Confederation, based on the West Bank, will educate and engage Somali youth in reducing waste and recycling activities in after-school programs. They will receive training, technical assistance and up to \$5,000 to implement activities from an Environmental Education Toolkit developed by the County.
- 9) There are openings on the Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Public Health Advisory Committee, Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Thinc. Green Joint Powers Committee, and Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.