

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Cedar Riverside, 4-18-07

Cam's next Cedar Riverside Office Hours:
Tuesday May 1, 9:30-11:00am
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave

Items:

- 1) Dining Out for Life
- 2) Beat Officers
- 3) Block Clubs
- 4) Riverside Park Safety meeting
- 5) Great Streets
- 6) Community Engagement
- 7) Minneapolis Greenprint
- 8) Riverside Plaza Access
- 9) West Bank School of Music
- 10) Bedlam Theater Occupancy
- 11) Children's Hospital
- 12) McMansions
- 13) NRP
- 14) Youth Violence
- 15) Maximum Occupancy
- 16) Wind Turbines
- 17) Paint-a-Thon
- 18) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Please join me for a **Dining Out for Life** lunch at the **Cliquot Club, 2929 East 25th St, on Thursday, April 26, 2007**. A percentage of the proceeds of your meal will go to benefit all the services for HIV-infected individuals offered by the Aliveness Project. For more information, please go to <http://www.aliveness.org/>.
- 2) Earlier this month the 1st Precinct added two beat officers to Cedar Riverside. Officers McCarver & Laluzerne are now working the "dog watch" shift from 8:30 pm to 6:30 am in Cedar Riverside. They are spending some time each shift walking and work roughly 4 nights out of every 7. Thanks to Sector Lieutenant Kathy Waite for making this happen. It is my hope that these beat officers, along with the continuing efforts of day officers, Subject & Dubay, together with the tremendous effort the neighborhood is making to better organize, will have an important positive effect on the safety situation this summer.
- 3) If you don't have a block club on your block and would like to form one, the 3rd Precinct SAFE Office is holding a free Block Leader Training workshop on **Wednesday, April 25, 6:30-8:30 pm, at the 3rd Precinct Community Room, 3000 Minnehaha Ave**. You must RSVP to attend – call 673-2856.
- 4) I will be joining a meeting of concerned residents to discuss concerns in the Riverside Park area tomorrow, at the Davanni's on Riverside and 25th at 6:30pm. Twice in the past month there have been reports of shots fired in or near the Park.
 - 5) The City's Community Planning and Economic Development department is proposing a new program called the Great Streets Neighborhood Business District Program that will likely be approved at the Council next Friday. The program revises Community Economic Development Fund (CEDF) program guidelines and the commercial corridor categorization based on an assessment of economic health to better target resources. In the report, the Cedar Riverside LRT station area (which includes all land within a ½ mile radius of the station) is identified as the LRT stations area most in need of City intervention. What this means is that businesses, property owners and others in the designated Cedar Riverside area who apply for many different kinds of City support will be given extra consideration on their applications, and more public resources will be available to the Cedar Riverside neighborhood.

- 6) On April 26, 2007 the Minneapolis City Council Committee of the Whole will hear a summary of the Community Engagement Report and the public's feedback, at 10:00 am in the Council Chamber, Room 317, City Hall. The Council Committee will then discuss next steps to improve the City's community engagement system, including its relationship with neighborhood organizations and with the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP). The NRP Policy Board has also released its report on the Minneapolis Community Engagement system. You can download that report here: <http://www.nrp.org/R2/AboutNRP/PB/PBAgenda2007/PBA20070326.html>.
- 7) The Minneapolis *Greenprint* is now available. It's the 2007 report on the ten environmental sustainability indicators. Go here to see it online: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/20070413GreenPrint.asp>, or contact my office for a physical copy. The report on the rest of the Minneapolis sustainability indicators will be coming out this summer.
- 8) The City has received a three-month extension on the lease for access to Riverside Plaza. The extension is effective from April 30 through July 31, 2007. I am hopeful that this will offer some relief to the cultural center and mosque on 4th, which will need to relocate in order provide the long term solution for the properties on that block. The courts have also ordered Fine Associates, Crablex, Sherman Associates and the City back to a mediator to try to work out a long-term solution. Fine Associates has applied for \$411,300 in Transit Oriented Development grants for the Currie Park Lofts development, and City staff ranked their request fourth of ten. However, this ranking was sent forward to the full Council without recommendation, mostly due to this ongoing litigation over Riverside Plaza access. I hope that very soon everyone involved will start looking to the common good of the neighborhood and get this resolved.
- 9) In cooperation with School staff and police department staff, I participated in a meeting with the West Bank School of Music earlier this month, to talk about their students' and faculty's concerns. I am continuing to work with them and City staff to support their efforts to purchase their building.
- 10) Licensing staff worked with my office to increase the temporary maximum occupancy of the Bedlam Theater from 85 to 200 people for their first show in their new space. I wish them great success.
- 11) The board of Fairview Hospital has approved building a new Children's Hospital on the site of a current parking lot. I'll be working to ensure community involvement and engagement in this development.
- 12) I am supportive of Council Member Betsy Hodges' proposed ordinance to address teardowns and "McMansions," which will establish a "gross floor area" maximum, based on the size of a lot.
- 13) Last month, I was unsuccessful in passing a motion that would have provided a structure for the starting a formal, public discussion about the future of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program at the City Council level. I was successful, however, in getting the discussion going and plan to bring forward an improved proposal at the next Council meeting that will create a City Council Work Group charged with providing recommendations to the full Council about the future of NRP in June or July.
- 14) The Youth Violence Steering Committee, which I helped form and on which I represent the Council, met for the first time this week. We are expected to have a draft report ready by August.
- 15) The group I have set up to talk about possible reforms to the Minneapolis Maximum Occupancy codes has met twice. We have reviewed the current codes, laid out our goals for "ideal" maximum occupancy regulations and studied other options for regulating maximum occupancy.
- 16) The ordinance I have sponsored broadening the allowable uses of Wind Turbines in the city is coming for a public hearing at the Planning Commission on 4/23, at 4:30 PM in the Council Chambers, room 317.
- 17) The deadline to apply for the 2007 Greater Metropolitan Council of Churches Paint-A-Thon is May 11th. For an application, call 721-8687 x321, or email dpope@gmcc.org.
- 18) There are openings on the the Housing Board of Appeals, the Public Health Advisory Committee, and the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us