



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon
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Second Ward

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 10-20-10

Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:
Tuesday, November 2nd, 9:30-11:00am
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave

Items:

- 1) Street Sweeping
- 2) Riverside Plaza
- 3) Draft Community Participation Program Guidelines
- 4) Access and Outreach Team
- 5) Commercial Recycling
- 6) FBI Raids Minneapolis Activists
- 7) Cedar Streetscape Improvement Grant
- 8) Afro Deli
- 9) Park Dedication Ordinance
- 10) Small and Underutilized Business Program
- 11) Thinc.Green
- 12) Gang Prevention Grant
- 13) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The 2010 comprehensive fall street sweep and leaf collection program will begin later this month. The first day of posting will be Monday, October 25 and the first day of sweeping will be Tuesday, October 26, and it will last about 4 weeks. Please watch for signs, warn your neighbors and check the city website at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/streetsweep/> for more detailed schedules to help prevent cars from being ticketed and towed.
- 2) Sherman Associates and City staff have been working on a development agreement for the Riverside Plaza renovation project. I organized a meeting last week to share the draft agreement with the community before the Council considers an affordable housing trust fund request of over \$1 million and final approval of up to \$80 million of housing development bonds later this month. I am generally supportive of this project and recognize the need to stabilize and rehabilitate this important affordable housing. At the same time, as we make these significant public investments, I want to be sure this benefits the larger neighborhood and the residents of the building. I support the efforts of the WBCC, City staff and Sherman Associates to come up with a development agreement that achieves these goals.
- 3) The Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) has put forward a draft of the Community Participation Program Guidelines that outline how \$3,000,000 will be provided to neighborhood organizations in 2011. Preliminary allocations based on the proposed formula were released as well. The recommended allocation for Cedar-Riverside is \$58,613.12. The NCEC expects to make its final recommendations to the City Council in November. For further information on the draft guidelines and allocations see <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/>.
- 4) The Neighborhood and Community Relations Department had formed a new Access and Outreach team that specializes in addressing and removing barriers to participation and meaningful engagement where cultural norms, practices or language limit access. These services are available to both City departments and neighborhood organizations. The Access and Outreach team has the cultural experience and the ability to communicate in Spanish, Somali, Oromo, Amharic, Hmong and American Sign Language. To learn more about how to take advantage of this visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/access-and-outreach.asp>

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email

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Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may call 311 or 612-673-3000. TTY users may call 612-673-2151 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, llama 612-673-2700;

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

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- 5) I have taken the first formal step to get my proposed new commercial recycling ordinance into the City Council process by giving notice of intent to introduce the ordinance that would require commercial entities to recycle. Prior to that, working with the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce, I helped produce a survey to businesses on current recycling practices and their opinion on a mandate. The results were very favorable. I have also had several discussions with business owners and business associations and believe that the business community is open to a fair and understandable recycling mandate. It's also clear that the City has the capacity to enforce this new requirement. The Fire Department has been charged with inspecting all commercial buildings in Minneapolis and could easily include compliance with the recycling requirement as one of the things they look for. St. Paul and Bloomington both have mandatory commercial recycling ordinances and the adoption of one in Minneapolis will be a significant step in the direction of diverting a greater percentage of the waste to recycling, decreasing the amount of material going into landfills and the garbage burner.
- 6) The Federal Bureau of Investigation has served subpoenas on local peace activists, including at least two Second Ward residents, one of whom is a resident of Cedar Riverside. They FBI is investigating "activities connected to the material support of terrorism" by the "Joint Terrorism Task Force." I have released a statement in support of the activists, which you can read at the Second Ward blog, and spoke at a protest against these raids. I am very concerned about the chilling effect these kinds of actions have on our ability and willingness to organize and speak out for better government. A website has been set up in response to this at <http://stopfbi.net/>.
- 7) The Council has accepted a \$300,000 Hennepin County grant for a Cedar-Riverside LRT Public Realm Improvement project. The City will need to find matching funds. I am confident that it will do so and that we will be able to make needed improvements to the West Bank Cedar Avenue streetscape and sidewalks in the next year or two.
- 8) The City Council has approved the application for Afro Deli and Coffee's sidewalk café at Riverside and 20th Avenues. I put together a meeting between neighbors who had concerns about the proposed sidewalk café and the African Development Center and near neighbors. Deli staff and the building owner have committed to work closely with my office and the near by neighbors to address any concerns.
- 9) After years of work the Park Board and the City Council have developed a new parkland dedication ordinance, which will require developers to either provide public open space as part of new developments or contribute to a fund that will be used to establish new park infrastructure. This will offer us a new way to help meet the needs for a park system that grows along with our city.
- 10) The Council has extended our SUBP ordinance, to give time for the results of our Disparity Study to be shared this fall and to continue to mandate that contractors working on City-financed projects do business with minority and women-owned contractors. I am extremely supportive of this program; the City needs to do more to close the gap in employment and income between the minority and majority populations in our city.
- 11) Minneapolis and St. Paul have joined together to form Thinc.Green, an economic-development partnership to retain, grow and attract green-manufacturing businesses and jobs in the Minneapolis Saint Paul region. I am very supportive of this effort, and worked to ensure that the steering committee for the partnership includes a representative from organized labor.
- 12) The City has been awarded a \$325,000 grant from the Department of Justice for youth gang prevention. This will provide much needed support for our ongoing work to implement the Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence and stop youth violence in Minneapolis.
- 13) There are openings on the Commission on Civil Rights, Public Health Advisory Committee, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, and Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.