

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Seward Neighborhood, 7-26-06

Cam's next Seward Office Hours:
Tuesday, July 25th, 9:30-11:00am
Seward Tower East Advantage Center, 2910 E Franklin

Items:

- I. Second Ward Survey
 - II. The Future of Our Parks
 - III. Arsenic ordinance
 - IV. Riverside Market Site Task Force
 - V. National Night Out
 - VI. No Truck Parking signs on Minnehaha
 - VII. WiFi update
 - VIII. CRA update
 - IX. Openings on City Boards and Commissions
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- I. I will be distributing a survey to assess which issues residents find most pressing in their neighborhoods. Please take a moment to fill this out. Your opinions and ideas are very important to me. It will also be available on the Ward 2 website:
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward2/>

 - II. The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) invites city residents and park visitors of all ages to attend one of six town meetings to be held throughout the city in September. The town meetings kick off the Park Board's efforts to gather information from the community as the MPRB develops its long-term comprehensive plan for the park system. The two meetings closest to Seward are: 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 19, Van Cleve Park Community Center, 901 15th Ave. SE and 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 21, Powderhorn Park Community Center, 3400 15th Ave. S. More information is available at: <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org>

 - III. Working with the Environmental Justice Advocates of Minnesota, my office has set up a meeting of City staff to look into creating an ordinance to require landlords to inform tenants of any known soil contamination, cooperate with remediating authorities (such as the EPA) and requiring that known soil contamination be included in Truth-in-Housing reports.

 - IV. I congratulate the Riverside Market Site Task Force on an open and inclusive public process in crafting their recommendations to the SNG board. I look forward to future work on this important development and to helping with the small area plan, traffic study and other recommendations should they meet with board approval. Special notice should be given to Dave Mann, who very ably chaired the task force. Thanks to all for the very good work so far.

 - V. Please join your neighbors Tuesday, August 1st for the 23rd Annual National Night Out. When neighbors know and care about each other, we are better able to identify suspicious

behavior. More people getting organized, watching out for each other and calling 911 helps make our neighborhoods safer. In 2005, an estimated 46,000 people participated in more than 840 separate events. For the fourth time in five years, Minneapolis ranked first in the nation among large cities for our outstanding level of participation. To find the event closest to you, visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno/EventsByStreet.pdf> or call my office.

- VI.** I am pleased to let you know that the City has installed “No Truck Parking” signs on Minnehaha between Franklin and E 24th St. These signs were requested by multiple residents and business owners along that stretch of road, due to ongoing problems with long-term semi parking and idling. Hopefully this signage will convince semi drivers not to park their vehicles along Minnehaha and make it easier to tow their vehicles away when they do.
- VII.** The City has held two open houses on the WiFi project, and groups both inside and outside City government have released their blueprints for a Community Benefits Agreement. More information is available here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/wirelessminneapolis>
- VIII.** The Civilian Police Review Authority (CRA) work group that I helped form has made several very important recommendations, including: removing the Internal Affairs Unit (or other) review or investigation of CRA sustained cases, establishing a process for administrative dismissal of complaints, formalizing the process for the CRA to recommend changes to the Minneapolis Police Department’s Policies and Procedures manual, initiating an audit of the Internal Affairs Unit, directing a staff group to work on an Early Intervention System, appointing Deputy Chief Lubinski as CRA liaison and changing the format for CRA output.

Written comments on any of the CRA work group’s recommendations may be sent to Natalie Collins at natalie.collins@ci.minneapolis.mn.us or 350 S. 5th St., Room 307, Minneapolis, MN 55415. The City will hold at least one additional public hearing (date to be announced) associated with any recommended ordinance changes.

- IX.** There are openings on the Civil Rights Commission and the Civilian Police Review Authority. The Civil Rights Commission was created to implement the City’s Civil Rights policies through public information and education; mediation and conciliation; and enforcement. The Civilian Police Review Authority was created to provide fair and impartial investigation of citizen allegations of misconduct on the part of officers of the Minneapolis Police Department and make conclusions based on findings of fact.

For more information on these two openings or for applications, call 612-673-3358 or visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/>. Both of these openings will close on July 28.