



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon
City Council Member
Second Ward

350 South 5th Street - Room 301M
Minneapolis MN 55415

Office 612-673-2202
Fax 612-673-3250
Cell 612-296-0579

Email: cam.gordon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward2/

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 5-18-11

Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:
Tuesday, June 7th, 9:30-11:00am
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave

Items:

- 1) Land Sale at 7th and 20th
- 2) Commercial Recycling Ordinance
- 3) Riverside Plaza and Jobs
- 4) Riverside Avenue Pedestrian Lighting
- 5) Congratulations to Merrie Benasutti
- 6) Central Corridor Construction
- 7) Bicyclist Killed in Ward 2
- 8) Vikings Stadium
- 9) Facing Race Idea Challenge
- 10) Translation Services
- 11) Urban Agriculture Zoning Amendments
- 12) U of M Climate Action Plan
- 13) Youth Violence Prevention Conference
- 14) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The Council's Community Development committee has moved forward an action to sell the two lots at the corner of 7th St and 20th Ave to the Greater Minneapolis Housing Corporation, with the participation of the Cedar Riverside NRP. This action was informed by the formal positions taken by the West Bank Community Coalition and Cedar Riverside NRP. I look forward to seeing new housing developed on that site, and thank the West Bank community for your patience, perseverance, and work to make this happen.
- 2) The Commercial Recycling ordinance that I have been working on for some time is coming before the Council's Regulatory, Energy and Environment committee on Monday, **June 6th** at 1:30pm, in room 317 of City hall, 350 S 5th St. This ordinance will require all businesses and business property owners in Minneapolis to have recycling service or provide recycling service to their tenants. I believe that the time has come for us to move past thinking that recycling is optional, and shift to a shared expectation that recycling is simply the way we deal with waste.
- 3) At Senator Pogemiller's request, my office is working to schedule a meeting regarding the Riverside Plaza renovation project Memorandum of Understanding, specifically the portion about jobs for neighborhood residents. It is likely to be in early June at the Brian Coyle Center.
- 4) The Riverside Avenue reconstruction project is officially moving forward. It will begin construction in early to mid July. Additionally, the property owners along the first phase of the Riverside Avenue reconstruction project have opted to pay an extra, voluntary assessment for upgraded pedestrian-level lighting. I thank Augsburg College and Fairview for their willingness to contribute towards improving the neighborhood, and Public Works staff for their additional work to provide the information that made it possible for the institutions to come to this decision.
- 5) Congratulations to Merrie Benasutti, best known on the West Bank as the associate director of the CHANCE program, on receiving the University of Minnesota's 2010-2011 Outstanding Community Service Award. The award "recognizes members of the University community whose accomplishments have resulted in long-term and lasting changes for the public good." Given the immense amount of fantastic, neighborhood-supporting work I have seen CHANCE students do on the West Bank in the last five years, this award is richly deserved. I join the U in commending Merrie on her accomplishments, and I thank her on behalf of the City for her work.

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email Ahmed.Muhumud@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

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, llama 612-673-2700;

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

- 6) Metro Transit bus detours have begun for the West Bank. For full information on bus stop changes and bus detours, go to www.metrotransit.org/construction or call the Transit Information Center at (612) 373-3333 for the most current information. The I-35W ramp from Westbound 3rd Street to south I-35W, east HWY 55, west I-94 closed, as have Washington Avenue/3rd & 4th Street between downtown and the East Bank. The north ramps from Washington to Cedar Ave have also closed, and traffic will be routed through the south ramps.
- 7) As you have likely heard, a young woman named Audrey Hull was hit and killed on her bicycle at the corner of 15th Ave SE and 4th St SE in late April. There is a very clear pattern emerging: of the last six bicycle fatalities in Minneapolis, four were caused by large trucks making turns. My office has organized a meeting between members of Public Works, the Police Department, and the Attorney's Office to begin an interagency discussion about how best to address this deadly conflict between bicyclists and trucks. I also plan to hold community meetings to get ideas from cyclists, truck drivers and others about how to prevent future deaths.
- 8) I have taken a clear position against public funding for a Vikings Stadium in Minneapolis. Given the deal reached between Ramsey County and the Vikings, it is unclear whether a Minneapolis deal will come to the Council for a vote. If it does, I will not support it. I am especially concerned about the proposed extension of the downtown restaurant tax to Second Ward small businesses which, in my opinion, will not benefit in any tangible way from a new Vikings stadium. Read more on the reasoning behind this position on my blog.
- 9) Facing racism can be difficult, but we can all take steps to create communities where everyone feels safe, valued and respected. To generate fresh ideas for reducing racism in Minnesota, The Saint Paul Foundation has launched the Facing Race Idea Challenge. Submit your ideas for reducing racism by June 3 at www.incommons.org/FacingRaceChallenge. A panel of community volunteers will evaluate and narrow idea submissions to a pool of five finalists. Finalists will be announced on the Facing Race Idea Challenge website, and all Minnesotans can get involved in voting for the best ideas. The top two entries with the most votes will receive grants of \$2,500 each for implementation. For complete details or to submit an idea, go to www.incommons.org/FacingRaceChallenge.
- 10) The city's Access and Outreach Team will take requests from city departments and neighborhood organizations to assist in translating documents. For interpretation requests, the Access and Outreach Team track phone calls received from city residents from each language line who need assistance in accessing city services, face to face interpretation as well as interpreting at a community meeting or event. The demand for translation and interpretation has steadily increased from January to March. For more information regarding the work of the Access and Outreach team, please visit: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/access-and-outreach.asp>.
- 11) I have given notice of intent to introduce all of the zoning code text amendments recommended by the recently passed Urban Agriculture Policy Plan. I expect this introduction to go through on May 27th.
- 12) The U of M has organized a presentation and discussion on the Twin Cities Campus Climate Action Plan for **Wednesday, May 25**, from 6:30-8pm at Van Cleve Park, 901 15th Ave SE. They will address questions including: what is the status of the University's air emissions today? How will we get to climate neutrality at the Twin Cities campus? What's happening with coal as a fuel for heating and cooling? What's the energy future for the campus? And how does this align with other sustainability initiatives? I believe that this is one of the effects of the student organizing around Campuses Beyond Coal, and hope that it will lay out some real targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and transitioning away from coal.
- 13) The City has organized a Youth Violence Prevention conference on May 27th, from 9am-2pm at the McNamara Alumni Center, 200 Oak St SE. The event will be attended by US Attorney General Eric Holder, and is the first step of a community engagement process on the Youth Violence Blueprint for Action that will be continuing this summer. I am extremely supportive of this great work, which addresses one of the most critical issues facing our communities.
- 14) There are openings on the Latino Advisory Committee, Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC), Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Vacancy, and Minneapolis Telecommunications Network (MTN). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.