



**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](mailto:cam.gordon@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

[www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward2/](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward2/)

## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood, 2-22-10

**Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:  
Pratt School, March 16, 9:30-11am**

**Items:**

- 1) Proposed Historic District
- 2) Tea House
- 3) Even Side Parking Ban
- 4) Social Host Ordinance
- 5) Department Head Reappointments
- 6) New Ward 2 Intern
- 7) New Youth Violence Prevention Tool
- 8) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) **Prospect Park Historic Preservation.** The Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC) has voted to extend interim historic protections in the proposed Prospect Park historic district for another six months. I was disappointed in this decision, which was made despite the outpouring of opposition from the neighborhood and a letter I wrote to the commission requesting that they not take this action, for several reasons. The interim protections and disagreement between the neighborhood's guidelines and the staff's interpretation of the Secretary of Interior's guidelines have contributed to a situation in which I believe it is extremely likely that the neighborhood would vote to not have historic designation, if that vote is held in the next six months. There is also a very interesting opportunity to explore creating a "conservation district" ordinance, that could give neighborhoods a wider range of options for adopting historic protections that meet their needs. My office has helped the Prospect Park East River Road Improvement Association apply for an appeal of the HPC's decision to the City Council. I am optimistic that my colleagues will agree to overturn this ill-considered decision, and preserve the options for historic designation of some kind for Prospect Park in the future.
- 2) **Energy Efficiency in Legislative Agenda.** The Council has voted to update our legislative agenda to include support for legislation that allows local governments to create tax assessment systems to help property owners to make energy efficiency and renewable energy investments. This would allow us to use the "Berkely Model" of helping homeowners who can't afford to pay cash for these sorts of environmentally-friendly improvements. In the long run, it will decrease the energy use in the City, increase property values, and help people spend less on their energy bills. I have been advocating for such a system for years, and I'm glad to see the Council finally taking a position in favor of it.
- 3) **Solar Rebates.** There are now two easy ways you can get rebates on solar energy systems for your home. The State's Office of Energy Security is offering rebates of up to **\$10,000** on solar electric and solar hot water system installations. For applications, go to [www.energy.mn.gov](http://www.energy.mn.gov) and type "solar electric rebate" or "solar hot water rebate" in the website's search engine. Also, Xcel Energy has launched a Solar Rewards program, to help customers afford solar panel installations on their homes or businesses. For conditions and other details of the program, go to [xcelenergy.com/solar](http://xcelenergy.com/solar), and select "Minnesota" from the drop-down list on the left. You can also request information by sending an e-mail message to [SolarProgramMN@xcelenergy.com](mailto:SolarProgramMN@xcelenergy.com). By installing a solar energy system in your home, you'll save money on your monthly utility bills and also help reduce your environmental footprint by using fewer resources. In addition, you could be eligible for a 30-percent federal tax credit. For more information on the tax credit, go to [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact Matt Bower at (612) 673-2188 or [Matthew.Bower@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:Matthew.Bower@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

If you want help translating this call – Hmong– Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2188;

Spanish – Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame 612-673-2188;

Somali – Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' an wac 612-673-2188.

- 4) **New Youth Violence Prevention Program.** The City, Hennepin County, and area hospitals and community organizations are working together to end youth violence. A new hospital-based initiative has been developed to identify and address the needs of youth victims of violence who present to the emergency departments of Hennepin County Medical Center and North Memorial Medical Center. The protocol is triggered when a juvenile gun shot victim is admitted to the emergency room. A hospital social worker is notified upon arrival of the patient. After the medical condition has been stabilized, the social worker meets with the youth and parents and performs a detailed psychosocial assessment. Specific areas explored include issues related to safety concerns, retaliation risk, family, peer group, school/truancy, life skills (anger management/conflict resolution), mental health, chemical dependency, legal concerns and employment. Based upon this evaluation, the social worker makes appropriate referrals to community-based agencies that provide services to troubled youth. To date, nearly 40 agencies in the metro area have agreed to offer their services in partnership with this program.
- 5) **Great Streets Support in Ward 2.** The City's Great Streets façade improvement grant program is funding several organizations in the Second Ward, including the West Bank Business Association, and Seward Redesign's work on both Franklin Avenue in Seward and University Avenue in Prospect Park. I'm a strong supporter of this partnership between the City and our small business districts, and look forward to seeing the improvements in these important commercial areas.
- 6) **The Mayor's State of the City address.** In March the Mayor presented his 2010 state of the city address and brought a welcome focus on jobs, education, and the environment. I am excited about his push for better transit, a bike sharing program that will include a large part of the Second Ward, and for support for the local food economy through the Homegrown Minneapolis initiative. It's heartening that the Second Ward is still receiving substantial citywide interest, as shown by the Mayor's specific mention of a science research park in SEMI. He also focused the difficult economic times we are facing and signaled a warning as the City will likely have to draft a new budget based on the governor's proposed 29 million dollar cut to local government aide this summer..
- 7) **Social Host Ordinance.** The "Social Host" ordinance I authored passed the Council unanimously. My office is working with the City Attorney's office and Communications Department to develop a communications piece for informing residents of this new law. We will be happy to provide this piece to the University Ambassadors and others who can help communicate about this new set of expectations to student renters. I look forward to hearing in about a year about how the law has been enforced.
- 8) **Police Chief Reappointment.** I voted against the reappointment of Police Chief Tim Dolan. In large part, I based this vote on the "Safe City Resolution" that the Council passed when we first appointed Chief Dolan in 2006, which lays out an accountability framework for the Chief. My office did a thorough analysis of the ten performance measures included in that resolution, and found that on five of the measures the Chief's performance was either unsatisfactory or unacceptably poor. These include his handling of citizen complaints sustained by the Civilian Review Authority, the continuing lawsuits against the City for police misconduct and other police-related issues, and the Department's pattern of unresponsiveness to the Council. You can read the full analysis here: [www.secondward.blogspot.com](http://www.secondward.blogspot.com). There is one other major problem I have had with the Chief's performance, that was not included in the Safe City Resolution but that is an expectation I have of all of our department heads: the Police Department has had an extremely poor record when it comes to staying within their budget. Last year, they spent \$3 million the Council never allocated. This is unacceptable. There are also positive things to report on the Chief. He has appointed some very good people to lead the precincts that serve the Second Ward, crime has been trending downwards, and he has done great work on issues that are of real importance to me, such as youth violence prevention and increasing the diversity of the police force. I deeply appreciate his personal attention to the triple homicide in Seward earlier this year. However, on balance, I could not support his reappointment, given the significant unmet expectations I had for him and for the Police Department under his leadership.
- 9) **Homegrown Minneapolis.** The Homegrown Minneapolis initiative continues to move forward. There will be a report to the Public Safety and Health committee on March 24<sup>th</sup>, on the progress we've made on implementing the Homegrown recommendations. There are also a number of related events coming up, including a Jams and Jellies workshop put on by the University of Minnesota Extension on March 30<sup>th</sup> from 1-4:30pm in Rogers, MN. The registration fee is \$25. For more information, visit the Homegrown Minneapolis website at [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/homegrown-home.asp](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/homegrown-home.asp).
- 10) **Emerald Ash Borer in Minneapolis.** Unfortunately, but not unexpectedly, Emerald Ash Borer has been found in Minneapolis, in Tower Hill Park in the Prospect Park neighborhood. In response, the Park Board's Forestry Division will begin removing trees with the infestation, and an intensified search of all ash trees in the surrounding

area will begin. This infestation is a major problem for our tree canopy, because approximately 20 percent of the tree canopy in Minneapolis consists of ash trees. The City and Park Board have been preparing for this anticipated challenge, developing policies for removing not-yet-infested but unhealthy or unattractive Ash throughout the city, so that the loss to canopy does not come all at once. My policy aide is the Council's new appointee to the Tree Advisory Committee, and Ward 1 Council Member Kevin Reich's policy aide Shannon McDonough is the alternate. They will help us to coordinate between the City and the Park Board on this emerging challenge. Please continue to restrict the movement of firewood as much as possible, to help slow the spread of this infestation, and if you have an ash tree on your boulevard or private property that you would be willing to have removed so that a different species of tree could be planted, please call 311.

- 11) There are openings on the Animal Care & Control Advisory Board, Audit Committee (closes 2/26), Citizen Environmental Advisory Committee (closes 2/19), Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee (closes 2/26), Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities (4/2), Heritage Preservation Commission (closes 4/2), Latino Advisory Committee (closes 4/2), Pedestrian Advisory Committee (closes 4/2), Public Health Advisory Committee (open until filled), Senior Citizens Advisory Committee (closes 3/5), and Workforce Council (closes 4/2). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email [cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).