

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Seward Neighborhood, 8-23-06

Cam's next Seward Office Hours:
Tuesday, September 26th, 9:30-11:00am
Seward Tower East Advantage Center, 2910 E Franklin

Items:

- 1) Mayor's Recommended Budget
 - 2) CRA public comment opportunity
 - 3) Department of Peace
 - 4) One Stop changes
 - 5) Hennepin County Hazardous Waste Pickup
 - 6) IRV on ballot
 - 7) Plan to End Homelessness
 - 8) Alley Ordinance
 - 9) Spray Paint Ordinance
 - 10) Expansion of Franklin Station
 - 11) Greenway expansion
 - 12) Pi
 - 13) Open Seats on City Boards and Commissions
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- 1) The Mayor's recommended 2007 City budget has been released and is available online: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/city-budget/2007recommended/>. One highlight: the Mayor has called for the City to add 43 police officers to the Department. The Council will review and amend this recommended budget through November, and adopt the final 2007 budget in December. A more thorough overview of this process is available here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/city-budget/annual-budget-process.asp>.
 - 2) The Civilian Police Review Authority work group that I helped form will hold a public hearing about our recommendations to the Council on **Wednesday, August 30, 7 pm at the Brian Coyle Center**. For more information contact Natalie Collins, 612-673-3301, natalie.collins@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.
 - 3) I am proud to have co-authored a resolution supporting federal legislation calling for the creation of a United States Department of Peace and Non-Violence. The resolution passed at the City Council meeting of 8/18.
 - 4) Minneapolis One Stop, the multi-departmental process for bringing forward business developments in the City, has undergone some changes. An advisory group has formed, Henry Reimer has been named as the new director, and the name has been changed to Minneapolis Development Review.
 - 5) Hennepin County's fall Household Hazardous Waste collection is coming up: September 14-16, 9am-4pm, at 3607 E 44th St. Find out more at <http://www.co.hennepin.mn.us>.
 - 6) By a 12-1 vote, the Council decided to put Instant Runoff Voting on the ballot this November. I encourage you to learn more about IRV at <http://www.fairvotemn.org> and <http://www.betterballotcampaign.org/>.

- 7) The Hennepin County and City of Minneapolis Commission to End Homelessness has released their plan to end homelessness. I enthusiastically support their findings and will push the City to devote significant resources as the plan directs. Please contact my office for more information.
- 8) At today's Public Safety and Regulatory Services committee, I strongly opposed the proposed ordinance making alleys off-limits to non-resident pedestrians. Please read my rationale for opposing the ordinance on my blog.
- 9) I supported Council Member Schiff's ordinance amendment requiring that retailers keep spray paint in a place not accessible to the public and post signs informing people that they will not sell to minors. I believe the possible hardship to retailers is more than offset by the possible help in preventing graffiti in our neighborhoods.
- 10) A minor modification to the Franklin LRT Station Area Redevelopment Plan that, among other things, expands the boundaries of the existing Franklin LRT Station Area Redevelopment Project and removes this expansion area from the other overlapping redevelopment project areas (Seward South, Model City, Franklin Avenue, and Seward West), passed the Community Development committee on Tuesday. Look here for details: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2006-meetings/20060901/CD20060822agenda.asp> (Franklin Station is item 9.)
- 11) By all accounts, Phase III of the Midtown Greenway will be finished all the way to the Mississippi within the next month. I encourage neighbors to curb our enthusiasm until the work is completed, and then use this fantastic new piece of infrastructure as often as possible.
- 12) Prospective restaurant owners have contacted my office about their idea to make the old American Legion into a restaurant called Pi. It sounds like they will need two variances to make their business plan work. I asked them to go through the SNG process at the pace that neighbors find appropriate, and look forward to hearing whether the neighborhood supports their variance applications.
- 13) There are openings on the following City Boards and Commissions:
 - a. Civilian Police Review Authority (closes 8/25/2006)
 - b. Metropolitan Sports Facilities Commission (closes 9/1/2006)
 - c. Zoning Board of Adjustment (closes 9/15/2006)
 - d. Minneapolis Empowerment Zone Governance Board (closes 9/8/2006)
 - e. Civil Rights Commission (closes 9/8/2006)

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