

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood, 7-23-07

Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
Pratt School, Tuesday August 21, 9:30-11am

Items:

- 1) National Night Out August 7th
- 2) University Ave meeting with CPED Director
- 3) Downtown Transportation Action Plan
- 4) Bike Mode Share – we're number two!
- 5) Public Safety for Public Housing
- 6) Wind Turbines passes
- 7) Unpaid Judgments ordinance
- 8) Lead Safe Work Practices ordinance passes
- 9) Infill Housing ordinance passes
- 10) City Employee Compensation Philosophy
- 11) Free Speech Work Group Guiding Principles
- 12) Internal Affairs Audit
- 13) Sale of City-Owned Parking Ramps
- 14) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) This year, one process makes it possible to register your **National Night Out** event and apply to close your street. To do one or both visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno, or if you don't have Internet call 311. If you register by July 24, you'll be eligible for a door prize drawing, and street closure will be free. **Paul Kristapovich**, my office's intern for Prospect Park, is available to help anyone interested in hosting an NNO event this year. This year, NNO will be on **August 7th**.
- 2) At my request, Mike Christensen, the new Director of CPED, has agreed to meet with Prospect Park residents and Jennifer Jordan from the Planning Department to discuss the community's concerns and ideas regarding development on University Avenue. My office will be working to schedule this meeting.
- 3) The Council has passed a 10-year Transportation Action Plan for Downtown. It includes plans for increasing transit capacity on Marquette and 2nd, turning a number of one-way streets into two-way streets (including Hennepin and First Avenues), as well as various bicycle and pedestrian improvements. I moved an amendment that passed unanimously, requiring staff to explore what I am calling the "Copenhagen Model" in downtown – including curbed bike lanes between sidewalks and parking lanes and bicycle signalization. This final Plan, along with a summary of public comments received, is posted at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works/trans-plan/> under the project documents section.
- 4) According to U.S. Census Bureau statistics released this month on the 50 cities with the most workers, Minneapolis has the second highest percentage of people who bike to work. The bureau said 2.4 percent of Minneapolis' 189,294 workers (16 and older) pedal to their jobs, which is second only to Portland, OR, and several times higher than the national average of 0.4 percent. It is my hope that the infrastructure projects above can help us move towards our goal of doubling bicycle commuting mode share in Minneapolis. We still have a long way to go, however. I believe we need to implement creative ideas like the ones employed by Copenhagen, whose bicycle mode share is a stunning thirty-plus percent, and build a reliable, high-quality bike grid in the whole metro area.
 - 5) The PS&RS Committee voted to put \$350,000 in additional funding into the Public Housing Authority and Police Department partnership for keeping public housing residents and the surrounding communities safe. I strongly support this measure and will advocate for it at tomorrow's Council meeting.
 - 6) My proposed zoning code amendments that broaden and expand the allowable and conditional uses of wind turbines in the City passed the Council unanimously June 29. This is a small step towards increasing renewable energy in our city.

- 7) The ordinance I introduced giving the City the authority to revoke or not renew rental licenses to landlords who have unpaid legal judgments against them has been referred to the City's Rental Property Advisory Committee for review. I believe we may need strong support from the community to offset the power of the landlord lobby to get this proposal passed.
- 8) The ordinance I introduced requiring that anyone repairing chipped or peeling paint on a pre-1978 housing unit, as required by a City violation order, must have attended a Lead Safe Work Practices training, unanimously passed the Health Energy and Environment Committee last week. It passed the Council unanimously last week. I hope that this will be a small first step towards ensuring that people dealing with lead paint understand how to do so safely.
- 9) Council Member Betsy Hodges' Infill Housing (or "McMansions") ordinance passed the Council unanimously last month, with my strong support.
- 10) The Council rescinded the 2% wage increase cap for City employees last week, and replaced it with a more comprehensive employee compensation philosophy.
- 11) The Free Speech Work Group that I helped form has drafted our guiding principles for protecting free speech during the RNC Convention next year. The Council unanimously approved these principles last week. My thanks to Prospect Park resident **Chuck Holtman**, on whose advice I moved to create this group, and who helped both write the initial document on which the principles are based and was the **only** Minneapolis resident to provide feedback at the public hearing on them.
- 12) The Police Department has released a Request For Proposals to find a contractor do conduct an audit of the Internal Affairs department, as a step towards the greater goal of increasing police officer accountability. I am hopeful that the Council will approve and fund this tomorrow.
- 13) The Council has decided to sell seven City-owned parking ramps, including the Seven Corners ramp in the Second Ward. For more information, please go here: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070629/Docs/08_Parking_Ramp_Set_PH.pdf
- 14) There are openings on the Minneapolis Empowerment Zone Governance Board (closes 7/27/2007), Minneapolis Ethical Practices Board (closes 8/10/2007), Housing Board of Appeals (closes 8/3/2007), Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) (closes 8/3/2007), Senior Citizen Advisory Committee (closes 8/3/2007), and the Zoning Board of Adjustment (closes 8/3/2007). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.