

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Seward Neighborhood, 9-27-06

Cam's next Seward Office Hours:
Tuesday, October 24th, 9:30-11:00am
Seward Tower East Advantage Center, 2910 E Franklin

Items:

- 1) IRV Roundtable 10-26-06
- 2) Minneapolis Energy Challenge
- 3) Arsenic
- 4) Interim Chief Dolan
- 5) Ending Youth Violence
- 6) Urban Windpower task force
- 7) New Second Ward Website
- 8) Fuel-Efficient Taxis
- 9) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) As one of my ongoing series of roundtable discussions, I will be hosting a conversation about Ranked Choice Voting (also known as IRV) at Matthews Park on October 26th, 7-9pm.
- 2) The City has decided to partner with the Center for Energy and the Environment on the **Minneapolis Energy Challenge**. I ask SNG to organize Seward neighbors to take the easy steps available to us to reduce their energy consumption. After October 1st, go to www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/energychallenge for more information.
- 3) I have introduced an ordinance requiring that landlords within the South Minneapolis arsenic contamination site inform their prospective and current tenants about the level of contamination the EPA has found in their soil. The contamination site includes much of West Seward. It will also require that home sellers disclose known soil contamination to home buyers citywide. This ordinance will come before the HE&E committee for a public hearing on October 12th, at 1:30pm.
- 4) As you've likely heard, RT has nominated Interim Chief Dolan to be the permanent Minneapolis Police Chief. I am still undecided on this nomination. I have significant concerns about Tim's commitment to real community policing models and accountability for police officers. I welcome and ask for your input on this difficult decision. The public hearing on this appointment will take place on Wednesday October 18th at 1:30 pm at a special meeting of the PS&RS Committee, if the nomination is voted through the Executive Committee on October 11th.
- 5) I have been working with the city-sponsored Youth Violence Prevention Community Leaders Forum I helped start to redefine youth violence as a public health (as well as public safety) issue. Working with community leaders we are developing a comprehensive approach to addressing and eradicating youth violence.

- 6) My office has put together a group of wind industry experts to talk about how we can change the zoning code to broaden the uses of wind turbines within the city. It will meet in mid-October.
- 7) The Second Ward website has a new look, including a graphic interface and individual neighborhood resource pages. Check it out here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward2/>. We are attempting to make it easier for residents to access the resources available in their neighborhoods. Please look carefully at the Seward resource page and let my office know if you have any changes or additions.
- 8) An amendment I co-authored with CM Schiff passed today's PS&RS committee, which will require all newly-licensed taxicabs to be fuel efficient, and increase the percentage of every taxi company's fleet that is fuel efficient by 10% per year until 100% of Minneapolis taxis are fuel efficient in 2016. I also authored an amendment that will allow cab companies to use wheelchair-accessible or fuel efficient for three additional years (from 5 years to 8). These ordinance amendments are a great example of the importance of the recently-adopted Sustainability Indicators – they encourage us to think about sustainability in every action we take.
- 9) There are currently five Empowerment Zone Resident vacancies. One (1) vacancy is for the unexpired term of an EZ Resident ending September 20, 2007. One (1) vacancy is for an EZ Resident between 14 and 20 years old for a term beginning immediately and expiring September 20, 2008. Three (3) vacancies are for EZ Residents with terms beginning September 21, 2006 and expiring September 20, 2009. Call 673-3358 or look here for an application: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open>.