



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon
City Council Member
Second Ward

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Seward Neighborhood 2-24-10

Cam's next Seward Office Hours:
Tuesday, March 23, 9:30-11:00am
Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St

Items:

- 1) Seward Resident Leaves City Money
- 2) Winter Parking Restrictions
- 3) Department Head Reappointments
- 4) Sewer Access Charges
- 5) Hiawatha Transmission Line
- 6) Social Host Ordinance
- 7) New Ward 2 Intern
- 8) New Youth Violence Prevention Program
- 9) Greenway Area Rezoning
- 10) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) Lifelong Seward resident Bob Olson has left the City \$100,000, in addition to the \$50,000 he left two of his neighbors and hundreds of thousands he left to the University library system. I appreciate his generosity, and will strive to ensure that the City allocates these funds to something that could serve as a memorial. Mr. Olson was a cyclist, and I am interested in trying to dedicate his gift to bicycle infrastructure.
- 2) Public Works is has instituted Winter Parking Restrictions, which **bans parking on the even sides of residential streets** (all streets that are NOT Snow Emergency routes or Parkways). They took this step for the first time since 2001 to ensure that our emergency responders (fire trucks and other emergency vehicles) are able to navigate every Minneapolis roadway after the large amounts of snow we have received this winter.
- 3) On February 3rd the Mayor took the first step to reappointing all of the department heads, except the Civil Rights director. He has moved the following to be appointed for 2 year terms and referred the names to the appropriate committees for public hearings in February and March: Patrick Todd, City Assessor; Susan Segal, City Attorney; Steven Bosacker, City Coordinator; Mike Christensen, Director, CPED; Alex Jackson, Fire Chief; Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner of Health; Steve Kotke, Director, Public Works; and Rocco Forte, Director, Regulatory Services. The Mayor has also formally put forward Timothy Dolan for Police Chief for another 3 year term. The Police Chief appointment will return to the Executive Committee in February for a vote and then, if the committee votes to forward his nomination, to a public hearing that will likely be held March 3rd. A search is being planned to find a new director of the Civil Rights Department.
- 4) The Metropolitan Council funds its sanitary sewer work throughout the metro region by requiring new development to pay "Service Availability Charges." This system is broken, partly due to the downturn in the economy. Less development is occurring, meaning less funding for the sanitary sewer system. The Met Council chose, a little over a year ago, to begin charging full SAC costs (\$2,000 per 8 new seats in a restaurant) for sidewalk cafes. The City, among many other interested stakeholders, cried foul; sidewalk café seating offsets indoor seating, and can only be used on sunny days in warm months. The Met Council, to their credit, reconsidered and decided to charge only 25% of a full SAC for outdoor seating. However, they declined to make this necessary, common-sense action retroactive. This has caught at least one Second Ward business, True Thai restaurant, in a terrible bind, owing \$6,000 for a sidewalk café

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact Matt Bower at (612) 673-2188 or 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, llama 612-673-2188;

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

that was used for only one season, and that would only cost \$1,500 today. I object strongly to this action by the Met Council, and I am searching for any way that these inappropriate and undue costs will not be borne by Minneapolis small businesses. This incident strengthens my resolve that the SAC system is badly designed and should be radically altered. Development in the built environment in Minneapolis does not require new sewer infrastructure – our sewers have existed for more than a hundred years – and the funds taken from Minneapolis small businesses go to pay for sewers in far-flung outer suburbs. Basically, density is funding sprawl. This is not wise regional planning, and argues yet again for an elected and accountable Metropolitan Council.

- 5) I attended a public hearing on Xcel's Hiawatha Transmission Line Project Draft Environmental Impact Statement on February 10, along with several of my Council colleagues, and was very impressed with number of people who attended and the quality of the comments made. I will likely be submitting my own comments next week in writing, in addition to the City's formal comments. Comments on the DEIS are due March 10th. To review the documents and submit your own comments visit [energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/ Docket.html?id=19981](http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?id=19981). I am very concerned about the negative impacts it might have on the health and future prosperity of the residents in the area as well as the potentially devastating impact it could have on the Midtown Greenway and the future land use and transportation plans associated with it. I believe conservation and better use of more modern energy management and generation technology should be explored before a new power line and substations are approved. I have also been pushing for the line to be buried under 28th St, if it must be put in at all.
- 6) I authored a "Social Host" ordinance that will close a loophole that currently prevents the police from citing people who host events where alcohol is available to minors. The courts have ruled that this is not covered by the existing prohibition on providing alcohol to minors. A similar ordinance passed in St. Paul last year, a number of high-profile cases of alcohol-related accidents and crimes, both in the Second Ward and around the state, along with statistical data that clearly point to the dangers of underage drinking, prompted me to take this on. You can read more of the rationales for this ordinance at my blog. The ordinance has unanimously passed the full Council. The Public Safety and Health committee also passed a staff direction I put forward, making clear that the Council expects that appropriate Social Hosting citations will be eligible for restorative justice, and asking the Attorney's Office to report back to the Council on how the ordinance has been enforced one year from now. I will pay careful attention to this over the next year to evaluate its effectiveness, and consider possible improvements.
- 7) I am in the process of hiring Lolla Mohammed Nur to join the Ward 2 Office staff as a community outreach and research intern. Lolla is a junior in the honors program at the University majoring in journalism and political science. She has worked as a reporter for the Minnesota Daily and the Twin Cities Daily planet and has also interned for the Council on American-Islamic Relations. Her primary work objectives are to 1) improve communications, involvement and connection to the community with a special focus on East African populations and U of M and Augsburg students, and 2) to work on youth issues including youth violence prevention, student housing issues and youth development and employment.
- 8) The City Health Department and our Youth Violence Prevention committee has helped develop 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, 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.
- 9) The Midtown Greenway rezoning study and map amendments for the eastern section will come before the Council next month. I am working with neighbors and others to make certain amendments to address their concerns.
- 10) 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.