

# **Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 2-6-07**

**Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:  
Tuesday, February 13, 9:30-11:00am  
SECIA Office, 837 15th Ave SE**

## **Items:**

- 1) Talmadge Crossing
  - 2) Big 10 Neighborhood Conference
  - 3) Condo Conversion ordinance
  - 4) Youth Violence Prevention
  - 5) Republican National Committee
  - 6) Antiwar Resolution
  - 7) Roundtable Recap
  - 8) Community Benefits Agreements
  - 9) "Lurking" Ordinance
  - 10) Maximum Occupancy
  - 11) Public Hearing on the University POD
  - 12) Update of City's Comprehensive Plan
  - 13) Grants to SE Como organizations
  - 14) Openings on Boards and Commissions
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- 1) Council Member Ostrow and I have convinced City staff to work on upgrading the Talmadge Rail Crossing to keep it open. This could not have happened without the active involvement of SE Como neighbors. Congratulations, and keep up the good work.
  - 2) Yesterday, I attended a conference in Chicago of Big 10 Universities on Community/ University Relations, with CM Hofstede and University staff. Reps from all the Big 10 schools discussed how to create better relationships with their surrounding neighborhoods throughout the five-hour meeting. Some interesting new ideas emerged, and I'll be floating them to City staff and the U over the next months.
  - 3) The Condo Conversion ordinance that I have been working on for months had a public hearing in January, and is going to the full Council Friday, February 9. At the hearing, a large number of people presented excellent testimony in favor of the ordinance amendments which are supported by the Minneapolis Affordable Housing Coalition. We also heard testimony in favor from condominium managers and owners, as well as opposition from several realtors. Council Members Schiff and Samuels joined me in supporting it and Council Members Johnson, Hofstede and Ostrow were opposed. The purpose of the ordinance is to protect condo buyers and address the loss of affordable housing to condo conversions. I now have two co-authors, CMs Remington and Schiff, who both spoke eloquently in favor of the proposed ordinance after the hearing. I will be trying this week to gain more support and, if needed, develop a compromise to address the concerns that have been raised.
  - 4) The Youth Violence Prevention Steering Committee was created this month. I will serve on it, along with the Mayor, Chief Dolan, Health Commissioner Musicant, Youth Coordinating Board Chair Judith Kahn, Shukri Adan and many other committed, deeply involved people. I believe this is an incredibly important step towards keeping our youth from becoming victims and perpetrators of violence, one of our City's most important goals.

- 5) The Mayor has signed the contract to bring the Republican convention to Minneapolis in 2008. I have been concerned about whether free speech rights of residents and visitors will be violated, as they have in past conventions, so I created an internal work group to create a model for how the City can preserve the right to political speech and civic debate without disrupting community life during the Convention. The group includes the Mayor, up to two Council Members, the relevant department heads, and two representatives of civil liberties groups such as the ACLU and National Lawyers Guild. I also attempted to change the contract to ensure that the Minneapolis Police Department would have a say in approving the Convention Security Plan, but my colleagues ultimately voted this proposal down.
- 6) I co-authored a resolution calling for the immediate cessation of the war in Iraq with my colleague Ralph Remington. I'm proud that we got this passed without a single no vote (though several CMs declined to vote).
- 7) The roundtable discussion at Saint Martin's Table on ending homelessness and decriminalizing poverty was quite successful. Thirty-three people attended and shared their hopes and ideas for how to transition people out of homelessness constructively and effectively. I believe the plan that the Council passed in December offers us a clear path to follow.
- 8) I coordinated and lead a City Council Study Session on Community Benefits Agreements (CBA) with the Alliance for Metropolitan Stability on February second. We heard from outside experts, city staff and from neighborhood group staff and activists about three case studies where CBAs and being developed. This helped improve my and my colleagues' understanding of this promising new tool to ensure that communities benefit from development projects.
- 9) I was delighted that the Council unanimously approved the draft Neighborhood Impact Report this month. I wholeheartedly support this report and its recommendations, have followed it closely, and have been pushing for this well before it was passed by the state legislature. I will continue to do what I can to take advantage of this unique opportunity to build a better partnership between the City, the University and the surrounding neighborhoods. It offers a way to address some of the most pressing concerns the neighborhoods are facing.
- 10) Partly to prepare for the necessary rental housing inspections that have grown out of the Impact Report, I am planning to introduce subject matter soon to make Minneapolis' two contradictory maximum occupancy ordinances consistent, understandable and fair. The two ordinances are the Housing Maintenance code 244.810, which is primarily concerned with health and safety of tenants, and the Zoning code 546.50, which is primarily concerned with density. I am planning to create a work group to help craft a solution – please contact my office if you are interested in participating.
- 11) There will be a public hearing on the proposed University/29<sup>th</sup> Pedestrian-Oriented Overlay District at the Planning Department meeting March 5 in City Hall.
- 12) I have heard that there will be a public outreach and engagement process starting in late March on the upcoming review of the City's Comprehensive Plan, *the Minneapolis Plan*.
- 13) The Van Cleve Court development has received \$1,334,523 in Met Council LCDA grants, and Living at Home block nurse programs have received \$75,000 in HUD CDBG grants.
- 14) There are openings on the Charter Commission, Minneapolis Empowerment Zone Governance Board, the Latino Advisory Committee to the Mayor and City Council, the Minneapolis Telecommunications Network Board, the NEW Pedestrian Advisory Committee, the Public Health Advisory Committee, the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, and the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email [cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us).