

## **Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank Community Coalition June, 21 2006**

### **Items:**

- I. Cedar Riverside NRP Action Plan
- II. Youth Violence Prevention grant
- III. Report on Somali Youth Issues
- IV. Currie Street improvements
- V. Clean City Program
- VI. District Council Collaborative
- VII. Elected Official use of Blogs
- VIII. Onestop
- IX. Opening on Ethical Practices Board

- I.** The Cedar Riverside neighborhood's NRP First Step Action Plan passed the Council unanimously last Friday. It was scheduled to go through on June 30, but I felt it was important to expedite the process. Congratulations on the good work and know that I will do everything I can to help make the implementation of this plan and the upcoming development of the full Action Plan as successful as possible.
- II.** The Confederation of the Somali Community of Minnesota has received a \$21,200 Youth Violence Prevention Grant to expand street based outreach to Somali youth and expand staff to facilitate home visits to parents of high risk Somali youth. When I worked to make these funds available, I had hoped that some of the resources would be used to prevent youth violence in Cedar Riverside neighborhood. Congratulations to the Confederation and thanks to the Department of Health and Family Support for their leadership on this.
- III.** The Department of Civil Rights has released a "Report on Somali Youth Issues," which explores some of the challenges facing Somali youth and makes recommendations for positive steps the larger community can take to help. The report will be available online in several days at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/civil-rights/>. It will also be available in print/electronic form and in Somali in a few weeks.
- IV.** The City and Fine Associates cooperated on a grant application to the Metropolitan Council's Livable Communities Demonstration Account to fund street and sidewalk improvements on 4<sup>th</sup> St.( between Cedar and 15<sup>th</sup>), 15<sup>th</sup> Ave. and a small portion of 6<sup>th</sup> St. This proposal has been ranked second of the top ten projects. This is a very good sign. I enthusiastically support this application. I am optimistic that this application will be approved by the Metropolitan Council. These street improvements are long overdue. They will enhance the area near Currie Park and better connect the LRT to the neighborhood, to the benefit of everyone.
- V.** I invite WBCC to participate in the Clean City Program, which provides volunteers with paint to remediate graffiti on public property more quickly than the City generally can. Please visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/solid-waste/clean-city.asp> for more information.

- VI.** The West Bank Community Coalition has been invited to join the Central Corridor District Councils Collaborative, a coalition of neighborhood groups along the Central Corridor transit line. The Collaborative is seeking one representative from WBCC. Call Andy Driscoll at 651.249.6877 or email him at [andy@districcouncilscollaborative.org](mailto:andy@districcouncilscollaborative.org) for more information, or visit [www.districtcouncilscollaborative.org](http://www.districtcouncilscollaborative.org).
- VII.** The Council passed my resolution allowing Elected Officials to use blogs (as I have been doing since March) last cycle.
- VIII.** I am part of an effort to improve the city's OneStop program to better serve businesses and development projects. The City Coordinator has been directed to prepare a plan outline to consolidate the City's development review operations within one clear line of jurisdiction and accountability, appoint a Minneapolis One Stop Ombudsperson, evaluate the merits of an organizational structure in which the Development Review Office is responsible for day to day operational control, and report back to the Council June 30, 2006, and on a quarterly basis thereafter to address the City's progress in achieving the directives.
- IX.** There are openings on the Minneapolis Ethical Practices Board, whose purpose is "to promote high ethical standards and conduct, and to foster a healthy ethical culture throughout Minneapolis city government." For more information, look here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open> or call Assistant City Attorney Susan Trammell at 673-3230.