



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon

City Council Member
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Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may call 311 or 612-673-3000. TTY users may call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

Attention: If you want help translating this information in language other than Hmong, Spanish or Somali, call 311

Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 6-4-13

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:
Tuesday, June 11th, 9:30-11:00am
Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como Avenue SE

Items:

- 1) 8th Street Construction
- 2) Conduct on Premises Ordinance
- 3) Rental License Ordinance Change
- 4) Car Sharing Policy
- 5) Ranked Choice Voting Ordinance Amendments
- 6) Police Settlements and Tasers
- 7) Recreational Fire Ordinance
- 8) Healthy Housing Policy
- 9) Bike/Walk Week
- 10) Staple Food Ordinance
- 11) Farmstands
- 12) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) City Public Works staff are in discussions with the University of MN about reconstructing the stretch of 8th Street SE just east of 15th Ave SE. Under the terms being discussed a new, and much needed, roadway would be constructed. The University would pay all of the costs except what the City would normally assess to affected property owners using our uniform assessment rate. This is in a small area of Como that has seen development in recent years but has never seen the road constructed to city standards. Public Works will be bringing forward an agreement with the U to the next Transportation and Public Works committee meeting on June 18th. Once the final terms of the agreement are worked out, Public Works staff will be conducting a survey and reaching out to the community for feedback on a design. I am hopeful that a new road can be built this year.
- 2) The Council has received a report from staff on the "conduct on premises" ordinance, which the City uses to make landlords responsible for the behavior of their tenants. Staff made a number of ordinance and policy recommendations, most of which would make the ordinance tougher. I have some concerns about this ordinance, especially the requirement that the City sometimes places on landlords to add "crime free lease" addendums to their leases. These give landlords the right to evict tenants if they are arrested. I am concerned that this may go in the opposite direction of the City's work on helping people with criminal records to get jobs and reintegrate into society. I will be tracking this issue closely. You can read the report here: http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wc_ms1p-109330.pdf.
- 3) Council Member Johnson has authored an ordinance that will require rental property owners or their designees to be available by phone twenty-four hours a day, 7 days a week. It will also require the person responsible for the maintenance and management to respond to inquiries from City enforcement staff "within a reasonable period of time." This will come forward for a public hearing on June 17th.
- 4) I have authored, and the Council has approved, an amendment to our Ranked Choice Voting ordinance to better account for voter intent in our tabulation method. The changes will better align us with St. Paul's methods as well and clarify how we determine voter intent when there is a skipped ranking, undervote, overvote or repeat candidate ranking. It will also clarify how we can use of Election Night machine totals to determine winners in cases where the winner can be determined from the first-ranked choices only and requires write in candidates who want write-in votes to be individually recorded to file a written request with the chief election official no later than seven days before the election.

- 5) On May 24, the Council approved paying close to \$3 million to settle a lawsuit filed by the family of a David Smith, who died after struggling with police who used an electronic shocking (Taser) weapon on him at the downtown Minneapolis YMCA in 2010. In the settlement the family will receive \$1.1 million and their attorney will get the rest. While I supported the settlement as a responsible way resolve the case, it has refreshed long lasting concerns I have had with the use of Tasers by the police. Even if, as it appears, the Taser use in this case was consistent with current police policy, I believe the policy should be reviewed. In 2006 I was part of an effort to create a more careful policy that was drafted by the Civilian Review Authority only to see it later weakened and modified by the department. In the weeks ahead I will be looking for more information about how often, when and how Tasers have been used in the last 5 years and how many others have died or been hospitalized after being electroshocked by police in Minneapolis.
- 6) The Council has voted to allow a company called Car2Go to use City right-of-way for its car sharing program, as part of a two-year pilot. The Council also directed staff to expand this pilot to include the other vendors of car-sharing services that submitted proposals, including the local nonprofit HourCar. Staff will make recommendations on how these additional companies will be included in the pilot in June of this year. I see this as a major step forward for car sharing, which the draft Climate Action Plan calls out as one of many ways that Minneapolis residents can reduce our carbon emissions. I think there is room in the market for multiple car sharing companies, especially since they have different models. HourCar has identified exclusive spots for its cars, and most often HourCars are used for round trips. Car2Go has a more point-to-point model, in which users find cars online or with smartphone apps, drive from where they are to where they'd like to go, and simply leave the car there. I'm excited to see the growth of this environmentally friendly industry, and hope that the pilot will prove a success.
- 7) My amendment to the City's recreational fire ordinance has passed the Council unanimously. This ordinance prohibits recreational fires during Air Quality Alert days for small particulate matter. Air quality ratings are posted at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php>. The Air Quality Index is updated on an hourly basis (during the daytime hours) by the MPCA. You can sign up for alerts at <http://mn.enviroflash.info>.
- 8) The Council has voted to adopt a new healthy housing policy. Under this policy, the Community Planning and Economic Development department will use the healthy housing criteria of the Green Communities program as one criterion for future affordable housing projects, including both new construction and significant rehab. I moved a staff direction for CPED staff to come back to the Council in February of 2014 with a report on what effect this policy has had. I am more than open to strengthening it if necessary. This policy was made possible by the hard work of Cherie Shoquist in CPED and the Minneapolis Health Department, which funded its development through a grant from the State Health Improvement Program.
- 9) Twin Cities Bike Walk Week is **June 9-15**. Activities include commuter pit stops for bikers and walkers during peak commuting hours (7-9am and 4-6pm), offering free bike lights, bike repair, information and literature, and other fun stuff on Monday 6/10, Wednesday 6/12 and Friday 6/14, from 7-9am and 4-6pm. Locations in and around the Second Ward include Sabo Bridge, Washington Avenue Bridge, the intersection of 4th Street and 15th Ave SE in Dinkytown, and the Hiawatha LRT Trail at Cedar Ave. On Monday the 10th, from 7-9pm, you can get your bike fixed for free while you enjoy a free outdoor concert and movie at Van Cleve Park. On Wednesday the 12th, there will be free breakfast at the Greenway Building, 2801 21st Ave S, from 7am until they run out of food. The Hennepin County Bar Association is offering free classes on the basics of bicycling for transportation and riding with traffic. The activities culminate in a Bike Walk to Work Day celebration at Government Center Plaza on Thursday the 13th, from 7-9am. There are many more activities planned – find out more at <http://bikewalkweek.org>.
- 10) I have introduced the subject matter of an ordinance that will, if passed, broaden the types of stores that sell food that will be covered by the City's requirement to sell staple foods, and raise our standards to be similar to the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program's requirements. In 2007, I led the effort to require more fresh fruits and vegetables in the City's "staple food" ordinance, which was at the time more stringent than WIC. Since then, WIC has adopted a more robust standard, and my office is working with the Health Department and Licensing to improve our ordinance. I am hoping this will come forward for a public hearing in July.
- 11) The Council has referred my ordinance amendment related to farmstands to the Zoning and Planning Committee for staff review and a public hearing. I am working to allow market gardens and urban farms to sell produce together at one stand and to lift the limit on the number of days they can operate a farmstand at their garden or farm.
- 12) There are openings on the Arts Commission, Animal Care and Control Advisory Board, Disability Advisory Committee, Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, Workforce Council, Neighborhood & Community Engagement Commission, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, Seniors Advisory Committee and Telecommunications Network. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov