



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Second Ward

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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, 8-13-13

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:
Tuesday, September 10th, 9:30-11:00am
Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como Avenue SE

Items:

- 1) Energy Framework
- 2) Ranked Choice How-To Video
- 3) Youth Cabinet
- 4) Feral Cat Management and Reduction
- 5) Dinkytown Greenway Now Open
- 6) MPD Officers Suspended
- 7) Conservation District Ordinance
- 8) Opus Development in Dinkytown
- 9) Downtown East Redevelopment
- 10) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

1) I am working on a resolution with several of my colleagues on the Council that will, if passed, put the City on record as supporting a cleaner, more affordable, more reliable energy future for Minneapolis. It's very exciting to me that energy has become a priority issue in Minneapolis. Both Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy have come to the table, offering some specific commitments and – more importantly, from my perspective – a commitment to partner with the City meet the energy goals the City has laid out through the Climate Action Plan and elsewhere. The Minneapolis Energy Options campaign has made clear that they support working with the utilities to translate those commitments into tangible action, rather than putting the question on the ballot this year. The resolution commits the City to doing five major things:

- Developing a comprehensive energy vision for our city, as part of the Energy Pathways Study, that will incorporate the great work of the Community Environmental Advisory Commission,
- Advocating at the Legislature for the flexibility the City needs in order to use our franchise agreement to meet our energy goals,
- Continuing to explore all of our options, especially through the Pathways Study,
- Finalizing our negotiations for the franchise agreement by June 30 of next year, and,
- Directing our staff to work with Xcel and CenterPoint to make the utilities' proposed partnership a reality and achieve our energy goals.

To read a copy, go to the Second Ward blog. I am hopeful that the Council will pass this resolution on Friday.

2) The City has produced a new video demonstrating how Ranked-Choice Voting works. You can find it here <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ct70K5la5qk> as well as on the new Elections/RCV website, at: vote.minneapolismn.gov. This website is where the most current, accurate information will be posted throughout the election period. I expect it to be available in other languages soon. Our Voter Ambassadors will be using this and other resources in the months ahead to educate voters about how Ranked-Choice Voting works.

3) In August I will be introducing a resolution that would formally create a Minneapolis Youth Cabinet. The cabinet would be an internal workgroup charged with coordinating the City's work with the Youth Coordinating Board, developing a framework for incorporating the needs of youth and families into more of the work of the City, supporting department efforts to incorporate youth and children in their goals, business planning and work, and fostering more opportunities for engaging neighborhood and community partners in supporting youth and families.

- 4) The final language for the Trap Neuter Release ordinance I have been working on has been completed and a public hearing date has been set for September 11. The ordinance is intended to allow volunteers who are working with nonprofits to implement Trap Neuter Release programs, like those allowed in St. Paul and many other cities, to help us humanely and effectively manage the problem of feral cats and help reduce the numbers of cats living in feral cat colonies.
- 5) After years of planning, the Dinkytown Greenway is now open to bicyclists. The bike trail runs through the University of Minnesota's East Bank campus and, by connecting to the U of M Transitway, carries bike traffic from the northeast metro (Saint Paul, Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Roseville) across the Mississippi River. Next year's Bluff Street Trail project will extend the Dinkytown Greenway under Interstate 35W and into downtown Minneapolis.
- 6) As you have likely heard, two Minneapolis Police officers, Shawn Powell and Brian Thole, have been suspended for recent behavior in Green Bay, Wisconsin. They are alleged to have used racist language after an incident involving two black men in a bar, and to have made "sexually offensive" comments about Police Chief Janee Harteau. It is worth noting that these particular officers are named in multiple lawsuits against the City of Minneapolis. These include the suit brought by Derryl Jenkins after he was beaten by MPD officers, which the City settled for \$235,000. I support the Chief's decision to suspend these officers. Racism and sexism have no place in the MPD or any other City department.
- 7) The Conservation District Ordinance amendment I have been working on for several months is nearly complete. The proposal would allow property owners and neighborhood advocates to identify historic resources to conserve and to define historic values and characteristics that the community is looking to preserve. If one third of the property owners within a proposed conservation district consent, they can apply to become a Conservation District and an Establishment Study can be completed. Design guidelines would be drafted as part of the study and at least two thirds of the property owners of tax parcels would need to give their consent before the matter would be taken up by the Heritage Preservation Commission and then referred to the City Council for approval. If approved, property owners in districts might need to apply for conservation certificates to make changes to their properties if that is stipulated in the guidelines. This is a very brief summary, so please let me know if you would like a copy of the proposed ordinance or more information and I would be happy to share it with you. Also, next month we will hold a larger community meeting to gather more input before the formal public hearing.
- 8) I voted against the Opus Development application to rezone a large piece of land in Dinkytown from C1 to C3, to build a 6-story mixed-use building. In general, I support increasing residential density in Minneapolis, especially close to major job centers like downtown and the U of M. In this case, however, I had two major concerns. The first is that the Dinkytown Small Area Plan, which began in March and will be completed sometime this fall or winter, is not yet finished. This planning process is a good opportunity for Dinkytown stakeholders and the City to come to consensus about the level of density that is appropriate for Dinkytown, which parts of the area are worth preserving and which parts would be good to redevelop, and what the zoning should be to facilitate those goals. My second, related concern is that a decision by the Council to rezone this piece of land, before the Small Area Plan is complete, would give a "green light" to other developers to buy up and redevelop the rest of the four block "core" of Dinkytown. Now that it has passed I am supportive on putting a moratorium on development in place until the Small Area Plan is completed. For more of my take on this project, please see my blog.
- 9) The City Council has approved a framework and directed staff to negotiate terms based on it (here: www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-110756.pdf) for participation in a large 5 block, development project near the Stadium in Downtown East. The blocks, now owned by the Star Tribune, currently consist of surface parking lots and three buildings. Ryan Companies is proposing to buy the land and construct one million square feet of office space in two 20-story office towers, a parking ramp of approximately 1,300 stalls approximately 320 housing units, approximately 40,000 square feet of retail space and a one –two block public park. City participation would include assuming a \$65 million dollar debt to help Ryan pay for the parking ramp and to purchase the park land from them. The debt would be paid back from parking fees. I did not support the framework in committee but after my amendment to force the developer to pay fair market value for the third of the land that they wanted to lock in at current prices passed I voted to support moving forward at the Council. I will still be watching this project very carefully and pushing hard to make sure that the investment results in a full service park that meets the needs of area residents first and foremost, including those who live in the densest areas of nearby Cedar Riverside and could benefit greatly from more park amenities.
- 10) 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