



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon

City Council Member
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, 9-3-13

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

Items:

- 1) Como Cookout
 - 2) Hunger Action Month
 - 3) 2014 Budget
 - 4) Low-Cost Trees Available
 - 5) Dinkytown Moratorium Fails
 - 6) Plain Language Charter
 - 7) Community Participation Program Funds
 - 8) Pack & Give Back
 - 9) Residential Density Regulations
 - 10) Openings on City Boards and Commissions
- 1) I look forward to seeing you at the 11th Annual Como Cookout community celebration Sunday September 15th from 2 to 6 pm at Van Cleve Park. This event, with free food, entertainment and games for all ages, is sponsored by the Southeast Como Improvement Association.
- 2) The Council has adopted a resolution declaring September, 2013 "Hunger Action Month" in Minneapolis. Food banks and social service agencies across the country will host numerous events in the month of September to focus attention on engaging communities in efforts to end hunger at the local level. Please do your part by donating food to local food shelves. Find out more about Hunger Action Month at <http://feedingamerica.org/get-involved/hunger-action-month.aspx/> and about volunteer opportunities in and near Minneapolis here: <http://www.volunteermatch.org/search/index.jsp?r=20.0&aff=&categories=39&l=Minneapolis%2C+MN%2C+USA>
- 3) The Mayor has presented his 2014 proposed budget. It calls for a 1% reduction in the property tax levy, an increase in police and fire staffing to deal with expected aging and attrition, adding 311 services on Saturday, increased infrastructure spending, and an air quality study. Notable investments in the Second Ward include \$11 million to rehabilitate the 10th Ave Bridge, \$2.3 million for Bridge 9 improvements, \$1.4 million for long awaited lighting on the Hiawatha LRT Trail, and \$1.3 million for reconstruction of 15th Ave and 4th St near the Brian Coyle Center. I look forward to hearing and sharing more details and exploring ways to better align the city budget with my priorities and the needs and values of my second ward constituents. The Council will now consider the budget from now through December with final approval of the 2014 budget scheduled for Wednesday, December 11th. I expect there to be two public hearings on the proposed 2014 property tax levy and budget on November 19th at **6:05pm** and December 11th at **6:05pm** in room 317 of City Hall. Additional key dates in the 2014 budget process include Sept. 11, 4 p.m. for the Board of Estimate and Taxation meeting to set the maximum property tax levies, Dec. 4 and 5, 1 – 4 p.m. – Ways and Means Committee budget "mark-up" where amendments can be considered and approved and Dec. 11, 6:05 p.m. where there will be a public hearing, more potential amendments and the City Council final vote on budget. You can read Mayor Rybak's 2014 budget speech here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/mayor/news/speeches/WCMS1P-113009>, see the slides that accompanied his speech here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@mayor/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-113013.pdf>, and find the complete proposed budget here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget/WCMS1P-113263> I welcome your thoughts and input.
- 4) The City is offering about 500 low-cost trees to Minneapolis homeowners who lost trees on their properties during the June 21 severe storm. Ordering will begin at 8 a.m., Monday, Sept. 9, and end Sept. 20 (earlier if the trees sell out first). To order a tree or to get more information, visit www.treetrust.org.

- 5) At the last Council meeting, a motion to create a moratorium on development in Dinkytown failed on a 6-6 vote. I voted for the moratorium. As I predicted when the Council was discussing the Opus project, the Council's decision to grant the rezoning for Opus has been taken as a signal by the development community that it is open season on Dinkytown. At least one additional developer has brought forward a project that will demolish existing commercial buildings and replace them with new student housing. This development is on 4th Street, the heart of Dinkytown, one of the corridors that works very well today. It is vibrant, pedestrian friendly, and home to an eclectic, welcoming mix of small, independent businesses. By the time the Dinkytown small area plan is finished later this year, a substantial chunk of Dinkytown will already be slated for demolition, and I fear that the pattern will be set: the Council will support any and every redevelopment project a developer proposes. With this vote, the Council made clear that placating favored developers is more important to us than listening to the small business owners and others who are most impacted by development. A short term moratorium on development to allow the small area plan for the area to be completed was a reasonable and effective tool at our disposal and I am sorry we did not have the votes to put it in place.
- 6) The Council has approved the ballot language for the Plain Language Charter amendment put forward by the Charter Commission that will appear on the ballot November 5th. If passed the new 63 page charter would replace the current 192 page charter with a more modern, common language version drafted for brevity and in plain language and reorganized into nine articles. While it makes no structural changes to how city government works and retains the current role and relationships of City boards and commissions, it does reorganize related provisions together and removes many provisions (many outdated) for possible enactment into ordinance. You can find a full report and read the new charter here:
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-109178.pdf>
- 7) In August the City Council approved future funding for the Community Participation Program (CPP). Over \$11 million will be provided during the 2014-16 program cycle. Southeast Como is slated to receive **\$196,111**. Proposed neighborhood allocations, base data, and the CPP Program Guidelines (which have not changed) can be viewed at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/programs>. The City will be holding three informational sessions in late August and early September to answer questions about submitting Community Participation Plans for funding, and for neighborhood organizations to meet with NCR's Access and Outreach staff about ideas for reaching under-engaged communities. For more information, please contact Robert Thompson at Robert.Thompson@minneapolismn.gov or at 612-673-2523.
- 8) Using lessons learned for Southeast Como's enormously successful Move In Move Out program a new effort is underway this year. With students returning to housing around the University City, solid waste crews are ramping up efforts to keep the university neighborhoods of Marcy Holmes, Southeast Como and Prospect Park clean. Students who are moving out can take advantage of the University's new Pack & Give Back program, which provides convenient options to have bookcases, tables and other unwanted but usable items dropped off or picked up and saved from being trashed. In addition, City crews are making extra trash pickups in the campus neighborhoods. The effort is aimed at collecting the mounds of throwaways left by departing students as quickly as possible. The accelerated cleanup will let crews clean up any piles of garbage as soon as they're spotted. This year, City crews will also be picking up usable items and delivering them to the University's Reuse Warehouse in efforts to quantify the amount of usable items being thrown away. The City hopes its efforts will encourage a non-profit to step up and collect usable items next year. For more information about the Pack & Give Back program, go to www.facm.umn.edu/about/central-services/reuse/packandgiveback.
- 9) A proposed amendment to change the way residential density is regulated where higher density multi-family uses are allowed will be coming forward to the City Council in September. Standards requiring a minimum lot area per dwelling unit would be eliminated in all districts except for the low- and medium-density residence districts: R1, R2, R3, and R4. This amendment would add flexibility and would eliminate a built-in disincentive to incorporate smaller dwelling units into multi-family developments. Nothing in this amendment would allow additional building height or bulk in any zoning district. The amendment may allow for increased density as measured by the number of dwelling units per acre. For example, a development with R5 zoning on a 70,000 square-foot lot can incorporate 100 dwelling units. This theoretical development might build all two-bedroom units, for a total of 200 bedrooms. Under existing regulations, a developer could not construct the same building with 200 units containing one bedroom each (again, totaling 200 bedrooms). I support this change and believe that existing density standards may in some instances conflict with what is in the best interest of a community and other goals. As the City continues to place additional emphasis on quality urban design and ensuring that new development makes a positive contribution to its neighborhood, the specific number of dwelling units incorporated in new buildings has become less important.
- 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