



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

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# Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 5-15-13

**Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:**  
**Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am**  
**Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave**

- 1) Roundtable Discussion: History of the Dakota
- 2) Five15 on the Park Environmental Review Complete
- 3) Employment and Training Resource Fair
- 4) 7<sup>th</sup> Street Ramp
- 5) Marriage Bill Passes
- 6) Car Sharing
- 7) Staple Food Ordinance
- 8) Mobile Grocery Store Ordinance
- 9) Great Streets Grant for the West Bank
- 10) Recreational Fire Ordinance Passed
- 11) Ban the Box Passes
- 12) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Please join me for a roundtable discussion about the history the Dakota in Minneapolis and Minnesota on **Wednesday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**, 7-9pm, at Augsburg College in the Oren Gateway Center Room 100, 2211 Riverside Avenue. 150 years ago, in December of 1862, the mass execution of 38 Dakota, the largest in the history of the United States, occurred in Mankato, Minnesota. It was part of the genocide of the Dakota people in Minnesota and the United States. In December of 2012, the Minneapolis City Council unanimously passed a resolution I coauthored, that I hope will help us move one small step closer to addressing the grave injustices done to the Dakota people in Minneapolis and Minnesota over the years. It calls for a year of remembering, honoring and truth-telling to help us understand and rectify the wrongs that were perpetrated during and since 1862 on the Dakota People. It also designates "The Year of the Dakota: Remembering, Honoring, and Truth-Telling," from December 26, 2012 to December 26, 2013. At the Roundtable/Teach In we will be joined by historians and activists including Dakota historian Professor Chris Mato Nunpa, cultural leader of the Mendota Mdewakanton Dakota Community Jim Anderson, City Council Member Robert Lilligren, State Representative Susan Allen and others while we learn more about this important, and too often hidden, part of our state and city's history.
- 2) The Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the Five15 (formerly known as Currie Park Lofts) development project has been completed. Copies of the EAW are available for review at the downtown Minneapolis Central Library located at 300 Nicollet Mall, and in the office of the City's CPED, Land Use, Design and Preservation Section at 250 S 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Room 300. Public comments on the EAW must be made within the 30-day comment period, which ends at 4:30pm on Wednesday, June 12, 2013. On June 20, 2013, or at a subsequent meeting, the Council's Zoning and Planning committee will receive a report and recommendation from City staff, hear comments from all parties and consider the adequacy of this EAW and the need for an Environmental Impact Statement for this proposal. The EAW and supporting information will also be available for review on the City of Minneapolis web site: [www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/planning/cped\\_eaw](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/planning/cped_eaw). Copies of the EAW can also be provided to individuals by email. For further information or to submit comments on the EAW, contact Becca Farrar-Hughes at 612.673.3594 or [rebecca.farrar@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:rebecca.farrar@minneapolismn.gov).
- 3) An Employment and Training Resource Fair will be taking place on Saturday, June 1st from 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM at the Brian Coyle Center. Come learn about job training and education programs from Emerge, Goodwill/Easter Seals, American Indian OIC, Employment Action Center, Hired, Project for Pride in Living, Lifetrack Resources, Search, CLUES, Hmong American Partnership, Minneapolis Community and Technical College, Dunwoody College of Technology, St. Kate's and the Minneapolis Workforce Center.

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email [Ahmed.Muhumud@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Ahmed.Muhumud@minneapolismn.gov)

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

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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.

- 4) The Council has voted to authorize Public Works staff to apply for federal funding for construction of a new 7<sup>th</sup> Street exit ramp from westbound I-94 into downtown Minneapolis. If funded, this project will also have a significant impact on connectivity from the West Bank into downtown, because the current 5<sup>th</sup> Street off-ramp will be closed to freeway traffic and can then be used to connect from the intersection of 15<sup>th</sup> Ave S and 6<sup>th</sup> St S into downtown.
- 5) I thank and commend the Minneapolis delegation to the legislature and Governor Dayton for their incredible work to extend the rights and responsibilities of marriage to all Minnesotans. Minnesota is now the first Midwestern state to allow gay marriage by legislative action. The House and Senate authors, Karen Clark and Scott Dibble, deserve special recognition. I am proud to be a Minnesotan and proud to live in a city in which all of our elected leadership, both on the Council and in the legislature, supported equal rights for **all** of our residents. At 12:01 a.m. on the first day that all Minnesotans are able to get married, historic Minneapolis City Hall will be open and available for couples wishing to tie the knot. Mayor Rybak will be on hand and happy to officiate weddings that night. For more information on holding your wedding ceremony at Minneapolis City Hall contact the Municipal Building Commission at 612-596-9518 or e-mail [tracey.mclaughlin@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:tracey.mclaughlin@co.hennepin.mn.us).
- 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.
- 7) 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 June.
- 8) I have introduced the subject matter of an ordinance that will, if passed, broaden the allowed sites for mobile grocery stores or "Groceterias." Currently, these mobile stores are allowed only at senior high-rise residential buildings. My hope is that we can allow mobile grocery stores at parking lots controlled by many other types of uses, including other types of housing and commercial buildings. The ordinance amendment will also allow mobile stores to sell produce that is not packaged, require a certain amount of healthy food, and likely establish a time limit for mobile stores to be in a particular parking lot. There are currently three prospective mobile grocery stores that would like to operate in Minneapolis: a store with a strong local food focus called Honeybee, a mobile farmers market operated by the Hmong American Farmers Association, and a food-access nonprofit called the Twin Cities Mobile Market.
- 9) The Council has voted to give Great Streets grants to the West Bank Business Association (\$27,890 for a newsletter, a loyalty card program and information sessions). I strongly support the Great Streets program, and I'm thrilled to see these investments in the West Bank.
- 10) 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. The rationale is that when the air is already bad, folks should not add to the problem with unnecessary fires, but instead postpone to another time. I am hopeful that this ordinance will help reduce conflicts between residents about recreational fires. But the best way to deal with these conflicts is for neighbors to communicate and use common courtesy. If you're planning to have a fire, please inform your neighbors and be sensitive to any health conditions they might have, as well as following the ordinance.
- 11) The state legislature has passed a bill that prohibits employers from having a question regarding criminal convictions on an employment application, widely known as "ban the box." I commend the Second Chance Coalition for their hard work to win this extremely important victory for equity in employment. I also want to point out that Minneapolis Intergovernmental Relations staff and Council Member Glidden did a lot of work to get this bill passed. This is one important step towards addressing the unconscionable disparities in employment and poverty between blacks and whites in Minnesota, and I'm excited to see it pass.
- 12) Applications are now being accepted for open positions on the following City boards and commissions: Animal Care and Control Advisory Board, Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Heritage Preservation Commission, Minneapolis Workforce Council, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, Seniors Advisory Committee, and Minneapolis Telecommunications Network. For a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions, go to [www.minneapolisismn.gov/boards/openings](http://www.minneapolisismn.gov/boards/openings).