



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon

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Second Ward

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**Council Member Cam Gordon's
Report to Southeast Como, 2-1-11**

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:
Tuesday, February 8th, 9:30-11:00am
SECIA Office, 837 15th Ave SE

Items:

- 1) 2011 Historical Survey
- 2) Neighborhood Funding Work Group
- 3) Solar Energy Systems
- 4) New Stormwater Regulations
- 5) Central Corridor Lawsuit
- 6) Mobile Food Vending
- 7) Community Gardeners Sought
- 8) Pro-Gun Bills at Legislature
- 9) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) The City of is holding community meetings to discuss historic surveying work underway in neighborhoods including Como. The survey will identify unknown historic properties, recommend properties for further study to help make future decisions about the significance and protection of historic resources and develop goals and strategies for preservation and neighborhood planning. Residents can help by completing an online survey at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/hpc/. Meetings will be held for the portion including Como on **Thursday February 17**, from 6-7:30pm at Our Lady of the Lourdes, 1 Lourdes Place, and on downtown **Monday February 28**, from 4:30-6pm in City Hall, Room 319, 350 South 5th St. There will be a second round of public meetings in April, and I am advocating that one of the meetings take place at Van Cleve Park. The City was first surveyed for historic resources in the 1970s and many of today's designated landmarks and historic districts are a result of the original survey.
- 2) The Council has formed a neighborhood funding work group to facilitate decision making relating to the actions the Council will need to take on neighborhood funding this year. This work group includes the Council President and Vice President, the chairs of the Ways and Means/Budget Committee and the Intergovernmental Relations Committee, as well as a Mayoral representative, the City Coordinator, the Neighborhood and Community Relations Director, the Finance Director, the Communications Director and the Intergovernmental Relations Director. The Work Group's charge is to frame options and proposed actions for consideration by the Committee of the Whole and Ways & Means Committee relative to the 2011 Budget action that froze Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) spending. I would have preferred that the meetings of this group be open to the public and included representation from the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission and the NRP Policy Board.
- 3) The Council is considering changes to our zoning code that would add regulations to Solar Energy Systems. I successfully moved to postpone this amendment for two weeks at the Zoning and Planning Committee in order to get more time to gather input on the proposed standards. The proposal would provide greater clarity for City staff as well as solar installers and property owners; set standards for building-mounted and freestanding (i.e., ground-mounted) systems; clarify that solar access easements may be purchased from nearby property owners, consistent with state statute, and; require that the City Planning Commission, when evaluating new development projects, consider whether requests for increased allowable building height would result shadowing of existing solar energy systems. I am generally supportive of these changes and very supportive of making solar energy more viable for homes and businesses, but want to make sure these changes help, and do not hinder, more use of solar energy in Minneapolis.

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact Matt Bower at (612) 673-2188 or Matthew.Bower@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

If you want help translating this call - Hmong- Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2188;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2188;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' an wac 612-673-2188.

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- 4) The Council has a new ordinance intended to better regulate stormwater, including snow melt, to help prevent it from damaging adjacent properties. The proposal would establish clear drainage standards for construction activity and grading, snow melt from snow storage, sump pumps and downspouts and create penalties including administrative citations, assessments, license revocation and stop work orders. This proposal, which I support, centralizes accountability for enforcement within Regulatory Services.
- 5) On January 26th, Judge Donovan ruled on a federal civil rights complaint filed by a group led by the NAACP's St. Paul branch, several other groups, neighborhood activists, and small businesses accusing the Met Council and the federal government of ignoring the history of previous adverse impacts on the African-American Rondo neighborhood and the adverse impacts the project's construction would have on area businesses. The Judge found that the Environmental Impact Statement inadequately addressed the loss of business revenues as an adverse impact of the construction of the CCLRT, but denied plaintiffs' request for an order to stop the CCLRT Project. For more see news articles at http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2011/01/27/central-corridor-rondo-lawsuit/http://www.twincities.com/ci_17218499?nclink_check=1
- 6) The Mobile Food Vending ordinance that passed last year is being reopened for revisions. As you may recall, the ordinance was only open to vendors in downtown Minneapolis. During that discussion, I heard from a number of small businesses that they would be interested in having parts of Ward 2 included in any possible expansion. Before March of this year, we have the opportunity to discuss whether to expand the mobile vending ordinance to cover other parts of the city. It is also possible that, as part of this change, mobile vendors could operate from parking spaces, rather than just on sidewalks and in commercial parking lots. I am asking Ward 2 neighborhoods and business associations to let me know whether they would like this opportunity to be opened on their commercial corridors, and to give input on the following questions:
- Should mobile vending be allowed only on sidewalks and in commercial parking lots, or in on-street parking spaces as well?
 - Should mobile vending be allowed adjacent to residential uses, or only commercially or institutionally zoned lots?
 - Should there be a limit on the number of mobile vendors allowed per commercial parking lot?
 - Should mobile vending be allowed near events?
 - Should there be a limit on the proximity of mobile vendors to other sidewalk uses, such as sidewalk cafes?
 - What limits should be put in place on hours of operation for mobile vendors?
 - Should mobile vendors be required to be open a certain number of days per year (as they are in downtown)?
- 7) The City has 13 vacant lots available for qualifying groups to lease for community gardens. These City-owned lots were selected because they are not appropriate for development. This means that they will remain available for years of gardening even as the economy changes and redevelopment picks up. The Community Garden Pilot Program began in 2010 with 18 lots. Last year five of the lots were leased to community groups. Experienced community garden groups may be eligible for three- to five-year leases, while groups gardening for the first time will start with one-year leases. A qualifying group will be a not-for-profit or a group with a not-for-profit sponsor. The garden will need to have liability insurance. Applicants should be ready to discuss the layout of the community garden, how it will be managed and how it will engage and benefit the community. For more information on the Homegrown Minneapolis Community Gardens Pilot Program, visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/dhfs/homegrown-home.asp or call (612) 673-2597.
- 8) A number of new pro-gun bills are being brought forward in the state legislature. One bill, known as "shoot first" would allow people to shoot anyone they don't know if they set foot on your property and eliminate the "rule of retreat" that means if a person can safely walk away from a situation, they are not entitled to kill someone just because they seem threatening. It would also allow the killing of anyone in a public place who seems "threatening." A second bill would prohibit state colleges and universities - including the University of Minnesota, located in the Second Ward - from banning concealed guns on campus. Some law makers are also trying to push through a Minnesota Constitutional amendment to "keep, bear and use arms" and a house committee recently approved an amendment that would completely repeal the law that established Minnesota's background check system. I believe that these proposals are moving us in the wrong direction and will put residents, visitors and police in greater danger. In the weeks ahead, working through the Youth Violence Prevention Executive Committee, I will be pushing for the City's legislative agenda to make fighting these efforts a higher priority. To learn more form a group also opposed to these efforts see <http://www.endgunviolence.com/>
- 9) There are openings on the Charter Commission, Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Public Health Advisory Committee, Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, Senior Citizens Advisory Committee, Thinc.GreenMSP Steering Committee and Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.