



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon
City Council Member
Second Ward

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 6-15-11

Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:
Tuesday, July 5th, 9:30-11:00am
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave

Items:

- 1) Central Corridor Small Business Loans
- 2) Commercial Recycling Ordinance
- 3) Riverside Plaza and Jobs
- 4) Disparity Study Forum
- 5) Construction and Bus Detours
- 6) Outdoor Dining Ordinance
- 7) North Minneapolis Tornado
- 8) Violence Prevention Microgrant
- 9) New City web address
- 10) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) We are very close to rolling out the Central Corridor Small Business Loan Program. The program will provide forgivable working capital loans of up to \$20,000 to businesses located within one block of the Central Corridor line construction area that experience declines in revenue. The fund total is \$4 million, with at least 30% expected to be available to Minneapolis businesses. The Saint Paul HRA will manage the program in partnership with the City of Minneapolis (CPED) with third party administrators selected through an RFP process fielding and reviewing applications. While the administrator selection has not yet been made public, MCCD will administer the loan program for Minneapolis businesses and NDC will administer the program for St. Paul businesses. Loan approval/denial letters will be sent under the Ready for Rail logo developed by the Business Resources Collaborative, a partnership involving both Cities, the Met Council, area business organizations and technical assistance CDCs, as well as the logos of the two Cities. Once the contracts with MCCD and NDC are finalized (hopefully within the week), there will be a formal announcement of the program, including notifications to businesses along the Corridor.
- 2) The commercial recycling ordinance I have been working on for over a year unanimously passed the Regulatory, Energy and Environment last week. You can find the ordinance and the staff report here <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2011-meetings/20110617/REE2011-0606agenda.asp> No one spoke against the ordinance at the public hearing and I was very please that groups as diverse as the Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce and the Sierra Club support of the new ordinance. I hope and expect that it will pass the full Council this Friday on June 17th. The ordinance would go into effect September 1, 2011. If passed, I will work with staff from Solid Waste and Recycling, Sustainability and Regulatory Services to develop an implementation plan, including technical assistance for businesses that do not currently recycle and educational materials. My intention is to encourage staff to be patient and supportive as we work to see that every property owner is successfully able to comply with the new ordinance. I see this as a major step forward for waste reduction and greening our city, and think that it helps set a baseline expectation that recycling is not new and not difficult, but simply the way that we deal with waste in Minneapolis.
- 3) In cooperation with the West Bank Community Coalition, Sherman Associates and city staff, I will be convening a community meeting regarding the Riverside Plaza renovation project Memorandum of Understanding and specifically the workforce goals and the portion about jobs for neighborhood residents on July 6 at the Quba Cultural Center at 1501 South 6th Street.

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email Ahmed.Muhumud@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

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, llama 612-673-2700;

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

- 4) There will be a Community Forum on the Minneapolis Disparity Study - **Tuesday, June 28th 6:00-8:00PM** at the Minneapolis Central Library, Pohlad Room, RSVP by June 14, 2011, RSVPCivilRightsForum@ci.minneapolis.mn.us
- 5) Metro Transit bus detours have begun for the West Bank. For full information on bus stop changes and bus detours, go to www.metrotransit.org/construction or call the Transit Information Center at (612) 373-3333 for the most current information. The I-35W ramp from Westbound 3rd Street to south I-35W, east HWY 55, west I-94 closed, as have Washington Avenue/3rd & 4th Street between downtown and the East Bank. The north ramps from Washington to Cedar Ave have also closed, and traffic will be routed through the south ramps.
- 6) On Friday the Council will consider a new ordinance related to the regulation of outdoor dining areas. While I understand the concerns of residents who live near bars and restaurants with patio spaces, I do not think this ordinance is a fair or effective way to address those concerns and I intend to vote against the ordinance. I have received a formal position from the West Bank Business Association against the proposed ordinance and several Second Ward restaurant businesses have contacted me to voice their opposition. I have also heard from some residents who live near 5th and Cedar who support the ordinance and see it as a way to address noise from nearby bars. The complaints mostly involve the sounds made by and this is not covered by the ordinance. We already have ordinances related to noise and outdoor areas that could be used to address these concerns. I will, however, be encouraging city staff to better enforce current rules and local business owners to work harder to address noise complaints from near by residents on their own. I am also concerned about the fairness of the ordinance. As it is written it would have one set of regulations for downtown, and a more stringent set of regulations in the rest of the city. I fear that this will leave Second Ward businesses at a competitive disadvantage. I also fear that the ordinance might end up costing some businesses thousands in Sewer Availability Charges (or SAC).
- 7) North Minneapolis was struck by a devastating tornado on May 22. To help, the Minneapolis Foundation has established the Minnesota Helps - North Minneapolis Recovery Fund to assist with both short-term and long-term housing and recovery-related needs on the North Side. To make a donation visit www.GiveMN.org or send checks to The Minneapolis Foundation, 80 S. 8th St., Suite 800, Minneapolis, MN, 55402. People can also donate to the Red Cross at www.redcross.org. Additionally Neighborhood and Community Relations Department has developed a proposal for a Rebuilding Our Communities Fund. This would be a two-year program, with \$600,000 in funding that would come from post-2009 interest earnings from the non-Tax Increment Financing portion of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program fund. The program would specifically be for Folwell, Harrison, Jordan, McKinley, Webber-Camden, and Willard-Hay neighborhoods, which were those impacted by the tornado.
- 8) The City is sponsoring a new program to prevent youth violence, called Summer 612, that promotes violence prevention among youth and provides opportunity for peaceful summer activities. The program will provide small grants that give youth the opportunity to express themselves through new, positive outlets. In addition to raising awareness of youth violence, this grant program will enable youth to develop unique job skills while interacting with professionals in a specific industry. An informational meeting regarding the Summer 612 microgrant program will be held on Friday, June 17 from noon to 1:00 p.m. at Padilla Speer Beardsley, 1101 West River Parkway, Suite 400, Minneapolis, MN 55415. Attendance at the informational meeting is not mandatory, but strongly encouraged for everyone considering submitting an application. **Please RSVP** to the meeting by phone or email to: Tina Charpentier, tcharpentier@psbpr.com 612-455-1723. Completed applications are due no later than **Friday, June 24, 2011 at Noon**. For more information and to get an application contact Bass Zanjani, Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator at bass.zanjani@ci.minneapolis.mn.us, Tel: 612-673-5438. There is a total of \$19,000 in Summer 612 grants available. Each project is allocated a budget. It is mandatory for a nonprofit organization (neighborhood association, faith-based organization, etc.) to partner with a group of youth ages 10 to 17 on the application. Applicants can submit one or more applications for different projects; however, no more than one project per fiscal agent will be funded.
- 9) The City of Minneapolis is transitioning to a new, shorter, easier domain name and Internet address in mid-July: www.minneapolismn.gov. The new formula for e-mail addresses will be: First.Last@minneapolismn.gov. The current domain (ci.minneapolis.mn.us) and e-mail addresses will still be valid.
- 10) There are openings on the Latino Advisory Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.