



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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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 the West Bank, 1-15-14

**Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:
Thursday, February 6, 9:30-11:00am
Nabo Café, 2211 Riverside Avenue**

- 1) New office Hours
- 2) Fire on Cedar Avenue
- 3) 15th/4th/6th
- 4) Cedar Avenue Sidewalk Reconstruction Project
- 5) Step-Up 2014
- 6) Urban Scholars
- 7) Council Organization
- 8) University Area Parking Task Force
- 9) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) With new City Council Committee assignments, a new calendar and changed boundaries of the Second Ward I have decided to change my "offices hours in the ward". Starting in February I will hold office hours every Thursday, from 9:30-11am at the following locations: First Thursdays: Nabo Café in the Oren Gateway Center, 2211 Riverside Avenue on the West Bank; Second Thursdays: Muddsuckers Coffee at 1500 Como Ave SE; Third Thursdays: Pratt School, 66 Malcolm Ave SE; Fourth Thursdays: Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St. If these times and locations don't work for you and you want to meet, please contact my office to set up a better time. If the times do work, I hope to see you at an office hour soon!
- 2) As most of you know, on Wednesday, January 1st, there was a tragic fire and report of an explosion at 516 Cedar Ave S. The Fire Department reported heavy smoke and fire coming from the second and third floors of the three story building that included 10 apartments and a first floor grocery store. They found several victims outside with injuries, rescued other victims from the building and fought the fire mostly from the exterior. There were more than 50 firefighters on scene. Fourteen victims were transported to area hospitals and at least three are still hospitalized. Two additional people were later found dead in the building and one of the hospitalized victims has since died. As far as we know all people thought to be missing have now been accounted for. In the days that followed the fire, the building was demolished and the mosque and Islamic Center next door was found to have to temporarily relocate its programs because of serious damage to its building. My heart goes out to all the victims and their families, and I commend the community for stepping forward to help. There will be a benefit fundraiser for the victims of the fire on **January 24th** at the Cedar Cultural Center. The Confederation of Somali Community in Minnesota has set up a disaster fund at Wells Fargo. Donations can be made to any Wells Fargo bank. 100% will go to families to support their recovery. Online donations can also be made at <http://www.puc-mn.org/donate>. Note "Cedar-Riverside Fire Disaster Relief" on all donations. The cause of the fire is still under investigation and we have asked the Fire Department to look into fire risks at other similar older buildings in the neighborhood. If you are ever concerned about possible fire risks, gas links or safety concerns in any building please feel free to call 311, or if it is a gas leak, call 911.
- 3) The Council's Transportation and Public Works committee has approved a layout for the reconstruction of 15th Ave S, 4th St S, and a small portion of 6th St S. This project also includes the transformation of 16th Ave S from a standard street to a pedestrian and bicycle mall, with new redevelopment opportunities to the north and south. I am very supportive of this project, especially because it now includes significant improvements to the pedestrian crossings at the intersections of 15th Ave S and both 6th and 4th Streets. The Council will hold a public hearing on **March 18** at 9:30am in Council Chambers to consider the reconstruction project and the abandonment and removal of areaways in conflict with the project.

- 4) The City and County continue to work together on a plan for improving the sidewalks on Cedar Avenue. The Cedar Avenue Sidewalk Reconstruction Project will be coming before the Pedestrian Advisory Committee's Infrastructure & Engineering subcommittee meeting tomorrow. The current layout shows a conversion from four traffic lanes to three lanes (one lane in each direction with a center turn lane) significant widening of the sidewalks on the west side of the street and the addition of parking lanes on the west side of the street. Due to the widening of the sidewalk, the project will require the removal and replacement of some trees on the west side sidewalk. For more information, go to the project website: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/projects/cedarave>.
- 5) STEP-UP Application for youth is now available here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/metp/STEP-UPIntern>. The City of Minneapolis STEP-UP program trains and matches Minneapolis youth ages 14-21 in summer internships at local businesses. STEP-UP is focused on serving youth from low-income families or youth that have risk factors making it challenging to find employment on their own. Internships are generally 20-40 hours per week for 6-10 weeks from mid-June to August. Depending on the age and skill level of the intern, interns may work in subsidized jobs at a non-profit organizations or employer paid positions in the business community. All youth must apply online. If a youth requires assistance completing an application, please contact Tammy Dickinson at 612-673-5041. The deadline to apply is February 21, 2014. All applicants must live in Minneapolis, be 14-21 years old by June 1, 2014, not be currently enrolled in college (PSEO is ok), be eligible to work in the US by June 1, 2014 and have proper documentation. In addition, applicants' families must meet guideline incomes: \$45,500 for 1 person, \$52,000 for 2 persons, \$58,500 for 3 persons, \$65,000 for four persons, \$70,200 for 5 persons, \$75,400 for 6 persons, \$80,600 for 7 persons or \$85,800 for 8 persons. If your organization would like to host a STEP-UP intern, please complete the [STEP-UP pledge form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1PDFY--k7q5ld2SvtFIXg9Jatub_i7y9DC5XZxNzXhWA/viewform) at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1PDFY--k7q5ld2SvtFIXg9Jatub_i7y9DC5XZxNzXhWA/viewform no later than Feb. 1.
- 6) The City of Minneapolis is once again offering its Urban Scholars leadership development summer internship for college students interested in public service careers. Beginning Jan. 15, the City will accept applications for 2014 Urban Scholars, which aims to help young people from diverse backgrounds build their professional and leadership skills for the future in the public service sector. Students interested in applying to the summer internship should apply online at www.minneapolismn.gov/urbanscholars by Monday, March 3. Students must have completed their first year of post-secondary education prior to the beginning of the internship and be enrolled and in good standing at a two- or four-year college or university, graduate, or law school. The 12-week program is a full-time paid internship experience that runs from May 27 – Aug. 15. Urban Scholars will work in City of Minneapolis departments and participate in events focused on building networks, skills, and opportunities. The Urban Scholars leadership development summer internship is one component of the Employment Equity Division of Minneapolis Civil Rights, which aims to close the employment gap in a city and metro area that suffers from one of the highest disparities between white and non-white unemployment in the country.
- 7) On January 6th the new mayor and council members were formally sworn in. During the first Council meeting that morning we voted in new leadership. As I said in December, I supported Council Member Elizabeth Glidden for Council President, and five of my colleagues felt similarly. But when it became clear that she would not get 7 votes, the Council unanimously voted to name Barbara Johnson as Council President, with Elizabeth Glidden as Vice President. The major committees I will serve on are executive (as Minority Leader), Health, Environment and Community Engagement; Transportation and Public Works; and Public Safety. I am very excited about chairing the new Health, Environment and Community Engagement committee that will also provide leadership for the city's energy issues and Animal care and Control. Many of my priority issues, including Homegrown Minneapolis, Youth Violence Prevention, Early Childhood and Family Support as well as sustainability and addressing Climate Change will be part of this committee's work. I am also excited to be serving on the Transportation and Public Works committee for the first time and hope to be able to do more to support alternative, clean forms of transportation and moving us toward being a zero waste city. More information about City Council committee meetings and the 2014 meeting schedule is at www.minneapolismn.gov/council.
- 8) A University District Alliance parking task force, that I am a part of, has been studying the impact of current city parking requirements on recent residential developments in the University District, and is developing recommendations to adjust the requirements. On **Wednesday, January 29**, from 5:15 to 6:45 p.m. at University Lutheran Church of Hope, Heritage Hall (601 - 13th Avenue SE) we will be sharing the results of the analysis and the draft recommendations for feedback. You can see the draft report and recommendations from the task force. The final report from the task force, expected to be complete at the end of February and will be presented Alliance Board and then I hope to bring them to the City of Minneapolis for formal consideration later this winter or early spring.
- 9) Applications are now being accepted for open positions on the following City boards and commissions: Board of Appeal and Equalization, Ethical Practices Board and Telecommunications Network (MTN), Minneapolis. For a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings.