



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 10-19-11

**Cam's next West Bank Office Hours:
Tuesday, November 1st, 9:30-11:00am
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave**

Items:

- 1) Walk on 15th, 4th and 6th
- 2) Riverside Ave Construction
- 3) Bike lanes on 25th Ave S
- 4) 2012 Budget
- 5) Free Lead Tests for Toys
- 6) Fundraiser for Animal Care and Control
- 7) Justice in Seward Market Slayings
- 8) Farmers Market Ordinance Public Hearing
- 9) Neighborhood Funding
- 10) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Thanks to all of the West Bank residents who joined the walk this past Saturday to come up with ideas for improving 6th Street, 15th Avenue and 4th Street. Your observations will help inform the project to reconstruct 15th and 4th, and the allocation of funds to improve 6th St. I am optimistic that the Humphrey CHANCE program will help transform the feedback we received into a plan that can be submitted back to the community for approval.
- 2) Riverside Avenue construction continues. If you would like to sign up for a regular email update on City construction activities in the neighborhood, please email Chris.Engelmann@minneapolismn.gov with Riverside Email Update in the subject line.
- 3) My office organized a community meeting on the proposed bike lanes on 25th and 26th Aves south from Riverside to Franklin. The project is supported by the Seward Neighborhood Group and Augsburg College, and the clear majority of West Bank residents who have contacted my office. I will support the installation of these lanes, and I look forward to seeing them painted before this winter.
- 4) The 2012 budget approval process is well underway. The Mayor's proposal for no property tax levy increase in 2012 was approved by the Board of Estimate and Taxation in early September. To accomplish this, the Mayor has proposed budget cuts in many areas. You can find the rebroadcast schedule and also view the hearings online at www.minneapolismn.gov/webcasts. Final approval of the budget is scheduled for **December 14th**. Two public hearings will be held before the budget's approval, one on Wednesday, **Nov. 30**, 6:05 p.m. and one on Wednesday, **Dec. 14**, 6:05 p.m., both in City Hall, 350 South 5th Street, room 317. For more information on the Mayor's proposed 2012 budget, see www.minneapolismn.gov/mayor and <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/city-budget/2012recc/index.asp>.
- 5) The City is offering three free opportunities to get your kids' toys tested for lead: **Oct. 27**, 5:30-6:30pm, at the Minnehaha Academy north campus, 3100 W. River Parkway; **Oct. 28**, 1-3pm, at Room 300, Public Service Center, 250 S 4th St; and **Nov. 19**, 10am-5pm, at the Midtown Global Market, 920 E Lake St. The Longfellow session will have sign-up information for home lead checks. Although the number of Minneapolis children with elevated lead levels in their blood has been dropping in recent years, 79 more children were identified by testing last year.

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.

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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, llama 612-673-2700;

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

- 6) On Saturday, October 22 from 11:00 am to 2:00pm Minneapolis Animal Care and Control will host a special fundraising event at the animal shelter, 212 17th Ave N. The event includes activities and demonstrations including tours of the animal shelter, agility demonstrations, face painting and you can ask questions of a veterinarian. The event is free and open to all. Freewill donations to the shelter are accepted. If you cannot attend on October 22 you can still donate to MACC at: <http://givemn.razoo.com/story/Macc-I-M-In-The-Dog-House>.
- 7) Mahdi Hassan Ali, the person most responsible for the triple slaying in Seward in January of last year, has been found guilty on multiple counts of first and second degree homicide. I hope that this gives the families of the victims some peace. I will continue to work on youth violence prevention policies and programs, to try to keep tragedies like this from occurring in the future.
- 8) The Farmers Market ordinance I have been working on will come before the Regulatory Energy and Environment committee on **October 24th**, at 1:30pm. This ordinance, if passed, will dramatically improve the regulatory processes for farmers markets, and require that most vendors at farmers markets be local growers.
- 9) The Council and the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Policy Board continue to be on different tracks when it comes to NRP and the transition to a new framework. It is clear that the Council's action last year to recapture NRP Phase II funds has created significant complications for the new Community Participation Program (CPP). In September, the Policy Board formally asked the Council to unfreeze and fully allocate the Phase II dollars to the neighborhoods most impacted by the tornados of last spring. The Council decided to study that request further and then voted to move forward with a new consolidation plan in order to use the NRP funds for future CPP funding. The Committee of the Whole endorsed a staff plan that would extend 2011 CPP contracts through June 30, 2012, and increase contracted amounts from \$3,000,000 to \$4,500,000 following the 2011 CPP allocation formula. The plan would also authorize staff to proceed with "any work necessary" for the transfer of administrative responsibilities and oversight duties by January 1, 2012; and direct staff to draft revisions to the CPP guidelines and NRP ordinance. These revisions are needed so that we can legally use the NRP funds in 2012-2013 for the CPP. The proposed changes will include the establishment of a restructured NRP Policy Board and inclusion of other NRP statutory requirements like the requirement that at least 52.5% of the funds be spent on housing. The new NRP Policy Board would be the body that would review 2012 and 2013 CPP applications as well as approve and monitor Phase I and Phase II NRP Action Plans and plan modifications. The role of the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission during these two years is unclear and would be re-evaluated in light of this. The ordinance changes are projected to return to the Council for review and possible approval in November.
- 10) In an effort to make it easier to learn about volunteer opportunities, ensure a more open process, and increase the diversity of the applicant pool, we now focus our appointments to boards and commissions once in the spring and once in the fall. **Applications are now being accepted for the over 80 open positions** on 16 boards and commissions that the City Council and Mayor will appoint this fall. Applications will be reviewed beginning September 30; however the positions are open until filled. For a full list of position descriptions see www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions. There are openings on the following: [Minneapolis Arts Commission](#), [Basset Creek Watershed Management Commission](#), [Board of Appeal & Equalization](#), [Civilian Police Review Authority](#), [Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights](#), [Minneapolis Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee \(CLIC\)](#), [Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities](#), [Minneapolis Ethical Practices Board](#), [Minneapolis Housing Board of Appeals](#), [Minneapolis Heritage Preservation Commission \(HPC\)](#), [Minneapolis Telecommunications Network \(MTN\)](#), [Minneapolis Planning Commission](#), [Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners](#), [Senior Citizens Advisory Committee Vacancy](#), [Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission](#). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.