



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the West Bank, 9-18-13

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

- 1) 2014 Budget
- 2) Gluek's Tied House
- 3) Vote November 5th
- 4) Hussein Samatar
- 5) West River Parkway Trail
- 6) Alliance Parking Task Force
- 7) Plain Language Charter
- 8) Platform to Employment
- 9) Responsible Banking Ordinance
- 10) Police Conduct Oversight
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The Mayor has presented his 2014 proposed budget. It calls for a 1% reduction in the property tax levy, an increase in police and fire staffing to deal with expected aging and attrition, adding 311 services on Saturday, increased infrastructure spending, and an air quality study. Notable investments in the Second Ward include \$11 million to rehabilitate the 10th Ave Bridge, \$2.3 million for Bridge 9 improvements, \$1.4 million for long awaited lighting on the Hiawatha LRT Trail, and \$1.3 million for reconstruction of 15th Ave and 4th St near the Brian Coyle Center. I look forward to hearing and sharing more details and exploring ways to better align the city budget with my priorities and the needs and values of my second ward constituents. The Council will now consider the budget from now through December with final approval of the 2014 budget scheduled for Wednesday, December 11th. I expect there to be two public hearings on the proposed 2014 property tax levy and budget on November 19th at 6:05pm and December 11th at 6:05pm in room 317 of City Hall. Additional key dates in the 2014 budget process include Sept. 11, 4 p.m. for the Board of Estimate and Taxation meeting to set the maximum property tax levies, Dec. 4 and 5, 1 – 4 p.m. – Ways and Means Committee budget “mark-up” where amendments can be considered and approved and Dec. 11, 6:05 p.m. where there will be a public hearing, more potential amendments and the City Council final vote on budget. You can read Mayor Rybak's 2014 budget speech here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/mayor/news/speeches/WCMS1P-113009>, see the slides that accompanied his speech here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@mayor/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-113013.pdf>, and find the complete proposed budget here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget/WCMS1P-113263> I welcome your thoughts and input.
- 2) On a 5-4 vote, the Heritage Preservation Commission has denied the application by Fine Associates to demolish the Rainbow Gallery / Gluek's Tied House at 6th St S and 15th Ave S. I fully expect this decision to be appealed to the City Council.
- 3) The City has launched a new website to help voters get ready for this fall's election. At vote.minneapolismn.gov, voters can learn what they need to know about how to register to vote, find their polling place, and many other elections topics. There is an [interactive demonstration ballot](#) that voters can use to learn how to mark a ranked-choice ballot and see how the ballot-counting works. The City's [311 mobile application](#) has also been updated to help voters this year. At vote.minneapolismn.gov you can check your registration status, download a voter registration application, find out where to vote or if you cannot get to your polling place on Election Day, fill out an application for an absentee ballot. Additionally the city is in need of more election judges.
- 4) On Sunday, August 25th, Hussein Samatar passed away. Hussein was best known for leading the African Development Center (ADC) and for his service as the first East African member of the Minneapolis School Board. Hussein built ADC into a significant force for good, helping immigrants access capital for small business

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investment and buying homes. It was due to a great partnership with ADC that the City was able to create a program for Sharia-compliant small business lending, to ensure that immigrant entrepreneurs can start, maintain and expand businesses serving their communities. Hussein was less well known in the broader community for the extremely important roles he played as a community leader on the West Bank. He served as a member of both the West Bank Community Coalition and the West Bank Business Association and participated in the Cedar Riverside Partnership. In addition to its broader work, ADC has added to the vitality of the West Bank business corridor, creating a beautiful building and open space at the corner of Riverside and 20th Ave S. Hussein's work on the WBCC and WBBA made both groups more sensitive to the needs and perspectives of the West Bank's immigrant residents and entrepreneurs, and the community remains indebted to him for his service. He will be missed. If you would like to support the Samatar family with a contribution, you can go to any [Bremer Bank](#) and make a donation with a personal check, money order or cash designated to the Hussein Samatar Memorial Fund.

- 5) The Park Board is planning for improvements to West River Parkway trails. Existing trails along the west bank of the Mississippi from Franklin Avenue to Plymouth Avenue will be reconstructed in 2014. An appointed Community Advisory Committee (CAC) will inform the planning occurring in September and October 2013. I have appointed Seward resident Eriks Dunen as the Second Ward representative to this advisory committee. An **Open House about the project will be held October 1 -- 6:30-8:30 pm**, at Park Board Headquarters Board Room, 2117 West River Rd. People can also take a survey at www.minneapolisparcs.org (click on link in lower left column of home page) or by calling the MPRB's customer service center weekdays at 612-230-6400 for a paper copy. For more information about the project, to sign up for emails about project updates, or to take the user survey, visit <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1456> or contact the project manager, Deborah Bartels at dbartels@minneapolisparcs.org.
- 6) The University District Alliance has agreed to set up a task force to look at changing the parking requirements for residential development in the University Area Overlay. I have introduced this due to concerns I have heard from folks from the U area about some of the ordinance's unintended consequences. The Task force is looking for a representative from each neighborhood. I am hoping that A J Siddiqui from the Coalition can serve on this task force. One of the primary reasons why I want to lead on this effort is so that I can help make sure the issue gets fully vetted and influenced by all the views of our University partners who helped create the overlay district. Specifically, I want this to be vetted by all the neighborhood organizations and business associations within the district.
- 7) The Council has approved the ballot language for the Plain Language Charter amendment put forward by the Charter Commission that will appear on the ballot November 5th. If passed the new 63 page charter would replace the current 192 page charter with a more modern, common language version drafted for brevity and in plain language and reorganized into nine articles. While it makes no structural changes to how city government works and retains the current role and relationships of City boards and commissions, it does reorganize related provisions together and removes many provisions (many outdated) for possible enactment into ordinance. You can find a full report and read the new charter here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-109178.pdf>
- 8) The City's Employment and Training Program and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) have partnered with The WorkPlace, a Connecticut based workforce development organization, to launch Platform to Employment (P2E), a new program that provides a pathway to employment for long-term unemployed workers aged 50 and above and veterans aged 30 and below. Minneapolis will be the sixth city to launch the program with a cohort of 24 participants. Those interested in the program can apply at the Platform to Employment website, www.platformtoemployment.com and click on the Minneapolis Platform to Employment Application button on the homepage. Information is also available at the North Minneapolis WorkForce Center located at 1200 Plymouth Avenue, Minneapolis or by calling 612.520.3500.
- 9) Council Member Glidden has introduced an ordinance regarding financial institutions and disclosure of information. I am very interested in this effort and am very supportive of finding more effective ways to encourage and ensure that banks and other lending institutions operating in our city, and other lending institutions are socially responsible. I will be very interested in seeing the specifics of this and in finding ways to hold financial institutions accountable if they are not investing in our communities.
- 10) On August 21 the Council's Public Safety Civil Rights and Health committee received its first report on the newly formed Office of Police Conduct Review that has replaced the Police Civilian Review Authority that used to review citizen complaints about Police conduct. I was troubled to learn that of the over 400 complaints, and 71 dealing with excessive force, only 17 were found to have merit and not one resulted in the discipline of a police officer.
- 11) 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, Minneapolis Workforce Council, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, Seniors Advisory Committee and Telecommunications Network. For a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings.