



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

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## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood, 4-22-13

**Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:  
Pratt School, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 9:30-11am**

**Items:**

- 1) Transit for a Stronger Economy
- 2) Municipal Energy Study
- 3) Rental License Conditions
- 4) Honeybee Ordinance
- 5) Blood Plasma Center Ordinance
- 6) Funding for Boeser Site
- 7) Funding for Surly Site
- 8) Recreational Fire Ordinance
- 9) Central Corridor Walkability Study
- 10) Street Sweeping
- 11) Flea Market Ordinance
- 12) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) A "Transit for a Stronger Economy" bill I strongly support is working its way through the Legislature. It will, if passed, increase sales taxes by three quarters of a cent in the metro area to expand investment in transit. It will increase bus service by **4%**, ensure that we can build **3** new Light Rail lines, put Bus Rapid Transit on **4** highway corridors, and help create **12** higher-amenity "Enhanced Bus" routes. It will also include \$50 million per year for metro-area cities and counties to address local needs, including accessibility enhancements, safer sidewalks, and bicycle routes. The bill is supported by over 50 organizations, including Transit for Livable Communities and the Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee, A sales tax is the way that nearly all US regions fund transit – and it's one of the ways that other regions have made significantly more progress on transit than the Twin Cities region has. I urge you to contact your State Legislators and encourage them to support this incredible opportunity to provide stable, adequate funding for transit. Take action here: <http://www.mntransit.org/takeaction.asp?aaid=6578>.
- 2) The Council has decided to dedicate significant funds (up to \$250,000) to study the issues related to our utility franchise and forming a municipal energy utility in Minneapolis. The funding will come from the existing City Coordinator budget and I believe will be an important next step to getting the information we need to make future decisions about energy options in Minneapolis.
- 3) The Council has amended our ordinances to allow the City to impose conditions on rental license holders with significant and documented violations of the housing code. We also approve a set of operating procedures that clarify when and how the conditions would be imposed. Owners of rental properties were already required to have rental licenses for each of their properties and the City has the authority to conduct inspections and issue fines or even revoke licenses if license holders do not meet rental housing standards. Now, when a rental property owner is in violation of a rental licensing standard/s, the City could also place specific operating conditions on the rental license. Property owners must adhere to these conditions in order for their rental license to remain in good standing. To learn more about the procedures and see examples of conditions see [www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-104736.pdf](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-104736.pdf). You can find the amendment here [www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-105139.pdf](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-105139.pdf).
- 4) The City Council approved an ordinance on keeping honeybees that removes the requirement for signatures of 80% of neighbors for any hive that is one or more stories off the ground. When honeybees leave their hives, they tend to fly upwards and quickly disperse, so a hive on a rooftop is likely to have very little effect on near neighbors. Before this passed I successfully moved an amendment that changes the City's honeybee permitting process from an annual \$50 permit to a one-time City approval with a recurring free renewal.

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email [Ahmed.Muhumud@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Ahmed.Muhumud@minneapolismn.gov)

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, llame 612-673-2700;

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

- 5) My proposal to allow blood and plasma donation and collection has passed the Planning and will go to the Zoning and Planning committee of the Council on May 2. The proposed change would allow these facilities in certain office/ institutionally zoned areas (OR3), in addition to these currently being allowed downtown (B4C) and in heavy commercial (C4) zones. There are approximately 26 parcels in the City with OR3 zoning mostly on or near college and hospital campuses. We will also be adding three standards that would need to be met by any such collection facility: 1) Trash receptacles shall be located at the public entrance(s), and the premises, all adjacent streets, sidewalks and alleys, and all sidewalks and alleys within one hundred (100) feet shall be inspected regularly for purposes of removing any litter found thereon; (2) The facility shall include a waiting area and departure lounge of a size large enough to accommodate all donors within the building, but not less than five hundred (500) square feet in area; and, (3) The operator shall submit a management plan for the facility and a floor plan showing the waiting area and departure lounge and number of donor beds.
- 6) The Council's Community Development committee recommended the application to the State Department of Employment and Economic Development for one million dollars in Livable Communities Transit Oriented Development funds for the Boeser site. With these funds, the vacant, blighted commercial building at 2901 4th Street SE, adjacent to the 29th Ave LRT station, will be demolished and redeveloped into 200+ units of transit-oriented, mixed-income housing. At least 20% of the units will be affordable. As part of the Prospect Park Plan to create a walkable arts-centered cultural district with a vibrant mix of uses, The City of Minneapolis will rebuild 4th Street SE, which is in need of major reconstruction. "Green Fourth" will be a pilot project for a Green/Living Street that is pedestrian/bicycle focused, integrating connecting elements, stormwater management, and potentially district energy and shared parking to attract people and other investment to the project area.
- 7) The Council's Community Development committee has recommended the application to Hennepin County for \$500,000 in Transit Oriented Development funds, to clear the proposed site at 5<sup>th</sup> and Malcolm of structures and abandoned utilities and construct public improvements. Surly plans to develop this large blighted industrial site into a nationally recognized destination brewery in the Prospect Park neighborhood. The site has specifically been selected for its urban location, redevelopment potential, and connections to multiple sources of sustainable public transportation, including nearby light rail, bus routes, and bike trails.
- 8) I expect the hearing on the Recreational Fire ordinance amendment I am authoring to be held on **May 1<sup>st</sup> at 1:30 p.m.** at the Public Safety Civil Rights and Health Committee. I am proposing that we add an additional restriction to prohibit outdoor recreational fires during times of air quality alerts when the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency issues an Air Pollution Health Advisory for the Twin Cities Area.
- 9) On April 8 I participated in a panel discussion of the District Council Collaborative's Green Line Walkability Survey. The program will include a presentation of Walkability Survey Findings many West Bankers participated in. You can find the full report here: <http://dcc-stpaul-mpls.org/special-projects/walk>.
- 10) City crews have started cleaning all city streets and alleys, though progress has been interrupted by the unseasonable snowstorms we've had this April. Through early May, sweepers will take care of all 1,000 miles of city streets and parkways. In addition to the "No Parking" signs that will be posted the day before sweepers come through, the City will make about 3,500 automated phone calls each evening to let residents know their street will be swept the next day. Folks can also use the City's Web site to find out when the sweepers are coming go to [www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping) and click on "street sweeping schedule lookup," to find out which week a street is scheduled to be swept. The weekend before that week, they can revisit the Web site to find out which day of the week the street is scheduled to be swept. You can also view streetsweeping videos at [www.YouTube.com/cityofminneapolis](http://www.YouTube.com/cityofminneapolis).
- 11) The Council has passed an ordinance amendment that will allow and regulate Flea Markets in Minneapolis. It provides for the City to license (previously prohibited) temporary markets/flea markets for the sale of arts, crafts, antiques, and/or secondhand goods by any person, partnership, corporation or association to be sold at tables, stalls, or booths at a fixed location in Minneapolis. You can find the full ordinance here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-105719.pdf>.
- 12) 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, Heritage Preservation Commission, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, Minneapolis Workforce Council, Neighborhood & Community Engagement Commission, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, Seniors Advisory Committee, and Telecommunications Network, Minneapolis. For a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions, go to [www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings).