



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

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## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Seward Neighborhood 3-26-14

**Cam's next Seward Office Hours:**  
**Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am**  
**Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St**

### Items:

- 1) New City Goals
- 2) Parking Restriction Lifted
- 3) Potholes
- 4) Conservation District Forum
- 5) Racial Equity Action Plan.
- 6) Organic Waste
- 7) Tenant Notification Ordinance
- 8) Public Works Director
- 9) Civil Rights Director
- 10) Peer-to-Peer Network Transportation Ordinance
- 11) Potential Polling Place Changes.
- 12) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The new City Council and Mayor are drafting a new vision statement, goals, values and strategic directions to guide the City for the next 5 years. A first draft of these (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/meetings/cow/WCMS1P-120778>) was shared with the public at the Committee of the Whole meeting on February 19th. So far the six key guiding values that have emerged are Equity, Safety, Health, Vitality, Connectedness and Growth.
- 2) The coming of spring has allowed City to lift the Winter Parking Restrictions. Starting on March 27<sup>th</sup> we will return to regular parking rules and, generally speaking, folks can once again park on the even side of residential streets.
- 3) This winter has been tough on our roads. Crews are already out making temporary repairs and once the weather is warm enough more permanent fixes will be made. Please call 311 to report pot holes. To meet this year's worse-than-usual conditions, the Mayor has proposed moving forward a request to add an extra \$1 million for pothole repair this year. I am supportive.
- 4) Please join me for a University Alliance-sponsored forum on my proposed conservation district ordinance on Friday, March 28, 12:00 to 1:30 pm, at the Carlson School of Management, 321 19th Ave S, in Room L-110, the Honeywell Auditorium. Dr. John Smoley, City Planner and Historian with the City of Minneapolis, and Greg Donofrio, Assistant Professor and Director of Heritage Conservation and Preservation, University of Minnesota School of Architecture will also be on the panel. Conservation districts are planning tools used to guide context-sensitive development while preserving distinct neighborhood characteristics. This forum is cosponsored by the Center for Urban and Regional Affairs and the University District Alliance. For more information, call 612-625-1551.
- 5) I am very supportive of Council Member's Glidden motion to direct staff to begin work on the creation of a Racial Equity Action Plan. The intention is to model it on the city's adopted Climate Action Plan, that sets a baseline for measurement, includes goals and timelines, references existing city policies and programs that support the goals, recommends new policies and programs for consideration, and is developed in cooperation with a range of engaged stakeholders. This passed Committee of the Whole in March and I am hopeful that it will also be passed by the full Council in April.
- 6) The Council's Transportation and Public Works committee has received a report from our Solid Waste and Recycling staff on the processes and policy decisions the Council will have to make in order to move forward with citywide collection of source-separated organics. You can read the report here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/>

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email

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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.

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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.

[www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-122108.pdf](http://www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-122108.pdf). Staff's recommendation is that if we move forward with a citywide program paid for by all utility ratepayers (at a cost of \$2- \$4 per dwelling unit per month. The upfront cost of the program will be at least \$5 million to pay for additional trucks, facilities, and carts. The ongoing cost will be at least \$3.5 million per year, less the \$80,000 in annual savings from tip fees at the garbage burner. I believe that a more robust education and outreach plan and program needs to be developed to insure success. The next step is for Solid Waste and Recycling staff to hold a Council Study Session on this issue. I am enthusiastically supportive of putting this new program in place, and will push for the City to build the best program we can and roll it out as soon as possible.

- 7) The Council's Community Development and Regulatory Services committee has unanimously supported my ordinance revision that will require landlords notify their tenants of known environmental contamination. This was originally drafted to deal with the arsenic contamination site in south Minneapolis, but will now be a citywide requirement.
- 8) I supported the reappointment of Public Works Director Steve Kotke at the Transportation and Public Works committee on March 18th. A diverse group of stakeholders, including the chairs of the Minneapolis Bicycle and Pedestrian Committees, the Sierra Club, the Minnesota Department of Health and others attended the public hearing to speak in favor of Mr. Kotke's reappointment and also express their hopes for significant changes in the department. I agree, and laid out what I viewed as some major accomplishments Public Works has had under Mr. Kotke, as well as some areas where I have seen room for improvement. In my view, Public Works must become friendlier to innovation, more willing to collaborate with other City departments (especially Health and Community Planning and Economic Development) and other stakeholders, and truly embrace the City's adopted goals for building a multi-modal transportation system. I look forward to working with Director Kotke to accomplish these goals.
- 9) I voted to reappoint Velma Korbelt as Civil Rights Director with reservations. This was not an easy decision, because serious concerns were raised before and during her reappointment public hearing. I have worked well with Ms. Korbelt over the course of her time at the City, especially on issues of racial equity. I have also differed with her, most importantly on the destruction of the Civilian Review Authority. I not only opposed that policy outcome, but question the process that was used to put it in place. During the public hearing – and in writing beforehand – the Council heard from a number of current and former City employees that there are serious concerns about the working environment in Civil Rights. It is my hope that the elevation of these concerns will help the Council and Ms. Korbelt work more proactively to ensure that the employees serving in the Civil Rights department feel valued, safe to share their concerns with not only their superiors but policymakers and the Human Resources department, and like they have meaningful opportunities to shape the work of the department. I hope that when Ms. Korbelt is next up for reappointment, we do not hear a repetition of these concerns.
- 10) Council Member Frey has proposed an ordinance change that will, if passed, allow electronic rideshare companies like Lyft and Uber to operate in Minneapolis. I am supportive of this ordinance but also want to make sure that it is fair to current taxi companies who operate in the city. In my view, if we have standards in place to insure fairness and user/customer safety, we can embrace rideshare businesses as an innovative transportation solution that can help the City meet our goals for reducing the number of miles people drive alone.
- 11) Minneapolis Elections staff are looking at some potential changes to polling places in Ward 2. In Seward, elections staff are considering moving the polling place for precinct 2-9 currently at Augsburg College, to Matthews Park. This precinct includes many residents in east Seward, near Riverside Park and in parts of the west bank, including Middlebrook Hall. I believe that Augsburg is more centrally located, but there are also concerns about lack of parking at Augsburg. I welcome input on this especially from people who vote in their precinct and the Seward Neighborhood Group. If you vote in these areas and have an opinion, please share it with me.
- 12) Applications are now being accepted for a number of open board and commission positions that the City Council and mayor will appoint this spring. Board and commission members in the City of Minneapolis provide valuable insights, help shape key policy decisions and provide community-based input into administration of services. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City. There are more than 40 open positions on the following six City boards and commissions: [Civil Rights Commission](#); [Bicycle Advisory Committee](#); [Workforce Council](#); [Public Health Advisory Committee](#); [Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission](#); [Pedestrian Advisory Committee](#); Applications will be reviewed beginning April 25, but the positions are open until filled. Visit the City's website for a [full list of appointment opportunities](#) and position descriptions. Appointments to boards and commissions are made twice a year — in the spring and fall. This streamlined appointment process makes it easier for folks to learn about volunteer opportunities, ensures a more open and understandable process for residents and staff, and increases the diversity of the applicant pool.