

## Second Ward August 2016 E-newsletter

News from Cam Gordon

Council Member, Second Ward

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2>

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**Mayor's Proposed 2017 Budget.** In August, the Mayor presented her 2017 proposed budget of \$1.3 billion to cover both operating and capital, or infrastructure, expenses. It includes a 5.5 percent increase in the total amount of property taxes the City will collect (the tax levy). Most of the new spending comes from the action we took earlier this year committing significant annual funding increases to parks and streets. There are also some additions focused on public safety, affordable housing and meeting the needs of our growing city. Thanks to that growth, the city's tax base has increased over the last year and, in part because of this, we expect about 40-50% of all residential properties to see a decrease or no increase in the City portion of their property taxes. I was especially glad to see the Mayor propose funding for a mental-health co-responder pilot program that I have been advocating; \$500,000 for community-based strategies to address and prevent youth violence in the areas where it is increasing; and for an additional civilian case investigator in our Office of Police Conduct Review to investigate police complaints. Other highlights include:

- \$1,305,000 for 15 new sworn police officers, which includes 12 officers dedicated for community policing and three for the mental health co-responder pilot program.
- More than \$1 million annually for a new, ongoing community service officer class to help build capacity and help diversify the police department.
- \$400,000 for five additional firefighters.
- A total of \$14.5 million in affordable housing development.
- Creation of a small business navigator staff position from existing resources.

Among the things I was hoping to find in the budget, but didn't, was an additional neighborhood support staff position in the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department, and funding to improve our communications efforts to make sure that more of our information is accessible to people with disabilities. Funding to insure that our practices comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act would include \$200,000 to provide accurate captioning for all televised official city meetings. Looking ahead, on September 14, at 5:05pm the Board of Estimate and Taxation will hold a public hearing on tax levies and the mayor's budget and approve the maximum levy. From September 22 – November 17 the Ways and Means Budget Committee will review presentations and of City departmental budgets (dates can be found at [www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget)). The City will have two public comment hearings on the proposed property tax levy and budget on **November 30 at 6:05 p.m. and December 7 at 6:05 p.m.** On December 2 the Ways and Means Budget Subcommittee will consider and vote on amendments starting at 9:30. The City Council will also consider additional amendments and take a final vote on the budget after the hearing on the 7th. You can watch the budget hearings on Minneapolis 79, or at [www.minneapolismn.gov/tv/79](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/tv/79). In the

months ahead I look forward to learning more, sharing more and hearing more from you and others about the budget, one of the most important Council actions of the year.

**Charter Amendment Proposals Blocked.** In early August, the Council majority voted to not allow two citizen-initiated Charter amendments to be placed on the ballot: one to set a city minimum wage and another to require police to carry insurance. I voted against blocking both of these initiatives from being put on the ballot. I believe that I, as a Council Member, was obligated to allow both questions to be placed on the ballot because they met the three critical conditions upon which we were to base our decision. First, the petitions had the sufficient number of registered voters signing them. Second, they conformed with the other provisions of state law (Chapter 410) relating to City Charters. And third, the proposed changes were not in clear violation of federal or state law, or manifestly unconstitutional. For more on these questions, please see the below items.

**Courts Rule on Minimum Wage Amendment.** After arguing to allow the minimum wage charter amendment on the ballot and being disappointed to see the Council majority vote to block it, I was very heartened by the decision by Judge Susan Robiner that the minimum wage charter amendment should be placed on the ballot in Minneapolis, and then disheartened again when the Minnesota Supreme Court decided in favor of the City's appeal. I believe the City did a disservice to our constituents and our democracy in appealing this decision to the state Supreme Court. I wish that we could have let the strong, well-reasoned Robiner ruling stand, embraced the idea that the people of Minneapolis would get to vote on raising wages for the poorest workers in our city this November, and gotten to work on winning that vote. Unfortunately, that has not happened, and that's one of several disappointments I've had with the City as an enterprise throughout this whole discussion of a local minimum wage. But I have hope that despite these frustrations and disappointments, we are on the path towards greater economic justice by increasing wages for poor workers in our city. Now that it is clear that the issue will not be on the ballot, I hope that we can use the energy and work of the campaign to pivot to an effective minimum wage ordinance. That is what I intend to keep fighting for and what I believe is best for the health and vitality of our City.

**Minimum Wage Staff Direction.** After the Council voted to keep the minimum wage issue off of the ballot I supported a motion (that passed 9-3) that directs staff to work with stakeholders, review policies from other cities, incorporate results from the forthcoming minimum wage study, and recommend a minimum wage policy to bring before the Committee of the Whole by the second quarter of 2017. It also directs them to formulate a plan for engagement to bring before the Committee of the Whole on or before October 5. This is a small but hopeful step that may move us little closer to taking future action to set a local minimum wage and, in doing so, help address the deep and unjust economic disparities in our city by raising the wages of the lowest-wage workers in Minneapolis. I am ready and eager to work on and vote for a strong and broadly supported \$15 minimum wage ordinance as a Council Member early next year, if not before.

**Minimum Wage Study.** The minimum wage study the City Council contracted for several months ago is nearly complete. I expect it to be released and presented to the City Council in

September. I am hopeful that it will demonstrate how the economic impacts of a higher minimum wage would be positive on businesses, workers, families and the community at large as has been demonstrated in areas where it has already been implemented.

**Police Insurance Charter Amendment.** Hennepin County District Court Judge Susan Robiner and the State Supreme Court have both sided with the City Attorney (and Council majority's) position on the police insurance charter petition, so it also will not appear on the ballot.

**Intentional Communities.** I am expecting the Intentional Communities ordinance amendments that I am co-authoring to come to a public hearing in September or early October. Because we are making changes to the Zoning Code and Housing Code, there will be two public hearings, one before the Planning Commission and one before the Community Planning and Regulatory Services Committee. The University District Alliance is hosting a community meeting about this on **September 12** from 4:45pm to 6:30pm at Van Cleve Park. Everyone is welcome to join us to learn more and share their thoughts about this. Let me know if you want more information. It has been written about in the press here:

<http://www.southwestjournal.com/news/2016/06/calls-for-more-cooperative-housing/>, here: <http://www.startribune.com/minneapolis-may-open-door-to-more-communal-living/381263841/> and here: <https://www.minnpost.com/cityscape/2016/05/changes-unrelated-adult-housing-rules-could-bring-intentional-communities-out-shad>.

**Report on Police Complaint Process.** I commend the Minneapolis Police Conduct Oversight Commission for a new study they completed that reveals significant and disturbing barriers to filing a police complaint in Minneapolis. They also made several recommendations for improvements and I look forward to seeing the Police Department adopt many of them. I would like to see more ways that complaints could be made at places like the public library and to offer more options for complaints to be made to civilians rather than officers. Fortunately, the mayor has proposed a onetime investment of \$10,000 for complaint process improvement. You can find the report here:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@civilrights/documents/webcontent/wcmsp-184609.pdf>; and news coverage here: <http://www.citypages.com/news/undercover-lawyers-find-minneapolis-hinders-complaints-about-police/390017322>, and here: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2016/08/09/issues-found-filing-minneapolis-police-misconduct-reports>

**New "Use of Force" Police Policies.** The Police Department has developed and adopted several new, hopeful policies around the use of force to increase public trust and transparency. The first is called "Sanctity of Life," and states the "Sanctity of life and the protection of the public shall be the cornerstones of the Minneapolis Police Department's use of force policy." It clarifies that "When considering situations where life is threatened or at risk, the Police Department values the preservation of life in the highest regard." The second relates to threatening the use of force and de-escalation and states that "Whenever reasonable according to the Minneapolis Police Department and training, officers shall use de-escalation tactics to gain voluntary compliance and seek to avoid or minimize use of physical force." This is a significant shift and represents a much needed cultural change calling on officers to slow down

situations when time and circumstances reasonably permit, to reduce the risk of injury for everyone, including members of the public and officers. To help accomplish this, additional training is being implemented so that officers can develop the skills they need to recognize and accommodate for mental impairment, language barriers, drug and alcohol abuse or a behavioral crisis. The fourth is regarding a duty to intervene and states that “It shall be the duty of every sworn employee present at any scene where physical force is being applied to either stop or attempt to stop another sworn employee when force is being inappropriately applied or is no longer required.” This policy places responsibility on an officer if he or she observes the inappropriate application of force and does not proactively attempt to stop it. The last significant change relates to the professional code of conduct, also known as duty to report: “Employees must immediately, or as soon as reasonably possible, report any misconduct at a scene of an incident to their supervisor or the supervisor at the scene, as well as to the Internal Affairs Unit. This includes, but is not limited to, unreasonable force.” This policy revision reinforces and provides more clarity to the Police Department’s current standards of reporting and it goes as far as including the wording “unreasonable force.” The new policies are in keeping with the recommendations set forth by the president’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing and the 30 Use of Force Guiding Principles developed by the Police Executive Research Forum (<http://www.policeforum.org/assets/30%20guiding%20principles.pdf>) published in March. I commend Police Chief Janee Harteau for making these critical, much-needed changes, and thank her for her willingness to continuously reform and improve our police department.

**Workplace Advisory Group.** As expected, the City Council has approved establishing a permanent Workplace Advisory Committee to advise city policymakers on workplace-related issues. Based on the task force that helped draft the paid sick time ordinance, the 16-member committee will advise the Council on workplace policies and ways to improve policies to better serve businesses and workers. It will include two representatives from business associations, two members from mid-size to large employers, two representatives from small and independently owned businesses, one representative from a not-for profit organization, five employee representatives, two members from organized labor, one Park Board representative, and one public employee. Committee members will be selected through the open-appointment process for two-year terms. The Mayor will appoint three members and the City Council will appoint 13 members.

**Dakota Access Pipeline Resolution.** The Council, with my strong support, is poised to pass a resolution on Friday September 2, in support of the indigenous opposition to the Dakota Access pipeline. The proposed pipeline, that would be constructed and owned by Dakota Access, LLC, a subsidiary of Energy Transfer Crude Oil Company, LLC, to transport crude oil from the Bakken/Three Forks oilfield in North Dakota. It would run for 1,172 miles and would travel through lands sacred to the Lakota people, and cross under the Missouri, Mississippi, and Big Sioux rivers, eventually reaching to Patoka, Illinois. Hundreds of protesters, primarily Lakota and Dakota from Native American reservations within a several-hundred-mile radius as well as farmers and scientists, with support from over 30 environmental organizations, have gathered at the edge of the Standing Rock reservation in North Dakota to voice their opposition. You can find more information here <http://www.daplpipelinefacts.com/> and her

<http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2016/08/new-american-mega-pipeline-youve-never-heard-dakota-access-bakken>

**Gun Buyback Program.** I am glad to see the City partnering with Pillsbury United Communities on a gun buyback program as part of an effort to create a community-wide art project examining the impact of gun violence. On August 27, people dropped off guns anonymously at two fire stations and received \$25 to \$300 Visa gift cards depending on the type and condition of firearm. The guns, after they are made inoperable, will be given to local artists for a new campaign called “Art is My Weapon: a Minnesota Installation of Guns in the Hands of Artists.” A call for artists will be posted at [www.ArtsMyWeapon.org](http://www.ArtsMyWeapon.org). The project will build on the work of the national exhibit, “Guns in the Hands of Artists,” recently showcased at Pillsbury United Communities. The first day of the program on the 27<sup>th</sup> (as you can read here, <http://www.fox9.com/news/196407387-story>,) ended early when all the gift cards were distributed. I am hopeful that more funds will be available soon and this event can be repeated. Pillsbury United Communities is accepting donations for the buyback program at [www.puc-mn.org/art-my-weapon](http://www.puc-mn.org/art-my-weapon). Gun violence, particularly hand gun violence, seems to be getting worse, not better. So far this year 226 people have been a victim of a gunshot wound, an increase of 46% from last year. Of the 23 people killed in homicides this year 21 of them were killed with a hand gun. Twelve of the people killed with handguns were under age 26 and the youngest was 2.

**Police Body Cameras.** Body cameras are now being used by the Minneapolis Police Department by officers in the 1<sup>st</sup> Precinct and 4<sup>th</sup> Precinct. Officers across the city will be wearing body cameras by the end of the year. The use of the cameras follows the finalization of the body-worn camera policy, which was developed with extensive feedback from and involvement with community.

**Bird Safe Skyway Ordinance.** The ordinance amendment I am co-authoring with Council Member Palmisano, that would more clearly regulate, and require bird safe materials on, new skyways in Minneapolis was moved forward by the Planning Commission, following a public hearing on August 15. It is scheduled to come to the Zoning and Planning Committee on September 15 for review and recommendation and then the full City Council for final approval on September 23.

**Creative City Roadmap.** In August the Council reviewed and approved the Creative City Road Map. This is a 10-year strategic plan for developing the city’s creative economy. It was drafted by the Arts, Culture and the Creative Economy program through an 18-month long community engagement process. The road map has four key visions and goals: amplify the local, meaning diverse creative assets are developed, celebrated and promoted; art is actively used to build and foster access and connections; local artists and creative practitioners thrive with access to resources and opportunities; arts and creativity strengthen economic and social development. It will next be integrated into the City’s Comprehensive Plan to help better align the work of city government and the local arts economy. I was glad to see a focus on equity in the plan. Although the Minneapolis/Saint Paul metro area ranks sixth on the list of the nation’s most

“creatively vital” metro areas, people of color are significantly underrepresented in many creative professions in Minneapolis.

**Bike and Ped Counts.** The City is looking for volunteers to help with our 10th annual Bicyclist and Pedestrian Count from September 13-15, at 4:00-6:00 pm each day. The annual counts help us understand the impact of non-motorized traffic on streets, sidewalks, and trails and do a better job of planning and building for bicyclists and pedestrians. If you're interested in volunteering you can register online at [https://cityofmpls.wufoo.com/forms/z1svovop1woc9in/?utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name=&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term=](https://cityofmpls.wufoo.com/forms/z1svovop1woc9in/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=) or contact Kurt Wayne at [kurt.wayne@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:kurt.wayne@minneapolismn.gov) or 612-673-5011.

**Summer Step-up Recap.** This summer marked another great year for the Step Up program. On August 18, the City youth employment program celebrated the success of nearly 1,700 youth ages 14 to 21 who worked at 230 Twin Cities' nonprofits, government agencies, small businesses, and corporations this summer. My thanks to all the businesses and organizations that were part of this great effort to help our youth gain valuable work experience to better prepare for their futures.

**Building Boom Continues.** The City announced on August 26 that we surpassed the \$1 billion mark for approved construction faster than any previous year on record. This is the fifth consecutive year that Minneapolis has had more than \$1 billion worth in construction projects approved since 2000. You can find more details, including the top ten projects, here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmstp-185642.pdf>

**The City's Green Business Cost Sharing Program** has been honored for “exemplary and replicable best practices in response to a critical local public health need.” The program was one of 23 local health department programs across the nation to receive the National Association of County and City Health Officials' (NACCHO) Model Practice Award. The City program works by providing funds to address worker exposure to chemicals, neighborhood exposure and regional air quality issues. Since 2013 it has reduced pollution from entering the air in Minneapolis neighborhoods by nearly 12 tons. For more information go to [www.minneapolismn.gov/greenbusiness](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/greenbusiness).

**Clean Energy Partnership Energy Vision Advisory Committee.** The Clean Energy Partnership is now accepting applications to serve on the Energy Vision Advisory Committee (EVAC). This committee plays a critical role in shaping the partnership's work plan to help Minneapolis achieve clean energy goals, including reducing greenhouse gases, increasing energy efficiency and renewable energy, and making energy more affordable and reliable for everyone. EVAC members provide feedback on the partnership's work plan and performance reports, and provide expertise or represent their Minneapolis communities. Applications and more information are available on the Clean Energy Partnership's website at <http://mplscleanenergypartnership.org>. Applications received by 4:00 pm, **Monday, September 12**, will be given priority.

**Health Department Accreditation.** In August the City's Health Department received, for the first time, official national accreditation for the next 5 years through the Public Health Accreditation Board. I congratulate the staff and commend them for taking on this process which helped them, and us, assess department strengths and areas for improvement. To receive accreditation, a health department must undergo a rigorous, multi-faceted, peer-reviewed assessment process to ensure it meets quality measures. This recognition demonstrates that our health department meets or exceeds national standards for protecting and promoting the health of our community.

**Trans\* Equity Summit.** The third annual Minneapolis Trans\* Equity Summit will take place Thursday, **September 22** from 1-5 p.m. at the Minneapolis Institute of Art at 2400 3rd Ave. S. The theme for this year's Summit is employment. The summit, open to all, is hosted by the City of Minneapolis in partnership with the Minneapolis Institute of Art. The keynote speaker will be Crispin Torres, a community educator for Lambda Legal Midwest. Following the summit there will be a performance by Tona Brown, an acclaimed transgender violinist and mezzo-soprano. Both events are free and open to the public, but registration for the evening event is required. In conjunction with the Minneapolis Trans\* Equity Summit, Twin Cities Pride, Lambda Legal, Intermedia Arts and RARE Productions will host the Trans\* Job Fair the following day, featuring some of the Twin Cities top employers. For more info about the summit visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/WCMSP-185807> and for the job fair visit [www.regonline.com/transequityjobfair](http://www.regonline.com/transequityjobfair).

**Orange Line Access Project.** I was very concerned about the proposed funding cuts to the Orange Line that could have derailed this state of the art Bus Rapid Transit line on 35W and much needed new station at Lake Street. I was glad to see that some funding was secured in August to keep the project going when the County Transit Investment Board committed \$37.5 million to that will allow the project to qualify for federal funds in September. The project still requires state funding however. I believe that the future economic vitality and welfare of the metropolitan region, and therefore of the state, depends on us investing in a complete and modern public transit system. That includes those projects, like Southwest LRT and the Orange Line, already planned for, agreed to and approved. And it's not just our economy that stands to benefit. The health of our air and our people, and even our planet, also depend on these kinds of investments.

**Environmental Education for Youth.** Hennepin County is convening a meeting to discuss ways to engage and education youth about the environment from 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. on **Thursday, September 15** at the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization offices at 2522 Marshall St NE in Minneapolis. A meal and refreshments will be provided. Registration is free, but please RSVP. Contact Alisa Reckinger at [alisa.reckinger@hennepin.us](mailto:alisa.reckinger@hennepin.us) or 612-348-4788 with any questions.

**Election Judges Needed.** Election judges are needed for the general election November 8 to serve voters in local polling places. Election judges are paid \$13.30 per hour for their service, which includes training. Judges who are fluent in a second language are especially needed to provide additional language support in the polling place, including Spanish, Somali, Hmong,

Oromo, Lao, Vietnamese, Russian and American Sign Language. For more information can visit [vote.minneapolismn.gov](http://vote.minneapolismn.gov) or call 311 or 612-673-3000.

**Fix-it Clinic.** A Hennepin County Fix-It Clinic, where residents may bring in small household appliances, clothing, electronics, mobile devices and other items to get free help fixing them, will be held from Noon-4 pm, Saturday, **September 10** at the Whittier Recreation Center at 425 W 26th St.

**Home Energy Efficiency.** The City is offering free home visits from energy-saving experts to income-qualified Minneapolis residents including renters who make less than \$48,100 for one person, \$54,950 for two people, \$61,850 for three people, or up to \$90,650 for eight people. If the Home Energy Squad recommends insulation or air sealing, income-qualified residents also have special access to zero percent financing to complete that work. Home Energy Squad visits bring energy efficiency experts to participants' homes to install energy-saving materials and make recommendations on energy-saving upgrades. Minneapolis households over the income limit for the free visits can still receive the visit for \$70. Call 612-335-5874 or [mncee.org/hes-mpls](http://mncee.org/hes-mpls) for more information.

**Nicollet Mall Reconstruction.** The actual reconstruction work of the mall is now underway. Block by block, construction will focus on removing and replacing the old roadway and sidewalk. By November, several blocks of Nicollet Mall will have been replaced. All 12 blocks of the mall are slated to be completed by fall of next year, opening it to pedestrians and buses. For more information on the project, visit [NicolletMallProject.com](http://NicolletMallProject.com).

**Violence Prevention Grant.** The Centers for Disease Control has awarded the city a \$1.7 million a five year grant to assist us in preventing youth violence. With the funds the city implement community-based prevention strategies, including a curriculum to be used with high school sports teams focusing on preventing teen dating violence and adding Youth Coordinating Board Youth Workers to do street and community outreach to youth in areas of the city where they may be at greatest risk.

**Youth Curfew Truancy Services.** On Friday I expect the Council to authorize renewed agreements between the City, Hennepin County, and Minneapolis Public Schools for youth curfew/truancy services for the term of January 1, 2017 - December 31, 2026, with automatic 5-year renewals absent a new agreement or written notice of termination. This will provide for stable, shared funding support for the Juvenile Supervision Center continuing and strengthening the full time (24/7) operations and community-based youth development, strengths-based and trauma-informed approach that was added in 2008 as part of our Youth Violence Prevention plan. The Center provides needed support to youth who are brought in or come in voluntarily in a safe and supervised space. Once there, they are offered a risk/needs and mental health screenings, reconnection to family, transportation home or to a shelter, informal mediation and resources and referrals. In 2015 the center served 1,218 youth (some of whom visited the center more than once). Over the past 5 years 72% of the visitors have been Minneapolis residents. I was concerned, however, to learn that 74% of the youth served in 2015 were black. This is a red flag for me because it mirrors other disturbing statistics that reflect



inequitable or disparate treatment of youth based on race in Minneapolis.

<https://thinkprogress.org/the-disturbing-treatment-of-black-kids-in-minneapolis-30e0b4ea023b#.19fqen59z>) The proportion of black youth in the city is significantly less than 75% and racial inequities in the Minneapolis criminal justice system are well documented and have been associated with a school to prison pipeline, mass incarceration of blacks, and significant disparities in areas of employment, housing and educational achievement. The American Civil Liberties Union of Minneapolis found that black juveniles were more than 16.3 times more likely to be arrested for truancy and curfew charges than white juveniles between 2004 and 2012. While it appears that our Juvenile Curfew and Truancy Center is helping to keep youth out of the criminal justice system, this is an aspect of the report that I will be following up on. You can view the presentation here

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcmstp-185458.pdf>

**PACE.** It was great to see 4 different properties coming forward in August to use our Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program to finance energy improvements to their buildings. Since 2013 we have had an agreement that allows the Saint Paul Port Authority to provide upfront capital to finance the energy efficiency and solar projects, which are then paid back through assessments placed on that property. This is available to all businesses in Minneapolis.

<http://pacenation.us/property-assessed-clean-energy-pace-launches-in-minnesota-with-first-approved-projects/>

**Focus on Fathers Research.** The Council received preliminary findings from the Focus on Fathers Research Project in August. We learned that too often the current family support systems does more to exclude than include unmarried fathers in the lives of their children, even those that want and hope and expect to have the full parental rights and responsibilities. This issue particularly affects communities of color and low-income communities. There appears to be a powerful desire of unmarried fathers to be involved with their children that is significantly hampered by system design, policies, and procedures. In the coming months ahead staff will complete analysis of the interviews, share findings and generate recommendations for improvements.

**Climate Change Presentation.** In August the health department and sustainability office shared the first phase of a Climate Change and Health project funded by the Public Health Institute Center for Climate Change and Health. Phase one was a vulnerability assessment and mapped areas with populations that are more vulnerable, because of a higher urban heat island effect, more impervious surface and less vegetation, and being in areas prone to flooding. This fall staff will begin doing community outreach in three designated areas of identified vulnerability: Longfellow, Near North and Phillips. You can find more information, including the maps at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcmstp-185464.pdf>

**Target Market Program Ordinance.** A public hearing has been scheduled for September 21 to consider a new Target Market Ordinance, authored by Council members Glidden and Quincy, aimed at increasing opportunities for small business to compete for city contracts, expanding

opportunities for historically underutilized small-businesses; and stimulating the local economy. Under the Target Market Program (TMP), qualified small-businesses will have the ability to respond alongside other similarly situated small-businesses for City contracts up to \$100,000 instead of competing against larger, more established companies. I am very supportive of this effort and see it as a way to help close economic disparities in the city.

**2016 Ward and Neighborhood Profiles.** The City's Regulatory Services department has updated profiles for each ward and neighborhood in the city, providing demographic data that may help organizations and individuals better understand their communities and plan for future improvements. A combination of tables, charts and maps displays the data about neighborhood demographics, rental license information, land use, housing, and more. This is the second round of profiles created, and updates are planned annually. You can find all the 2016 profiles at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/regservices/2016profiles>

**Neighborhood Funding Allocations.** The Council has approved the 2017-19 allocation for the Second Ward neighborhoods are as follows: Como - \$189,110; Cooper - \$90,910; Longfellow - 155,780 (both Cooper and Longfellow's allocations are incorporated into the Longfellow Community Council total allocation of \$529,730); Prospect Park - \$189,080; Seward - \$219,800 and the University neighborhood - \$ 129,170.

**West River Parkway and the Franklin Avenue Bridge** have both reopened as of September 1. I know that both of these necessary projects have meant inconvenient detours for my constituents for months or years. It will be a relief to have these important routes back, safer and better than before. That's especially true for the Franklin Bridge, where the new bridge will offer pedestrians a much better, safe and more aesthetically appealing fence and observation areas and bicyclists a fully protected bikeway in each direction, physically separated from cars. I want to thank the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Hennepin County for bringing these projects to fruition, and City of Minneapolis staff for all of their work in partnership on these projects. See [https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/news/2016/08/31/2234/west\\_river\\_parkway\\_reopens\\_september\\_1\\_at\\_430\\_pm](https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/news/2016/08/31/2234/west_river_parkway_reopens_september_1_at_430_pm) and <http://www.hennepin.us/franklinbridge> for more.

**Glendale Meeting on Historic Designation.** In my effort to carefully consider nominating Glendale Townhomes for local historic designation and at their request, I attended a meeting of the Defend Glendale Campaign in August to discuss possible designation for the area. After a presentation and discussion, those in attendance were generally very supportive of the idea. As a result, I will carefully move forward with continuing discussions with staff and others. I also hope to reach out to more Glendale residents in the months ahead with some kind of survey to better gauge the level of interest and support from more residents. A nomination, once reviewed and approved by the Minneapolis Historic Preservation Commission (HPC), would set in place interim protections on the properties and require a study to be done prior to designation being formally considered and voted on by the HPC. The study period could last up to 18 months.

**Minnehaha Avenue Reconstruction.** Work on the last stretch of Minnehaha between 34th and Lake streets continues in the weeks ahead with curbing and repaving between 34th and 32nd streets, installation of concrete pedestrian ramps and concrete bus pads at bus stops between 34th and 32nd streets, installation of the traffic signal bases at 32nd Street, and storm sewer installation between 32nd and Lake streets. The 34th Street intersection is tentatively scheduled to close for reconstruction (including underground utility work, soil replacement and curbing installation) starting Tuesday, September 6. This intersection is anticipated to remain closed for approximately two weeks. During the 34th Street intersection closure, the nearby Minnehaha Avenue intersections at 35th and 33rd streets will remain open.

**World Expo.** A group led by former Secretary of State Mark Ritchie is looking to bring the 2023 World Expo to Minnesota, and one of the potential sites is the Towerside/Prospect North area. Specifically, the area being discussed is north of the University transit way, south of the railroad tracks, west of Malcolm Avenue and east of the University stadium. I have organized a meeting with City staff and the organizers of this effort to learn more about what the Expo would mean for the area and how the City can play a supportive role. I view this as being potentially in strong alignment with the ongoing effort to make Towerside an Innovation District that brings research, jobs, housing, cultural amenities and greenspace together in an ecologically sustainable and vibrant way. You can learn more about the World Expo here: <http://expo2023.info/>.

**Open Office Hours in the Ward.** I usually hold open “Office Hours” in the ward every Thursday morning from 9:30 to 11:00 am. Please feel free to call the office at 673-2202 to reserve some time when I will be there or just stop by.

First Thursdays at the Oren Gateway Center, Nabo Café, 2211 Riverside Avenue;

Second Thursdays at Black: Coffee and Waffles, 1500 Como Ave SE;

Third Thursdays at Espresso Expose, 600 Washington Ave SE;

Fourth Thursdays at Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St.

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<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2>

<http://secondward.blogspot.com/>

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