



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 8-16-12

**Cam's next Cooper/Seward Office Hours:
Tuesday, August 28th, 9:30-11:00am
Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St**

Items:

- 1) Cat Burned in Longfellow
- 2) Longfellow Grill Outdoor Seating Expansion
- 3) Liquor Store at 4135 Hiawatha
- 4) 2013 Budget
- 5) Recycling at Major Events
- 6) Coal Tar Sealants Banned
- 7) Equity in Employment
- 8) Major Changes Proposed for CRA
- 9) Fire Department Agency Evaluation
- 10) Xcel Proposes to Scrap Solar Rewards
- 11) Solicitors Ordinance
- 12) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) As you have likely heard, there was an egregious incident of animal abuse in Longfellow earlier this week in which a cat was burned near an Obama lawnsign. I know that City staff are taking this very seriously, and will keep the neighborhood updated if any progress is made in this case. This kind of cruelty has no place in our community.
- 2) The Longfellow Grill has asked for an expansion in their outdoor seating. I am working with City Licensing staff to schedule a public hearing for this request. I would like to know if LCC has an opinion on whether the hearing should be held at City Hall or in the community.
- 3) A new liquor store at 4135 Hiawatha Ave is coming before the next Regulatory Energy and Environment committee on August 20th, at 1:30pm in room 317 of City Hall. This is on the consent agenda, not up for a public hearing. I understand that the applicants are in compliance with all City requirements.
- 4) In the Mayor's 2013 budget address he proposed increasing the total property tax levy by 1.7%, with the increase to pay for additional police and fire personnel. One major change proposed by the Mayor in his address is the dismantling of the Regulatory Services department. As I understand the proposal, Environmental Health (food inspection and healthy housing) would be moved to the Health Department, a move I strongly support. Business Licensing would move to the Economic Development area of CPED. Environmental Services would move to the Coordinator's office. Housing Inspections would be its own stand-alone department. I look forward to seeing more specifics on this major change, and the budget as a whole.
- 5) The City Council voted to require all large block events and all parades and races on Minneapolis streets to recycle. The changes are designed to reduce the amount of trash being generated at these events. Beginning Jan. 1, 2013, organizers of any block event with more than 2,500 people in attendance and any parade or race that uses City streets will need to provide recycling of all paper, cardboard, plastic, glass and metal containers.
- 6) The Council has passed an ordinance, supported by the Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee, which bans coal tar-based sealants from being sold or used on any driveway or parking lot in Minneapolis. The purpose of this ban is to keep Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons – toxic chemicals present in coal tar sealants but not alternative sealant products – out of our lakes, streams and river. I enthusiastically supported this ordinance, and commend Council Member Colvin Roy for taking the lead on it.

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, llame 612-673-2700;

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

- 7) A resolution *Supporting Equity in Employment in Minneapolis and the Region* that I am authoring will be coming for approval to the Public Safety, Civil Rights and Health Committee on **August 22** at 1:30pm. Time for a staff presentation, public comment and committee discussion will be provided. The resolution declares that institutional racism, discrimination and racial employment disparities in Minneapolis are serious problems that must be solved. It commits the City government to lead by example and better incorporate racial equity into all City policies and, if approved, it would direct the City Coordinator, CPED Director and Civil Rights Director to engage with other department heads and staff to develop and implement an Equity Assessment Toolkit to inform City decisions, including those related to the budget, hiring, promotion, contracting and purchasing. It also directs staff to assess and implement, where appropriate, the recommendations of the Equity in Employment Task Force, and recommend fair hiring provisions to be added to the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances. Additionally it would authorize the City to formally join the Ramsey County Blue Ribbon Commission's *Everybody In* regional collaboration to reduce racial employment disparities throughout the metropolitan area.
- 8) The Civil Rights Department, in conjunction with the Police and City Attorney's Office, has proposed a major change to the Civilian Police Review Authority (CRA). If passed, the CRA would essentially cease to exist, and be replaced by an advisory board to the Police Department. Internal Affairs and the Civilian Review investigatory functions would basically be merged. The current CRA board is not supportive of this proposal, and has recommended its own improvements to the civilian review process. I have serious concerns about merging the police department's internal affairs with the civilian review authority and making the citizen/civilian component advisory only. It also removes the residency requirement and focuses more power with the chief. Public meetings will be held **August 16, 7-8:30pm** at **Shiloh Temple** International Ministries, 1201 West Broadway Avenue, and in **City Hall room 319** on **Tuesday August 21 7-8:30pm**. The proposal is set to return to the committee on **September 12** for a public hearing. You can find more information here (under item 9) www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/psch/WCMS1P-094889. I will be following this very closely, and strongly encourage anyone who cares about police accountability to do the same.
- 9) Emergency Services Consulting International, a firm hired by the City to evaluate the Minneapolis Fire Department, has presented its final report to the Council. This independent, comprehensive evaluation of the Fire Department will help us see how the department compares to similar departments and consider recommendations to improve effectiveness, increase efficiency and potentially raise additional revenue through cost recovery strategies. The report includes recommendations about facilities, equipment and staffing. It does not recommend adding any new stations but identifies 13 stations in need of renovation or replacement. It also cautions about aging trucks and engines and recommends that the City allocate \$1,046,667 annually to fund vehicle replacement. Related to staffing the report indicates that our levels are slightly lower than regional and national averages, but that many of the other departments also provide ambulance service and Minneapolis does not. It also notes some concern with overtime costs and sick leave and recommends a minimum staffing of 94 firefighters per shift on duty to respond to emergencies and fight fires. Staffing is currently based on having 92 fire fighters on duty per shift. You can find all 3 sections of the report and the presentation slides here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/psch/WCMS1P-096367>.
- 10) The Council has gone on record opposing Xcel Energy's proposal to scrap the popular and effective Solar Rewards program. I am disappointed at Xcel's lack of commitment to renewable energy, and to solar in particular, and this strengthens my interest in establishing a municipal power utility to keep our energy options open.
- 11) The City Council approved new rules for door-to-door salespeople intended to protect consumers, better comply with First Amendment requirements consistent with recent court rulings, and make it more difficult for out-of-state companies to exploit youth workers. Under the new rules, salespeople and transient merchants will be required to wear a City-issued photo identification card. To make things easier for schools and youth groups doing fundraising, the City will approve group identification cards at no cost. The photo identification rule does not apply to canvassers, including people who advocate for religious, social, or political causes.
- 12) There are openings on the Arts Commission, Capital Long Range Improvement Committee, Citizens Environmental Advisory Committee, Civil Rights Commission, Civilian Police Review Authority, Disabilities Advisory Committee, Heritage Preservation Commission, Housing Board of Appeals, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, Planning Commission, Public Health Advisory Committee, Senior Advisory Committee, Mpls Telecommunications Network, ThincGreen Advisory Committee and Youth Violence Prevention Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.