



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 9-20-12

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

Items:

- 1) Longfellow Grill Outdoor Seating Expansion
- 2) Register to Vote
- 3) November 6 Sample Ballots
- 4) Equity in Employment Resolution
- 5) Utility Franchise Working Group
- 6) 2013 Budget
- 7) Major Changes Proposed for Regulatory Services
- 8) Civilian Review Authority Ordinance
- 9) Summer 612 Event
- 10) One Minneapolis / One Read
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The Longfellow Grill's application for an additional 24 seats in its outdoor patios will come before the Regulatory Energy and Environment committee next Monday, September 24th. A well-attended public hearing was held at Brackett Park on Thursday, September 6th. Licensing staff and my office heard a number of concerns about illegal parking on the south side of Dorman Avenue (just to the north of the Longfellow Grill's building), litter, and the loss of green space. Licensing staff have negotiated three conditions with the Grill's owners: 1) to pay for a 'no parking' zone on the entire south side of Dorman, 2) find four off street parking places for Grill employees, and 3) install litter receptacles on the patio. The Grill has already found the four parking places. They are also voluntarily rebuilding the garbage enclosure behind the building to better address litter problems. Lastly, the Grill's owner is interested in planting additional trees either on their property or paying to have trees planted on the adjacent Park Board property, to address the loss of green space. It seems to me that the Grill's management and City staff have been very responsive to the legitimate concerns that we heard at the public hearing, and I plan on supporting this outdoor seating expansion.
- 2) If you want to vote in the November 6 general election, but you're not yet registered, you can pre-register. Registered voters who changed their name or moved since they last voted should re-register. Voter registration applications can be picked up at the Minneapolis Elections Office in City Hall or at the Hennepin County Government Center or found online at <http://www.sos.state.mn.us/index.aspx?page=204>. If you call my office, 673-2202, we can mail you the application. All eligible individuals whose registration applications are received by elections officials by 5 p.m. on October 16 will be pre-registered for the Nov. 6 election and will receive a postcard notifying them where to vote. Individuals are eligible in Minnesota to vote if they will be at least 18 years old by Election Day, are a U.S. citizen and have lived in Minnesota for at least 20 days prior to the election. For more information about registering and voting in Minneapolis, or to serve as an election judge, visit minneapolismn.gov/elections or call Minneapolis 311, or TTY/TTD 612-673-2157.
- 3) Sample ballots for the upcoming Nov. 6 Presidential General Election are now available for review at either of the following web tools: the Secretary of State's Voter Registration Lookup (<https://mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx>), or the Poll-finder/Where do I Vote: <http://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/>. Both of these tools will allow a voter to view their Ward/Precinct information, a polling place location (address and building identification), a list of candidates that will be on your ballot, and an unofficial Sample Ballot that can be reviewed anytime through Election Day.
- 4) The resolution *Supporting Equity in Employment in Minneapolis and the Region* that I authored has passed the Council unanimously.

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.

Attention: If you want help translating this information in language other than Hmong, Spanish or Somali, call 311

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.

- 5) This morning, the Council's Committee of the Whole voted to create a new Utility Franchise Work Group to assist the city in preparing for negotiations regarding its electric and natural gas franchise agreements with public utility companies. I am one of the four Council Members who have been appointed to this Work Group. Among its tasks, the work group will develop a set of policy principles that will guide the city in its franchise discussions; review and consider potential legislative and/or other regulatory changes and consider formal support for these changes on the City's state legislative agenda; and develop a community engagement program. I am very supportive of having this conversation, and exploring all of our options: renewing the franchise agreements, renegotiating them to include more green energy and energy efficiency, and starting the process to become a municipal power utility.
- 6) In August the Mayor released his proposed 2013 budget to the City Council that includes increasing the total property tax levy by 1.7%. Each department will make budget presentations through mid-November, and there will be two public hearings before a final budget is approved in December. For a schedule of presentations go to www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget . All budget hearings will be broadcast live (and rebroadcast) on Minneapolis 79 (the City's cable channel). You can find the rebroadcast schedule and also view the hearings online at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/tv/79> . The public hearings on the tax levy and 2013 budget will be on **Wednesday, November 28, starting at 6:05 p.m.** and **Wednesday, December 12, 6:05 p.m.** in City Hall, 350 South 5th Street, room 317. For more information on the Mayor's recommended 2013 budget go to www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget . As always I welcome hearing from you about your priorities and concerns related to this significant city decision.
- 7) The Mayor's proposed budget includes a significant change to the Department of Regulatory Services and the elimination of 3 - 5 upper management positions. As proposed, Regulatory Services would be reorganized by moving business licensing and development review functions to the Community Planning and Economic Development Department, Environmental Services (food inspection and healthy housing) to the Department of Health and Family Support, and keeping the remaining Regulatory Services' functions (housing inspections, animal control and possibly traffic) concentrated in a new Department of Inspections. The City Coordinator, Paul Aasen, will lead a Transition Committee to develop more details and a process that I am hopeful will include seeking feedback from residents as well as from Regulatory Services staff and other stakeholders.
- 8) The proposal to merge the current Civilian Review Authority with the Police Department's Internal Affairs Unit is coming before the Council this Friday. I continue to oppose this idea, which I believe essentially dismantles civilian police oversight in Minneapolis. I will be putting forward three amendments to make this proposal slightly less bad. The first will increase the number of civilians on the Review Panels from 2 to 3, so that there will be more civilians than police officers on each panel. The second will allow complainants to choose to have their complaints investigated by civilians, rather than police officers. The last would reinstate the "firewall" that prohibits information on complaints from being shared with City staff who are not actively involved in the investigations. I am hopeful that these will pass, but even if they do I will continue to have serious concerns about the process and outcome related to this major change to civilian oversight of police.
- 9) The Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support has put together an event celebrating Summer 612, showcasing the efforts of talented Minneapolis youth to address youth violence in their communities. The event is on Saturday, September 22, from 2-5pm at the Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall. To RSVP, go to <http://summer612mpls.eventbrite.com>.
- 10) You still have time to take part in this year's One Minneapolis One read. This year, people are reading "Spirit Car: Journey to a Dakota Past," by Diane Wilson. The book is a collection of vignettes to honor the lives of Wilson's Dakota family. A community discussion with Garrison Keillor and Diane Wilson will be held on **Monday, September 24** at the Minneapolis Convention Center Auditorium. Tickets are \$10; \$5 for seniors, students and limited income (for those tickets, select the \$10 option and choose "apply discount" before purchasing), and are available at www.ticketworks.com or 612-343-3390. For more information and to get involved, visit www.OneMinneapolisOneRead.com, www.facebook.com/OneMinneapolisOneRead, www.twitter.com/minneapolisread or email oneread@minneapolismn.gov.
- 11) There are openings on the Arts Commission, Capital Long Range Improvement Committee, Charter Commission, Citizen 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, Uptown Special Service District, Youth Violence Prevention Committee, Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov.