



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

**Cam Gordon**  
City Council Member  
Second Ward

350 South 5th Street - Room 301M  
Minneapolis MN 55415

Office 612-673-2202  
Fax 612-673-3250  
Cell 612-296-0579

cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov

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

## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 3-24-14

**Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:**  
Pratt School, Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11am

### Items:

- 1) Conservation District Forum
- 2) Zero Waste
- 3) Organics Collection
- 4) Tenant Notification Ordinance.
- 5) Public Works Director
- 6) Reappointment of Civil Rights Director.
- 7) Rideshare
- 8) New Hotel on Essex
- 9) U of M Engaging in Area Development
- 10) U of M Buys 2400 Block of University Ave.
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) 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.
- 2) Along with the Mayor, several of my other colleagues and Congressman Keith Ellison, I co-hosted and helped organize a Zero Waste forum on March 20<sup>th</sup>, at Walker Church. There we learned more about San Francisco's program, certain legislative efforts of Representative Frank Hornstein, the connection between Zero Waste and Climate Change from Ward 2's own Shalani Gupta and about the role of composting from Russ Henry, co-chair of the Minneapolis Homegrown Food Council. I am very excited to get this conversation started, and look forward to focusing more on this effort in the months ahead.
- 3) 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/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.
- 4) 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.

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](mailto: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, llama 612-673-2700;

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

- 5) I supported the reappointment of Public Works Director Steve Kotke at the Transportation and Public Works committee on March 18<sup>th</sup>. 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.
- 6) 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.
- 7) 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. In my view, we should embrace electronic rideshare as an innovative transportation solution that can help – with LRT, streetcars, buses, biking, walking, car-sharing, taxis and other modes – to help the City meet our goals for reducing the number of miles people drive alone.
- 8) CPM Development has applied to build a new hotel at 1022 Essex St SE, near the University East Bank Campus. They are hoping to construct a five-story hotel with 122 rooms on the site. As part of the process they have submitted applications to rezone the property from R5 to C3A for a Conditional Use Permit (CUP) to allow for an increase in height from 4 stories to 5 stories and for variances to allow for an decrease in the amount of green/open space required (increasing the floor to area ratio from 2.7 to 3.17), a smaller than standard setback on west and south side for driveway ramps below grade and to reduce the loading requirement from 2 spaces to 0.
- 9) I was both hopeful and concerned about comments in the University of Minnesota President's state of the University speech. You can find it here <http://www1.umn.edu/president/speeches-and-writing/state-of-university-2014/>. In it he outlined a "City Strategy" and stated that there is a "compelling need to be a more engaged institutional citizen and partner with the City of Minneapolis and our neighborhoods. For too long, we at the University have seemed not to care about development surrounding our Minneapolis campus..." and revealed plans to draft a set of guiding principles for working with the City and area neighborhoods. I am hopeful that the table we have worked so hard to set for these discussion at the University District Alliance will be seen as the place through which to develop these principles and the more engaged partnership the president and I believe the community is seeking.
- 10) In January, in a joint venture with United Properties, the University acquired the property at University Ave. and 25<sup>th</sup> Street that includes the Days Inn Hotel and for the Tea House Restaurant. The purchase on the 2400 block of University Avenue Southeast also includes 170 parking spaces.
- 11) Applications are now being accepted for a number of open boards 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.