



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 612-673-3940
Cell 612-296-0579
TTY 612-673-2157

cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov

www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2

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, llame 612-673-2700;

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

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 9-2-14

Cam's next Como Office Hours: Thursday, 9-11-14

Black: Coffee and Waffles, 1500 Como Ave SE

Items:

- 1) Mayor's 2015 Budget
- 2) New Department Heads Approved
- 3) New Open Data Policy Approved
- 4) Proposed Conservation District Ordinance
- 5) Filing Fee Ballot Language
- 6) Accessory Dwelling Units
- 7) Police Services Enhanced for Vikings Games
- 8) Hazardous Waste Drop Off
- 9) Welcoming New Neighbors this Fall.
- 10) Pack & Give Back.
- 11) Farmstand Proposal.
- 12) 8th St SE Reconstruction and Street Lighting.
- 13) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) Mayor Hodges has delivered her 2015 proposed budget. In the coming months the Council will be reviewing each department's budget requests and holding budget hearings in preparation for adopting a final 2015 budget this December. The Mayor has proposed a 2.5% increase in the overall property tax revenue (the tax levy) we can collect. I am generally supportive of a modest increase and believe that the impact on individual property owners will be minimal because of the significant growth in our tax base. The growth in population also means the needs and expectation for city services will grow. I will be working to balance increasing demands on infrastructure and services, and desires for better services and infrastructure with the potential burden this may place on tax payers, businesses and residents. As always, I welcome your ideas and concerns to assist me in my deliberations.
- 2) The City Council has approved the appointments of Craig Taylor as the new Director of the CPED Department and Spencer Cronk as our next City Coordinator. Taylor served as the Executive Director of the Office for Business & Community Economic Development and the Business & Technology Center at the University of Minnesota for the past 12 years and Cronk was most recently commissioner of the State of Minnesota Department of Administration.
- 3) The Council has approved the City's first open data policy. This will give people access to entire sets of data in accessible formats that previously were not available without a formal request. I commend Council Member Elizabeth Glidden who initiated this idea in 2013 and Council Member Andrew Johnson for leading the effort this year. Minneapolis now joins 38 states and 46 cities and counties that have open data portals. <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-128865.pdf>
- 4) My proposed amendment to create the legal framework establishing conservation districts in Minneapolis will come before the Zoning and Planning Committee in September (most likely on the 11th) and I am considering additional minor amendments based on some of the comments received to date.
- 5) The Council has approved the following ballot language for the Charter Commissions ballot initiative to increase filing fees to run for city offices. "Shall the Minneapolis City Harter be amended to increase the filing fees for candidates seeking City elected offices from the current fee of \$20 for each office to \$500 for the office of Mayor, \$250 for the office of Council Member, \$100 for the office Board of Estimate and Taxation and \$100 for the office of Park and Recreation Commission and, as an alternative to payment of a filing fee, allow a candidate to submit a petition of voter signatures as provided in state law?"

- 6) Council Member Lisa Bender is proposing a Zoning Code Text Amendment that would allow Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in residential areas. ADUs are smaller dwellings that are attached to or on the same property as existing homes. ADUs are currently allowed with a conditional use permit in the North Phillips Overlay District, but they are not allowed in the rest of Minneapolis. Many cities across the country allow ADUs, including Seattle, Portland, and Austin. To explore the idea of allowing ADUs in Minneapolis, Planning (CPED) staff will host has been hosting open houses in August and September. The last two will on **Tuesday, September 16**, from 5:00 – 7:00pm at the North Regional Library, 1315 Lowry Ave N; and **Wednesday, September 17**, 5:00 – 7:00pm at Kenwood Community Center, 2101 W Franklin Ave.
- 7) The Council has approved a 3-Year Agreement with the Minnesota Vikings for police services in the neighborhoods adjacent the TCF Bank Stadium. The Police Department will provide extra law enforcement services to the neighborhoods during the 2 pre- and 8 regular season Minnesota Vikings football games for the 2014 football season. The Minnesota Vikings will reimburse expenses incurred by the Police Department for providing these services. This is a 3-year contract agreement and for 2015 and 2016 Football season, if the Vikings are still at the TCF Stadium, the annual contract cost will increase by 3%. You can read the staff report here:
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-129260.pdf>
- 8) As a new academic year begins soon and many new neighbors will be moving into the ward, especially in those areas on or close to the U of M and Augsburg campuses. To help ease the transitions of students moving into off campus housing, I will once again be joining other neighborhood, university and City volunteers on **September 4** to help distribute welcome packets to student renters. Coordinated by the U of M's Student and Community Relations department, the door-knocking and distribution will occur in the Marcy Holmes, SE Como, and Prospect Park neighborhoods. For more information, please email neighbor@umn.edu or call 612-626-5301 by Aug. 26.
- 9) I am very glad to see that the student and resident free store and Pack and Give Back program is returning again this year. It will be held at the University of Minnesota ReUse Program warehouse. If you live in Marcy-Holmes, Como, Prospect Park, and Cedar-Riverside you can drop off donations at the warehouse from June 1st to August 24th, Monday to Friday, 8 am to 4 pm. Then, on August 25th, the free store will be open for all U of M students to shop at before the start of the semester. Neighborhood residents may use the free store from August 31st to September 6th, having made a donation prior. You can learn more at <http://www.facm.umn.edu/about/central-services/reuse/packandgiveback/>
- 10) My proposed amendments to reduce regulations on farmstands operating at community gardens, market gardens, and urban farms was approved by the Planning Commission with one additional change that would allow farmstands to keep one sign up through the entire growing season, rather than requiring operators to take the signs down whenever they were not in operation. The amendment already proposes eliminating the current requirement to obtain a Temporary Use Permit; increasing from 15 to 75 the number of days they can operate per year, and allowing the sale of products from other farms and gardens which are run by the same producer. You can read the staff report here:
<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-129260.pdf> I expect it be considered at the Zoning and Planning Committee later this month.
- 11) The Council has taken the next steps to complete the much needed improvements to 8th St SE from 15th Av SE to approximately 1,100 feet east where the street will end in a cul-de-sac. The proposed improvements are street reconstruction and street lighting. 8th St SE from 15th Av SE to former 16th Av SE was paved with asphalt in 1973. The remainder of the street to the east is dirt. The University will be covering most of the costs of the construction, with other property owners on the street being assessed the standard assessments for road reconstruction and lighting. The layout was approved in December of 2013 and will consist of two-way traffic with parking lanes. A public hearing on the project approval and assessments will be held at the Transportation and Public Works Committee on **September 9** at 9:30 am. It is possible that reconstruction could begin late this construction season, but it will more likely occur next year.
- 12) Applications are now being accepted for a number of open boards and commissions positions that the City Council and Mayor will appoint this fall. 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 open positions on the following 15 City boards and commissions: Arts Commission, Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee (CLIC), Community Environmental Advisory Commission (CEAC), Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Family Housing Fund (McKnight), Minneapolis Commission on Civil Rights, Heritage Preservation Commission (HPC), Planning Commission, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC), Minneapolis Telecommunications Network (MTN), Senior Citizen Advisory Committee, Youth Violence Prevention Executive Committee, and Minneapolis Zoning Board of Adjustment. Applications will be reviewed beginning October 10, 2014. However, the positions are open until filled.