



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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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, 10-7-14

Cam's next Como Office Hours: Thursday, 10-9-14

Black: Coffee and Waffles, 1500 Como Ave SE

Items:

- 1) Energy Franchises and Clean Energy Partnership
- 2) Southeast Library
- 3) Public Forums on Police Community Relations
- 4) Crime Down in Southeast
- 5) 2015 Budget
- 6) Alcohol License Ordinance Changes
- 7) Farmstand Ordinance
- 8) Conservation District Ordinance
- 9) Staple Food Ordinance
- 10) Absentee Voting
- 11) Learning from Ferguson
- 12) E-Cigarette Ordinance
- 13) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) Yesterday, the Council's Health, Environment and Community Engagement committee unanimously passed the franchise and Clean Energy Partnership agreements with our energy utilities, Xcel and CenterPoint. This Partnership is a way for the utilities to make good on their commitments to help the City – and the people of Minneapolis – reach our aggressive goals on climate, environmental justice, renewable energy and more. I view this as a major step forward, but this is only an opportunity. In the next year, as the Partnership gets underway, I will be working hard to make sure it fulfills its promise.
- 2) Four public meetings will be held in October to discuss a new Southeast Library, and to hear more about the learning and information needs of the Cedar-Riverside, Southeast Como, Marcy-Holmes, and Prospect Park neighborhoods. The meetings will be held: Saturday, **October 18**, 9:30-11:30am, at Van Cleve Recreation Center, 901 15th Ave SE; Monday, **October 20**, 6-8pm, at Marcy Open School, Media Center, 415 4th Ave SE; Saturday, **October 25**, 9-11am, at the Brian Coyle Community Center, 420 15th Ave S; and Thursday, **October 30**, 7-9pm, at Luxton Recreation Center, 112 St. Mary's Ave SE. I hope you can make at least one of these meetings, which will help define a vision for the new Southeast Library.
- 3) Mayor Betsy Hodges and Police Chief Janeé Harteau will host a series of public forums on public safety, police accountability, and public trust. The forums are scheduled for tomorrow, **October 8th** from 6:30-8pm, at Macedonia Baptist Church, 3801 1st Ave S; Tuesday, **October 14**, 7:30-9pm, Church of the Ascension, 1723 Bryant Ave N; and Thursday, **October 30**, 6:30-8pm, Brian Coyle Center, 420 15th Ave S. I'm glad that the Mayor and Chief are hosting these forums, and hope that they will help address the controversy created by the Chief's decision not to attend a similar community forum last month.
- 4) The most recent statistics from the police department indicate that crime is significantly down in Southeast Minneapolis. All crime is down **12.19%**, and violent crime is down **-5.76%**, comparing 2014 to date to the same period in 2013. I'm hoping that this positive trend continues.
- 5) Mayor Hodges has submitted her 2015 proposed budget to the City Council. The total proposed budget for all City funds is \$1.2 billion. This represents a \$54.7 million, or 4.8%, increase from the 2014 Council Adopted Budget of \$1.1 billion. The Mayor is recommending an overall increase of 2.38% in the property tax levy for the City and its independent boards, raising the total amount of property taxes collected by \$6.7 million. Given the growth in both our tax base and the demand on city services and infrastructure to support this growth, I feel that a modest levy increase is appropriate. The City has scheduled two public comment hearings on the proposed 2015 property tax levy and budget: **Nov. 18** at 6:05 p.m. and **Dec. 10** at 6:05 p.m. both in Room 317 of City Hall.

- 6) The Council has approved changes to how we regulate bars and restaurants to do away with the requirements that businesses maintain specific ratios of sales of food to alcohol. The intent, created in the City Charter over 30 years ago, was to make sure the businesses operated as restaurants rather than bars or nightclubs, therefore requiring businesses to closely monitor food and alcohol sale receipts. However, as costs of many types of craft beer and wine have increased the logic of using sales revenue support these ratios has disappeared. In place of these ratios, the Council has developed a new set of tools, including: a clearer definition of what a restaurant must do, including, for example, a fully equipped and functioning kitchen and staff for both the kitchen and service to customers; defining the bar area, thus limiting the amount of space restaurants can devote to entertainment and the primary consumption of alcohol; clarification of management responsibilities related to noise and negative secondary effects to the neighboring area; the city now has the authority to reduce hours, entertainment, and/or bar area when establishments are in violation in the code; we have increased the public hearing notice requirements; strengthening the necessary aspects of a business plan to reduce negative secondary effects; requiring alcohol server training. I supported these changes when they came through the Council, because I feel they will better address livability concerns about establishments that serve alcohol while giving small businesses more flexibility.
- 7) The ordinance amendment I authored to allow farmstands to operate more often and without a permit at community gardens, market gardens and urban farms, was approved by the full Council on September 19th. Farmstands will now be considered an “accessory use” at these locations. Only food grown at the garden or farm, or another garden or farm operated by the same producer may be sold at the farmstand between 7 am and sunset up to 75 days a year. At the Zoning and Planning Committee the proposal was amended to extend the hours from 7 pm to sunset and to no longer allow farmstands at community gardens. I supported the first amendment but opposed the second and was glad to see it amended again at the Council so that we will now also allow farmstands at community gardens. Allowing these small quantities of fresh, locally grown produce to be available for sale more often in more areas is one step we can take to support our hometown growers and help make this a more vital and healthier city for us all.
- 8) The conservation district ordinance I have been working on with staff for more than a year to come before the Zoning and Planning committee this Thursday, **October 9th**. Working with my colleagues, I have crafted amendments to the ordinance that will address some of the concerns I’ve heard that this ordinance could be misused to block development where it should really occur. I am hopeful that it will pass.
- 9) My proposed ordinance requiring a greater amount of healthy food in licensed grocery stores will be coming before the HECE committee on Monday, **October 20**. These new food standards are based on, but more flexible than, the Women, Infants and Children program standards. The requirements will apply to more types of stores (including dollar stores, pharmacies and department stores, which are all currently exempt), as long as they accept food assistance. You can read more here: <http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/health/278135071.html>
- 10) Absentee voting has begun. All voters now have the option to vote absentee either by mail or in person prior to Election Day. Voters can request ballots online. Applications are also available on the City's website and may be printed out and sent in anytime leading up to Election Day to have a ballot mailed out. All completed mail ballots must be received by the Elections & Voter Services Division by Election Day. Voters who wish to cast their absentee ballots in-person can do that at City Hall, 350 5th Street South. The regular hours are **Monday - Friday, from 8am-4:30pm**. The hours in the two weeks leading up to the Nov. 4 election will be **7am-6pm, Monday-Friday; 9am-4pm on Saturdays; and Noon-5pm on Sundays**.
- 11) As people continue to reflect on the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, I am reminded of the many times I have seen the kinds of police behaviors evidenced in Ferguson before. Abuses of police power, the shooting of unarmed black teenagers by police officers, threats against reporters and displays of force that turn peaceful protests into violent confrontations are familiar to many of us. To see how I think we should turn the anger and frustration so many of us are feeling into determination and real reforms see my blog.
- 12) On September 19 I began the process of amending Minneapolis’ ordinances to strengthen city regulations around so called “e-cigarettes.” My intent is to extend the State Clean Indoor Air Act to e-cigarettes. I hope to have a public hearing in October and passage this fall. There is an informative video about this issue here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-LAsTQ4wdc&list=UUket7tI3mOr1ScDTuUSREuw>.
- 13) Visit the City’s website for a [full list of appointment opportunities](#) and position descriptions for City boards and commissions. 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.