

Second Ward November 2015 E-newsletter

News from Cam Gordon

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Shooting of Jamar Clark. I am deeply concerned and saddened by the police shooting that occurred in Minneapolis on November 15. In the weeks ahead I will do whatever I can to ensure that justice prevails, that an open and transparent process is followed, that everyone has access to accurate information and that we learn from this to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in our city in the future. I commend the community, the Mayor and the Police Chief for mobilizing and responding to this terrible occurrence quickly. I commend Mayor Hodges for asking the federal Department of Justice to conduct an independent investigation into this incident. Moving forward, as a city government, we need to respond and lead in a thoughtful but decisive way that will earn the confidence of the family, community and all residents of Minneapolis. I encourage all parties with information to come forward and share that information, including video or photographic documentation, with the authorities and with the family and the public. I will always keep in mind that this incident is connected to deeper, long term, structural problems in our society, and I encourage others to do the same. Violence, particularly gun violence, is a deep-rooted and persistent problem in our city and in our country. Police violence is also a national problem and a problem right here in Minneapolis. Here, and throughout the United States, there is an undeniable racial component to the problem of police violence, rooted institutional racism. This racial inequity goes beyond police culture and practices, pervading our economic, educational and criminal justice systems.

Violence at the 4th Precinct. I was also deeply disturbed by the violence that occurred November 23rd at the 4th precinct where 5 individuals were shot by people not connected with the protesters, possibly opposed to the protesters message. I have heard from the Police Department that three of the people suspected of being responsible are being detained and one has been arrested. This is very good news, and I look forward to the persons responsible being held accountable for their violent actions. I want to express my deepest gratitude to the MPD for working so quickly and effectively to make these arrests and to all the individuals who provided information to them so that these arrests were possible.

2015 Budget Approval. Over past month the City Council Budget committee has been deeply engaged in reviewing the Mayor's 2015 proposed budget and has had presentations on the budgets of all city departments as well as several independent boards and agencies including the Municipal Building Commission, the Youth Coordinating Board, the Internal Auditor and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. In the weeks ahead, Council Members will be considering amendments, getting answers to questions that remain and conducting two public hearings. Prior to final approval of the 2016 budget there will be one last public hearing at City Hall, 350 South 5th Street, in room 317 **Wednesday, December 9** at 6:05 p.m. The Ways and Means Budget Subcommittee budget markup, when Council Members bring forward their amendments, will take place on December 4 and 7 at 1:00 p.m. The final budget adoption will take place on Wednesday, December 9, after the final public hearing. The Mayor's proposed budget is available online. The Mayor's budget address and budget hearings are available on Minneapolis 79 or online at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/budget/index.htm>. For more of my thoughts on the budget see <http://secondward.blogspot.com/2015/11/thoughts-on-mayors-2016-recommended.html>

Homicides the Year. I join and commend the Mayor and Police Chief for taking the rise in gun violence and homicides this year in the city very seriously. While this appears to reflect a disturbing national trend and while there has not necessarily been a spike in the second ward, it is something we should all be concerned about and just this week 2 young men were killed in the Seward neighborhood near the Second Ward. The total number of homicides so far this year is now over 40. This is approaching the highest it has been since 2006 when there were 57 homicides for the whole year. As a longtime member of the Youth Violence Prevention Executive Committee and a champion of our Public Health focused [Minneapolis Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence](#) I am especially concerned about the rise in youth homicides. So far this year, of the all homicides, 19 have been people under age 25 and 5 have been 17 or under. These are also at 5 year highs. It is also notable that 15 of those youth were died from being shot with a handgun. This makes the investments in Youth Violence Prevention in this year's budget especially important.

Emergency Shelter Ordinance. The ordinance I have crafted with Council Member Lisa Bender to allow smaller Emergency Shelters to operate in more places in Minneapolis was presented and heard at the Planning Commission on Monday, November 2nd, where it was unanimously recommended it for approval. It will be discussed and voted on at the December 3rd meeting of the Zoning and Planning Committee and will likely be considered by the full Council on December 11th. The ordinance will, if passed by the Council, allow small *emergency shelters* in many more places in the city and allow larger *overnight shelters* in limited locations with high-density zoning. The problem we're looking to solve is that there are too few shelter beds to meet the ongoing and increasing need, and nearly all of the shelters that do exist must be in religious places of assembly. There is a clear need for more safe and dignified shelter for homeless people in Minneapolis. This amendment will allow overnight shelters as a primary use in only the C2, C4, Downtown and Industrial Living districts. It will allow emergency shelters in most zoning districts, but with the number of beds limited by the zoning density, starting at a maximum of 6 in low density (R1) districts and never being greater than 32 (R5). In addition, I am authoring an ordinance that will require emergency shelters to be licensed by the City's Health Department (which is already responsible for licensing hotels, motels, boarding houses and etc.). This will likely come before the Council within the next few months.

Fair Scheduling Ordinance Voted Down. I was very disappointed when the Council, on a vote of 10-3, voted to kill the proposed ordinance on fair scheduling for workers, and having the City enforce state rules on violations like wage theft. I was also disappointed in Mayor Hodges' decision to withdraw her support from this ordinance. I continue to believe that scheduling is a major problem for low-wage Minneapolis workers. I have heard from people in my ward and throughout the City that they face abusive scheduling practices that make it difficult for them to support their families, including having to be "on call" for shifts that may not occur, having no advance notice of their schedules, having shifts canceled at the last minute without any compensation, being forced to "clopen" (or close late at night and open early in the morning) and more. I will continue to work on this issue. I believed, and continue to believe, that we can find a consensus that works for the small, struggling businesses in Minneapolis while offering most employees the sorts of protections that most middle-class workers take for granted. I want to thank my colleagues Lisa Bender and Elizabeth Glidden for their continuing support for this important work, and their courageous votes to keep this ordinance alive.

Paid Sick Time Ordinance. At the same time it voted to kill the fair scheduling ordinance, the Council voted to create a "partnership group" to study the earned sick and safe time ordinance, the only remaining portion of the Working Families Agenda being actively worked on by the City. This "partnership group" will include representatives of employees, including specifically low-wage

employees, representatives of organized labor, representatives of employers, including large and small employers, and immigrant-owned businesses, and representatives of business groups and associations. The group will be formed in November, and is directed to present its findings back to the Council next February. I continue to support adopting an earned sick and safe time ordinance to protect low-income Minneapolis workers, and to protect public health. I hope that what comes out of this process is strong enough to win my support.

Workplace Regulations Partnership. The City has created and appointed a working group specifically tasked with developing policy recommendations related to earned sick time and paid time off. The partnership group consists of 15 individuals, with representation balanced between the following stakeholder groups: employees, specifically low-wage employees; organized labor; employers, including large, small and immigrant-owned businesses, and representatives of business groups and associations.

New Policy for Growing Food on City-Owned Lots. The Council has passed a new set of policies around growing food on land controlled by the City's Community Planning and Economic Development department. I strongly supported these changes, which came from recommendations from the Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council, on which I serve. For the first time, the City is allowing market gardeners to lease City-owned land. We are making at least 47 additional lots available for food growing, giving growers on about half of those lots a longer lease term (three years rather than 1), and have reduced some of the barriers to growing, like the old, unnecessary \$250 security deposit we used to charge. To further reduce barriers to growing, I successfully made some amendments to reduce the application fee from \$100 to \$50 (after it was raised by the Community Development committee from \$25 to \$100) and to clarify that one application can be for multiple lots. I also brought an amendment that will prohibit the use of most pesticides on City-owned lots, in keeping with the Pollinator Friendly City resolution I authored earlier this year.

Minneapolis Retains "Gold" Bike-Friendly Status. The League of American Bicyclists has again awarded Minneapolis its Gold-level Bike Friendly Community status. We have been a Gold community since 2011. We were hoping to achieve the Platinum level, but clearly have not yet done everything we can to be a bicycle friendly community. Nearby Madison, Wisconsin, achieved Platinum status for the first time, as did the University of MN. Minneapolis is now one of 24 US cities with Gold-level status. I hope that in 2017 (the next time the League reassesses their rankings) we will have done enough to reach Platinum level. This will involve making progress on our Protected Bikeway Plan, but much more. The League judges communities on five different topics: Engineering (creating safe and convenient places to ride and park), Education (giving people of all ages and abilities the skills and confidence to ride), Encouragement (creating a strong bike culture that welcomes and celebrates bicycling), Enforcement (ensuring safe roads for all users) and Evaluation & Planning (planning for bicycling as a safe and viable transportation option). Find out more here: <http://www.bikeleague.org/content/new-platinum-new-gold-bicycle-friendly-communities>.

Clean Energy Partnership Adopts Metrics. The Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership has adopted its first set of metrics for its first two-year work plan. Among other things, the Partnership will track citywide greenhouse gas emissions, the number of people subscribed to clean energy (like community solar), the number of energy efficiency improvements like Home Energy Squad visits and the new multifamily energy efficiency program. I'm excited that many of these metrics will be measured at the census tract level, meaning that we will know if we're making progress towards ensuring that energy improvements in buildings are happening in low-income communities and communities of color.

Animal Care and Control Ordinances. Working closely with the Animal Care and Control director, my colleague Andrew Johnson is moving forward with a full rewriting of the City's Animal Care and Control Ordinance. The purpose of the changes are to ensure that our values and vision for being leaders in animal protection laws are mirrored in our code and respond to the changing world of animal welfare and the needs/demands of our community. Highlights of the proposed changes include. The new ordinance will allow people to keep reptiles and amphibians, set standards of care for all animal owners, shelters and partner rescue organizations and adds specific protocols to be considered in case of euthanasia, including creation and use of a rescue partner registry. I believe that these changes move our shelter to being more humane and will lead to fewer animals being killed in the future.

New Director of the Office of Police Conduct Review. With the departure of Michael Browne following his appointment by Governor Dayton to be a District Court Judge in Minnesota's Fourth Judicial District, the Civil Rights Department started a search for a replacement. In November I was happy to learn that Imani Jaafar was offered and has accepted the position and is our new director of the Office of Police Conduct Review for the Department of Civil Rights. The Office of Police Conduct Review is the city agency that investigates allegations of police misconduct made to the City. Jaafar will oversee the civilian side of the investigations, managing a staff of four: a legal analyst, two case investigators and a clerk. She'll work jointly on the investigations with Internal Affairs, which handles the Police Department's side of the work. I am very interested in reforming and strengthening the civilian oversight of our police and am hopeful that this change in leadership will offer fresh thinking on how to improve this important service.

Sign Up for Home Energy Squad. The City is offering free Home Energy Squad visits to income-qualified Minneapolis households while funds last. Qualified households have incomes less than \$35,310 for one person plus \$12,480 for each additional person. That's \$47,790 for two people, \$60,270 for three people, or up to \$122,670 for eight people. Homeowners can call 612-335-5874 to confirm eligibility and schedule a visit. Minneapolis households over the income limit can still receive the visit for \$70 – which includes a consultation, materials and labor. The Home Energy Squad visits bring energy efficiency experts to participants' homes to install energy-saving materials and make recommendations on energy-saving upgrades. To schedule a Home Energy Squad visit, call 612-335-5874 or visit mncee.org/hes-mpls. For a limited time, the City of Minneapolis also offers no-interest financing to participants making insulation and air sealing upgrades recommended by the Home Energy Squad. For more information about no-interest financing on recommended insulation and air sealing upgrades, call 612-335-5884.

Community Solar. The Council has taken two meaningful actions to move the City towards using more renewable energy. First, we authorized our Property Services staff to enter into a community solar agreement for up to 12,000,000 kilowatt hours of electricity. This came from a Met Council process, in which they put out a Request for Proposals and chose a community solar provider to serve a number of public entities. Second, when this came through committee we passed a staff direction that I authored, for the City to start our own, City-led process to create a Request for Proposals for additional community solar. For all of the good things about the Met Council process, there are additional values that the City might want to include in our RFP that the Met Council did not consider, including availability of subscriptions for Minneapolis residents and businesses, especially low-income people and people of color; significant cost savings to the City of Minneapolis; workforce participation from Minneapolis residents and compliance with the Small and Underutilized Business Program (SUBP) goals; stacked green infrastructure, including pollinator forage, stormwater management, or local food growing; location within the City of Minneapolis; ownership by Minneapolis residents, businesses, and property owners; ownership by the City of Minneapolis of the Renewable Energy Credits (RECs); and

capacity to expand solar energy generation at the existing facility. We directed staff to report to the Health, Environment and Community Engagement committee with a proposed RFP by February 1, 2016. I'm excited to see it - and to help get even more solar on the grid.

Rail Safety. The Council has passed a Rail Safety resolution that I strongly support. This resolution calls on the state and federal governments, as well as the railroads themselves, to do more to protect Minneapolis residents from the serious risks that some rail cargoes (like oil, ethanol and other hazardous materials) represent. I want to thank my colleagues Kevin Reich, Lisa Bender and Linea Palmisano for bringing this important resolution forward, and Mayor Hodges and Representative Frank Hornstein for their help on this critical issue. I continue to be concerned about the autonomy federal law allows the railroads and the obstacles local governments face in trying to regulate them in order to protect our communities.

Body Camera Funding. The Council has been offered and has accepted a grant award of \$600,000 from the US Department of Justice - Bureau of Justice Assistance for the implementation of the Body-Worn Camera Implementation Program. Last June we authorized the Police Department apply for this grant to the US Department of Justice – Bureau of Justice Assistance and in September the Department received notification of the grant award for its two-year program. The program will provide funding for the purchase of body-worn camera equipment for Patrol and other police divisions, as well as support the development of policies and procedures necessary to implement the technology that has major implications for privacy of community members. An equal local match is required as a condition of the award and our application budget anticipates a match of \$600,426. The matching funds have been identified in the Mayor's 2016 Proposed Budget. The Grant also requires personnel costs of two additional FTEs to the Police Department to support the Body-worn Camera Program, also included in the Mayor's 2016 Proposed Budget.

National Initiative Grant and Staff Position. The Council, with my strong support, has also voted to accept a grant award of \$120,000 from the US Department of Justice - Bureau of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) to fund a National Initiative for Building Community Trust and Justice Multi-Strategy Coordinator. The Police Department submitted an application for this grant position on August 12, 2015. The Coordinator position is funded for two years to support the city's participation in the three-year National Initiative for Building Trust and Justice. Minneapolis is one of six cities where research and development of best practices for building trust and justice with all residents of the city will be focused. The local program coordinator position will coordinate and track activities and data collection. The grant will fund approximately 58% the new position over two years of the grant. The grant requirements specify that the MPD will need to increase the number of authorized personnel in Police by 1 for 2016. This is required to avoid supplanting issues and has resulted in an additional appropriation, in 2016, for matching funding of \$48,000. These funds will also be needed for 2017. I am hopeful that this will put us on track to leverage more significant criminal justice reforms through this promising program, <http://nnscommunities.org/special-projects/community-trust-initiative>

Low Level Offenses and other Police Stops. On October 28 the Public Safety Committee received a report, in response to a staff direction CM Yang and I successfully passed late last year, on misdemeanor arrests in Minneapolis. It provided data on provide data on misdemeanor arrests, charging, prosecution and diversion by race, gender, age, geography, and offense for the years 2010-2014. Not un expectedly, racial and gender disparities were evident throughout the report. Of all the people arrested for misdemeanor offenses, for example, from 2009 to 2014, 60% of the people were African American and only 22% were identified as white. Forty-seven percent were identified as being black males. To see all

the data visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMS1P-150856> . I am hopeful that we will now be better able to track and share this data regularly and that it will provide the basis for future institutional; reforms.

Green Zones. The Health, Environment and Community Engagement committee has passed a resolution I co-authored with Council members Cano and A. Johnson that directs staff to develop a Green Zone Policy that the City Council could adopt in late 2016 and creates a the Green Zone initiative will be led by a Green Zone Policy Task Force comprised of community leaders (e.g., residents, businesses, environmental justice advocates, etc.) and City staff to lead this initiative. The Task Force will help facilitate a community-driven process to (1) define Green Zones and identify the Vision and Goals of a city-wide Green Zone Policy, (2) establish screening criteria for identifying areas that will be designated as Green Zones in the city, and (3) enumerate the programs, resources, and activities that will be targeted to designated Green Zones. This is an initiative approved as part of our Climate Action Plan. It is intended to not only address sustainability and greenhouse gas emission reductions, but also to address equity. More details can be found here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMS1P-151461>.

Civil Rights Department Commission Appointments. On December 2 the Public Safety Civil Rights and Emergency Management Committee will hold a public hearing to consider appointments to the Civil Rights Commission, the Police Conduct Review Panel and the Police Conduct Oversight Commission. For a list of the recommended applicants and more information see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMS1P-151585>

Contract Compliance Report. The 3rd Quarter Contract Compliance Report is now available and will be presented to the Council in December. The report has information about how well city contracts and projects and procurements meet goals of including minority or woman owned businesses and workers. Please review it here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMS1P-152129> if you are interested.

Neighborhood Revitalization Funds. After a year-long process of review by staff and neighborhood organizations, the Council has approved a policy change related to unexpended Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) funds. Among other provisions, the new policy will require the city Neighborhood and Community Relations staff to prepare a status report of each neighborhood's Phase I and Phase II Plans in chronological order based on the date of Phase II plan approval. If the neighborhood has not expended at least 85% and contracted at least 95% of the original plan allocation plus program income (for both Phase I and Phase II) by the seven-year anniversary of the Phase II plan's approval by the City Council, the neighborhood must submit a plan for achieving thresholds within one year; or complete a robust neighborhood review process to affirm or revise current strategies; or request a waiver. The full policy is available here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMS1P-150504>

Impound Lot and Service Improvements. The Council has approved a plan that would make significant changes and improvements to the City's impound lot. The approved plan will open a significant (roughly 10 acre) portion for future private development on the current western half and include the construction of a new up to date more functional service center.

Police Diversity. In October staff shared a report (<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/meetings/legislation/WCMS1P-150855>) about recent efforts, and

results, to better diversify the Police Department. It has been a priority of mine for some time to see a police department that better reflects the makeup of the City, and we are seeing some slow, but steady progress. In 2011 the force was made up of 18% people of color, in 2014 the number was 22%. Overall Hiring Results - Police Officer Recruits: 2013 to present Average increase in hires of color by 11% Slight increase in hires of females – continued efforts is essential. Police Cadets: 2015 14% increase in hires of color from 2014, Community Service Officers: 2013 to present, Average 12% increase in hires of color from 2013, 6% increase in hires of females from 2013

Mobile food vehicle vendor regulations. I have formally introduced an ordinance change, with Council Member Palmisano, to amend regulations for mobile food vehicle vendors that would lower the fees and make it easier for mobile food trucks to operate at farmers markets.

Composting regulations. CM Reich has introduced an ordinance amending Title 12, Chapter 244 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances relating to Housing: Maintenance Code, amending provisions related to composting to add new definitions of acceptable and prohibited materials and to clarify enforcement requirements for compost bins. The date for the public hearing has been set for December 1, 2015.

Reopening of Nicollet and Lake Project: 30 W Lake St. The Community Development committee has voted to recommend the Council authorize purchasing 30 W Lake St for \$5,275,000 based on a Purchase Agreement in order to close on December 1, 2015, leased fee estate of 10 W Lake St for an amount not to exceed \$8,000,000, subject to terms and conditions described. Passage of Resolution approving appropriation of up to \$6,275,000 within the CPED budget to provide temporary funding for the above-described actions (Refer to W&M).

10th Avenue Bridge. This month I expect the Council City to formally identify the rehabilitation of the 10th Avenue Bridge as our top bonding priority for the 2016 legislative session. The City will request \$31.875 million in state bonding for the necessary work to this important link over the Mississippi from the West Bank to Southeast. It accommodates a large quantity of motorized traffic but, perhaps more significantly, also serves as one of the most well used and critical connection for pedestrians and bicyclists in the city.

Food Council Open House. You are invited to the 2015 Minneapolis Homegrown Food Council open house, "Growing with the Next Generation." It will be held Thursday, **December 3, 2015**, 6:30 – 8:00pm at the Minneapolis Public Schools Davis Center, 1250 W Broadway Ave located on Metro Transit bus lines 5, 14 and 30. The program will include remarks from Council Member Blong Yang and Minnesota Department of Agriculture Commissioner Dave Frederickson; a presentation and taste test with Minneapolis Public Schools Culinary & Nutrition leaders and students; recognition of Food Council members; 2015 local food system highlights; Homegrown Heroes awards and a raffle.

MetroLab Network. The cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul and the University of Minnesota are now founding members of the recently created MetroLab Network. The network, announced at the White House's Smart Cities Forum in September, creates partnerships between metro areas and their universities to solve challenges in the arenas of infrastructure, city services and civic engagement. These challenges face urban areas nationwide. As network partners, Minneapolis, Saint Paul and the University of Minnesota will collaborate on smart solutions to challenges in our metro area and also throughout the 20 other cities and counties and 25 universities that have partnered in the MetroLab Network. The MetroLab Network will provide the opportunity to share successes, address challenges and build platforms for experimentation and data to increase the tangible results of new innovations.

The network is based on previous successes including transportation and water infrastructure projects that increased efficiency and reduced environmental impacts. Participation in the MetroLab Network will require that City/University partners develop a memorandum of understanding between home metro partners, designate representatives responsible for maintaining the collaboration with the MetroLab Network, and host an active set of research, development and deployment projects. The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation provided \$1 million in support of the launch of the MetroLab Network. MacArthur's grant is one of a small number of investments by the foundation in efforts to use data and information technologies to better understand how cities work and to improve the urban condition. The founding network members will organize a series of workshops to determine the parameters of network collaboration and appoint an executive director to manage network affairs. Learn more about the MetroLab Network.

Creative City Plan. The City of Minneapolis wants public feedback on a [draft plan](#) to make Minneapolis a better arts and creative city. For the past 18 months, a team of artists, City of Minneapolis staff, elected officials, community members and many creative minds has examined the past and current state of arts and culture in Minneapolis. The public comment period includes events to share the draft Creative City Road Map, inform the community about the vision of the plan and data behind the planning process, and collect feedback on key elements of the draft. The public can also [weigh in online](#) any time now through Nov. 10. Feedback will help inform the final plan and implementation.

Construction Up for 4th Consecutive Year. In September, the City of Minneapolis passed the \$1 billion mark for approved construction projects for the calendar year. That makes 2015 the fourth consecutive year Minneapolis has had more than \$1 billion in construction approved, based on the value of permits issued for that year. As expected, development around U.S. Bank Stadium and in other parts of downtown account for much of the city's new construction. The new stadium itself is not, however, among the top five valued projects for the year, since the majority of permits for its construction were acquired in 2014.

New Community Indicators. The City Council and mayor adopted community indicators (<http://minneapolismn.gov/coordinator/rm/communityindicators>) by which the City will assess progress towards meeting its goals. I am glad that these have been adopted and look forward to them being incorporated into our Results Minneapolis program. The set of community indicators is based on an extensive review of best practices from peer cities, community input and professional staff and policymaker feedback. A new program called "City Goal Results Minneapolis" will blend data and analysis from City departments and community stakeholders. This will include reports and conference meetings around indicated where staff and policy makes can review and discuss reports. Each "City Goal Results Minneapolis Roundtable" meeting will cover two community indicators. These meetings will kick off in December.

Recycling Supplies. Free recycling resources from Hennepin County, including recycling labels, bags for collecting recyclables and a recycling guide can be ordered online at http://www.hennepin.us/residents/recycling-hazardous-waste/get-resources-order-form?utm_source=hennepin.us%2Frecycleeverywhere&utm_medium=referral&utm_campaign=2015recycleeverywhere

University Avenue Innovation District. The City Council unanimously passed the resolution I authored declaring the University Avenue Innovation District. This is the first use of the Innovation District tool, which the Council created (by another resolution I authored) a few months ago. This resolution is very

important to the Prospect North area, and for the city as a whole, because Prospect North is one of the greatest opportunities we have in our city for transformative, innovative development. The area includes 370 acres, much of which is very underdeveloped old railroad land, abandoned grain elevators, and industrial uses. But it's located between the downtowns of Minneapolis and St. Paul, near the largest campus of one of the nation's top research universities, the U of M, and is now served by three light rail stations. Some new developments have already occurred in the area since the light rail line was completed or are underway – the new Surly Brewery, planning for a new Green Fourth Street to be constructed next year, a new grocery store with more than a hundred residential units above it, and more. Some are being planned – a new signature greenspace, affordable housing - some specifically for youth experiencing homelessness, some for seniors, a study of the area's traffic needs and more. This resolution is a small step towards realizing that vision. It establishes the area as a priority for work by the City, and opens us up to thinking in new, creative ways about how we will build infrastructure and support redevelopment efforts – through flexibility in our regulations and possibly new sources of funding.

Glendale. I want to be clear about one thing the Innovation District resolution doesn't do: it doesn't presuppose any redevelopment in any area and especially those with established residential development like 4th Street near Bedford or the Glendale Townhomes area. It is especially important to stress this about Glendale because of recent ideas floated about major redevelopment there by the Public Housing Authority. Any redevelopment or improvement plan for that area will follow a separate, open, transparent public process that will include participation of the neighborhood association and Glendale residents. Because I heard some concerns from Prospect Park and Glendale residents about the possibility that this resolution could have some impact on the ongoing Glendale conversations, I moved an amendment to make this explicit.

3rd Avenue Redesign. I enthusiastically support the planned redesign of 3rd Avenue in downtown, from 16th St S to the river. This redesign will include one of the City's premier protected bikeways and major improvements in greening and for pedestrians – and the costs of the project bear that out, with about half going to greening and half going to bikes. This is being accomplished by a 4 lane to 3 lane conversion on much of the corridor, by repositioning the greenspace on two blocks from a center median to a buffer for pedestrians and bicyclists, and by removing parking on two blocks. This project meets a longstanding need for a good north-south connection for bicyclists through downtown, and literally every other option (Nicollet Mall, Marquette and Second Avenues) has been ruled out. I want to thank Mayor Hodges and Public Works staff for all of their work to tee this up, and look forward to seeing it constructed next year. When this comes before the Transportation and Public Works committee, I will be prepared to make one amendment, if necessary: to increase the sidewalk width, increase greening, and continue the protected bikeway along City Hall, which will necessitate moving the current Police Department parking spaces.

Elevator Task Force. The Grain Elevator Task Force I organized has met once. In the upcoming months, we will be completing an inventory of grain elevators in Minneapolis (both vacant and in use), their owners, and historic status. The next step in the process will be to invite grain elevator owners to a meeting to discuss potential solutions.

Prospect Park Trail. Soo Line Railroad has replied to the City's request to preserve their right-of-way for trail use, saying that they are willing to negotiate for the portion of their corridor east of 27th Ave SE. I view this as a great first step to getting a trail built. City staff are beginning negotiations with the railroad, and I hope that we will reach an agreement in the next few months that will allow us to start

planning a bicycle and pedestrian connection from Franklin Ave SE to 27th Ave SE, along the abandoned rail line. City Planning staff are also working to ensure that the corridor to the east of 27th will be substantially preserved during the construction of a proposed housing development on that site.

Aeon Project. Aeon plans to construct a five-story residential apartment building, with one level of underground parking, on the former Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity site. The building will include 73 living units, with several communal spaces (i.e. community room and fitness room) on the first floor. They are seeking grant funds (\$102,000 apiece from the Met Council and Hennepin County) which, if awarded, will be used primarily for soil remediation and the installation of a vapor barrier in the new building.

117 27th Ave SE. Eley Partners plans to construct a five-story, 215-unit market rate rental apartment building with structured underground parking at 117 27th Ave SE. They are seeking grant funds (\$469,012 from DEED, \$81,295 from the Met Council, and \$81,295 from Hennepin County) which, if awarded, will be used primarily for soil remediation.

Openings on Boards and Commissions. 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. Visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm> for a list of appointment opportunities, position descriptions and the applications.

Open Office Hours in the Ward. I usually hold open “Office Hours” in the ward every Thursday morning from 9:30 to 11:00 am. Please feel free to call the office at 673-2202 to reserve some time or just stop by for a visit.

First Thursdays at the Oren Gateway Center, Nabo Café, 2211 Riverside Avenue;

Second Thursdays at Black: Coffee and Waffles, 1500 Como Ave SE;

Third Thursdays at Espresso Expose, 600 Washington Ave SE;

Fourth Thursdays at Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St.

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