



Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 11-23-15

Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
Espresso Expose, 600 Washington Ave SE
Thursday, December 17th, 9:30-11am

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Items:

- 1) Shooting of Jamar Clark
- 2) Emergency Shelters
- 3) Food Council Open House
- 4) Rail Safety Resolution
- 5) Community Solar
- 6) 2016 Budget
- 7) Land Access for Food Growing
- 8) Minneapolis Retains Gold Designation for Biking
- 9) Clean Energy Partnership Adopts Metrics
- 10) Openings on Boards and Commissions

1) 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. 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. That includes the City and the BCA – public authorities need to share the information we have as well. I also encourage our local news media to engage and work professionally and impartially to help us all as a community understand the facts, as well as the perspectives and personal accounts of those involved. 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 in white supremacy and institutional racism. This racial inequity goes beyond police culture and practices, pervading our economic, educational and criminal justice systems.

2) The shelter zoning ordinance I am coauthoring with my colleague Lisa Bender has passed the Planning Commission unanimously. The ordinance will, once 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. 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 defined by the zoning density, and will never be greater than 32. 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 hotels, motels, boarding houses and etc. through the Food, Lodging and Pools division). I look forward to seeing these ordinances pass the Council in the next month.

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Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612- 673-3737.

- 3) 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.
- 4) 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.
- 5) 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.
- 6) . Prior to final approval of the 2016 budget this December, there will one final public hearing at City Hall, 350 South 5th Street, in room 317 on **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 my blog at secondward.blogspot.com.
- 7) 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.
- 8) 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>.
- 9) 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.
- 10) 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.