



Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 11-19-15

**Cam's Next Longfellow/Cooper Office Hours:
Thursday, December 24th, 9:30-11:00am
Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St**

Items:

- 1) Justice for Jamar Clark
- 2) Fair Scheduling
- 3) Earned Sick and Safe Time
- 4) 29th Ave S Test Closure
- 5) Sign Up for Home Energy Squad
- 6) Emergency Shelters
- 7) Animal Care and Control Ordinances
- 8) Community Solar
- 9) Openings on Boards and Commissions

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Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612- 673-3737;

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

- 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) 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.

- 3) 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 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 soon, 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.
- 4) The test closure period for 29th Avenue S at the Midtown Greenway is complete, and City staff and my office are now trying to put together some next steps, not just for this intersection but for the 29th Ave bicycle boulevard. The vast majority of comments during the test closure were positive. Parents active through the Seward Montessori Safe Routes to School initiative are pushing for this closure to remain permanent, as are many of my constituents in both Seward and Longfellow. Public Works staff are considering adding the 29th Ave bicycle boulevard to the City’s capital improvements project list – and investigating whether a semi-permanent closure at this time makes sense until that project can be completed. I am supportive of the goals of this closure, including creating a more bike and pedestrian friendly 29th Ave that connects from the Greenway north to Matthews Park, Seward Montessori and the Franklin and Riverside bike lanes, and south to Minnehaha.
- 5) 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.
- 6) The shelter zoning ordinance I am coauthoring with my colleague Lisa Bender passed the Planning Commission unanimously yesterday evening. 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.
- 7) 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. To present potential changes and gather feedback on this work, the City is hosting a community meeting on November 2, 6:30-8:30 at Fuller Park, 4800 Grand Ave S. 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:
 - Better defines the City’s role and expands protections to all animals, not just domestic or companion
 - Increases transparency and accountability through enhanced record keeping
 - Includes expanded definitions and clarifies the City’s scope of authority
 - Simplifies application process and streamlines notification requirements
 - Introduces expected standards of care for all animal owners, shelters and partner rescue organizations
 - Adds specific protocols to be considered in case of euthanasia, including creation and use of a rescue partner registry
- 8) 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.
- 9) 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.