



# Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 7-16-15

**Cam's Next Longfellow/Cooper Office Hours:  
Thursday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9:30-11:00am  
Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St**

## Cam Gordon

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If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact

[NCR@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:NCR@minneapolismn.gov) or 612- 673-3737 (673-2157 TTY/VOICE)

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

Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612- 673-3737

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

## Items:

- 1) National Night Out
  - 2) Tobacco Ordinance.
  - 3) Protected Bikeway Plan
  - 4) Emergency Overnight Shelters
  - 5) Open Data Portal
  - 6) "Tiered Rental Housing
  - 7) Housing Ward and Neighborhood Profiles.
  - 8) Community Innovation Fund.
  - 9) Bus Shelter Removal
  - 10) Neighborhood and Community Engagement Plan.
  - 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions
- 1) National Night Out is August 4, this year and there is still time to register your event and apply to close your street/alley online here [http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno/nno\\_register](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno/nno_register) Generally, bus routes and high traffic streets cannot be used for block events and you will need permission of 75% of your neighbors to be approved for street closure. If you register by July 21 you can block your street for free. If you register from July 22 through July 29, there is a \$100 fee. You will not be able to block off your street if registering after July 29.
- 2) The Council has unanimously adopted the tobacco ordinance changes I have authored with my colleague Blong Yang. These changes will become effective on January 1, 2016 and set a minimum price of \$2.60 per stick for cigar products, (which currently sell for as little as three for 99 cents) and prohibits the sale of flavored tobacco products except at specialty, adult only, tobacco shops (stores for which tobacco accounts for over 90% of what they sell). This ordinance was based on the recommendations of our Youth Congress that these types of tobacco products are the most common entry point into tobacco use and nicotine addiction for our youth. I want to thank the advocates – especially the youth – and our Health Department staff for making this ordinance change possible.
- 3) The City Council has unanimously approved a Protected Bikeway Plan that calls for more than thirty miles of new protected bikeways to be built by 2020. Protected bikeways are physically-separated bike lanes that make more people – old and young, men and women – more comfortable riding a bike for transportation. When we look at the best bike cities in the world, like Copenhagen, it is clear that a network of protected bikeways is a large part of what has made them so successful. This plan responds to a recommendation from the Climate Action Plan, making clear that this is part of our ongoing work to fight climate change, as well as having major benefits for health and community vitality.
- 4) Council Member Bender and I are working on an ordinance amendment to better regulate "Overnight Shelters." To help us have a broader community conversation about this important but sometimes controversial subject, we are holding a community meeting at the North Regional Library (1315 Lowry Ave N) – Monday, July 27 from 5:30pm to 7pm. Please join us and learn more about our current rules, what other cities do and help us create a vision of what an ideal shelter system would look like in our city.

- 5) Open Data Portal. I was excited to see our efforts to make more information and data available to the public through our Open Data Policy approved last year. To learn more please see our first annual Open Data Compliance Report here. <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-143123.pdf>
- 6) The City has completed ranking all the rental properties in the city into the new three tier system first approved by the Council in 2011 and recently strengthened this spring to include increased fees for tier 2 and 3 properties. The results show that, of a total of 17,104 single family, duplex and triplex rental properties, 82% are in tier 1, 16% are in tier 2 and 3% are in tier 3. Of the 6,477 apartment buildings, 95.8% are in tier one, 3.7% in 2 and only 0.5% (or 34) are in tier 3. Tier one properties have no or few problems and are considered to be well maintained and managed. Tier two properties are maintained to minimum standards but have some issues that require some city services. Tier three properties are ranked as poorly maintained or managed and require excessive city services. Properties in the higher tiers will be inspected more frequently and charged higher fees. Properties in the lowest tier will be inspected less frequently and have lower fees. All properties will be evaluated annually to determine the tier they will be assigned to.
- 7) The Department of Regulatory Services unveiled a new initiative that makes a wealth of data available to the general public. Reports, interactive maps and profiles can be used to see trends, to obtain specific information, to learn more about what the department does and to find further resources and tools. This includes very informative and detailed ward level and neighborhood level profiles. It is a gold mine of information for policy makers and community activists alike. I encourage you to dig in and use it. Get started at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/regservices/WCMS1P-135530>
- 8) The Health Environment and Community Engagement Committee has approved the first round of funding partners for the Community Innovation Fund (CIF). This program provides funding to neighborhood organizations for projects that address City goals. Unlike the Community Participation Program, which provides funding to neighborhoods on a formula basis, the CIF would allocate funding on a competitive basis. The source of the \$300,000 in funding is from the Consolidated Tax Increment Financing District. Congratulations to Longfellow Community Council who was awarded \$18,000 to partner with the Metro Blooms, the Longfellow Business Association and Project for Pride in Living to develop 40 raingardens throughout the neighborhood.
- 9) Metro Transit recently acquired 150 transit shelters in the City of Minneapolis from CBS Outdoors, a private advertising agency. Each of these shelters have been assessed to determine which should be replaced or removed permanently and one has been identified for permanent removal in Longfellow 39th Ave and East Lake Street, east bound. It is scheduled to be removed on or after July 24, 2015. Metro Transit's current guidelines require a transit stop in Minneapolis to have a minimum of 40 daily boardings to be considered for a shelter. It is our practice to permanently remove transit shelters from bus stops where ridership falls below 50% of the minimum daily boarding requirement or at bus stops with less than 20 customers boarding each day. This stop averages 8 passengers a day.
- 10) The Neighborhood and Community Relations (NCR) department is seeking comments on [the draft Blueprint for Equitable Engagement Plan](#), by **Friday, August 14**. This is a multi-year plan to improve the community engagement system in Minneapolis, and guide the work of NCR and the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission through 2020. Called the Blueprint for Equitable Engagement, it is intended to foster more inclusive and authentic participation in the City's community engagement work. I expect a final draft to be considered by the City Council by the end of this year. And believe that this could be an effective tool to strengthen the work of neighborhood organizations and make them a more useful and permanent part of our city into the future. One informational meeting on the draft plan was held Tuesday, July 14, at Van Cleve Park, and a second will occur on **Tuesday, August 4, 6:30-8:00p.m. at the Heritage Park, Community Room, 1000 Olson Memorial Hwy**. You can also provide your comments in writing to [ncr@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:ncr@minneapolismn.gov). Visit the <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/initiatives/EquitableEngagement> to learn more.
- 11) 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.