



Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 10-15-15

Cam's Next Longfellow/Cooper Office Hours:
Thursday, October 22nd, 9:30-11:00am
Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St

Items:

- 1) Working Families Agenda
- 2) Minimum Wage Study
- 3) Xcel Resource Plan – Major Win for the Environment
- 4) Ordinance on Fees for Rescue Services
- 5) Public Art Ordinance
- 6) Draft Arts Plan
- 7) Blueprint for Equitable Engagement Redraft
- 8) Constuction Up
- 9) Street Cleaning
- 10) 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;

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.

- 1) Earlier this year, a powerful coalition of advocates for poor workers and workers of color put forward a Working Families Agenda for Minneapolis to adopt. That agenda has four key pieces: earned sick and safe time, an end to wage theft, fair scheduling, and a local Minneapolis minimum wage. I support all four of those initiatives, and I will continue to work for them. I am disappointed that the Mayor has chosen to withdraw her support for fair scheduling, and I am disappointed that more of my Council colleagues were not more supportive. I believed, and continue to believe, that a compromise on fair scheduling that would work for our small businesses and our lowest-paid employees is possible and achievable. **I continue to support fair scheduling**, and will continue to try to make this vitally necessary change. As hard as it is to admit, our city has growing disparities between the haves and have-nots. While our economy booms, people of color are actually doing worse economically than they did a few years ago. Many poor people and people of color have to cobble together a livelihood from two or more part-time jobs. Giving people in this situation a day's notice or less for a shift they are expected to work – or canceling a shift they had planned to work – has major implications for their ability to pay rent and feed their families. And some employers do take advantage of this situation, using “just on time” scheduling to minimize their risks by placing those risks on their employees. That's unacceptable to me. Allowing employers to not communicate hours that are available to their part-time workers is similarly unacceptable. Going forward, I will continue to support the Working Families Agenda. I will support requiring earned sick and safe time for all Minneapolis employees, and having the City take more enforcement action when wage theft and other existing violations of workers' rights take place. And I will push for us to continue the good and necessary conversation we've started on fair scheduling – and the adoption of our own Minneapolis minimum wage. To get more involved in helping please see www.Mplsworks.org and #Mplsworks .
- 2) On September 25th the City Council approved moving forward with a request for proposals for a study about the possible effects of establishing of a higher minimum wage for Minneapolis and the region. I look forward to seeing the proposals that we receive, and to moving this important work forward.
- 3) Xcel Energy has made changes to its proposed Integrated Resource Plan that are very much in line with the City's comments. Among the commitments they have made: 60% carbon reduction by 2030, phasing out coal burning at Sherco units 1 and 2 in the early 2020s, and dramatically increasing the amount of renewable energy in their portfolio. It's clear that Xcel was listening to the City, and to the Clean Energy Partnership. Among the statements from this filing: “our customers increasingly want cleaner energy. More of our customers are asking us to provide options for all renewable energy or are making individual or corporate commitments to sustainability and the environment. Likewise, our cities are making commitments to sustainability.”

- 4) I supported an ordinance authored by Council President Barb Johnson that authorizes the Fire Department to seek cost recovery for technical rescue services necessitated by trespassing or the violation of any other law. The ordinance permits the city to charge fee to any person receiving such technical rescue services based upon trespassing or other law violation and to the owners of the affected property, and makes all such persons jointly and severally liable for such charges. It is my hope that this will help provide a disincentive for “urban explorers” to get into dangerous situations in abandoned elevators, and to the owners of such buildings to keep them secured.
- 5) The Council has approved Council Members Reich and Glidden’s ordinance amendment to establish dedicated funding source for public. The proposal, I supported, dedicates an annual allocation of 1.5% percent of the equivalent of the annual net debt bond (or the property tax supported bonds issued to finance general infrastructure improvements) to the commissioning, siting, placement, maintenance, and conservation of public art. If approved, this would guarantee a predictable funding stream for public art projects, while at the same time allowing for fluctuations based on the City’s annual budget. For further information on the proposal see <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-148646.pdf>
- 6) The City 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.
- 7) All the comments that were offered during the 45 day review period will be used to redraft the blueprint and another public comment period will be opened later this fall for additional input on the redrafted document. I am grateful to everyone who participated in an information sessions or provided input. This plan has the potential to significantly improve how the city supports and benefits from neighborhood organizations for decades to come. To learn more visit: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/initiatives/EquitableEngagement>.
- 8) 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.
- 9) City crews will begin curb-to-curb sweeping and leaf collection on streets throughout the city Tuesday, October 20. During the four weeks of the comprehensive fall street sweep, crews will clean up about 1,100 miles of city streets. “No Parking” signs will be posted at least 24 hours in advance so streets will be clear of cars when they’re swept. The first signs will be posted Monday, Oct. 19, and sweeping will begin the next day. Anyone who parks on the street will need to follow street sweeping parking rules or their cars may be ticketed and towed. The City will use Facebook and Twitter to post periodic street sweeping updates and information. Facebook: To “like” the City of Minneapolis Facebook page, go to www.facebook.com/cityofminneapolis. Twitter: To follow the City’s Twitter account, go to www.twitter.com/CityMinneapolis.— Folks can use a feature on the City’s website to find out when the sweepers are coming through their neighborhoods. The tool will be available at www.minneapolismn.gov/streetsweeping. The website will show which week any street is scheduled to be swept. Then, starting on each weekend, the daily sweeping schedule for the upcoming week will display. Minneapolis streets are swept completely curb to curb once in the spring and once in the fall. Residents should not push leaves, grass clippings, or other debris into City streets – it’s bad for our lakes and waterways, can cause safety hazards, and is against the law. Anything that goes down a storm drain flows directly into our lakes and river, and decomposing plant material in the water encourages the growth of harmful aquatic plants and algae.
- 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.