

Second Ward January 2016 E-newsletter

News from Cam Gordon

Council Member, Second Ward

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2>

<http://secondward.blogspot.com>

www.facebook.com/camgordonward2

2015 Highlights. There is little doubt that 2015 was a challenging year for the City of Minneapolis. With the death of Jamar Clark in late November and through the protests that followed, we have had to face ongoing impacts of historical and present-day racism and injustice and our City government is struggling to find a way to respond with meaningful changes. But 2015 also saw the success of many initiatives the Second Ward office has championed. From the successful repeal of the City's antiquated and unjust ordinances that criminalized "lurking" and spitting to passage of the ordinance that allows more flexibility for siting emergency shelters, to a resolution declaring Minneapolis a pollinator-friendly city, to the resolution divesting from fossil fuels and urging other entities to divest, to formation of The Clean Energy Partnership, which I worked to create and on which I serve, to the [ordinance](#) prohibiting flavored tobacco except at tobacco-only retailers, and set a minimum price for cigars and cigarillos, there is a lot that is noteworthy. To see a more detailed accounting of 2015 highlights see my weblog at <http://secondward.blogspot.com/2016/01/accomplishments-for-2015.html>

16 for '16. I believe that 2016 offers enormous potential for the city to show leadership in addressing some of the most pressing and serious issues of our time, including environmental degradation and climate change; racial disparities in health, education and employment; criminal justice and police reform; the widening income gaps and shrinking middle class and much more. At <http://secondward.blogspot.com/2015/12/priorities-be-for-2016.html>, in alphabetical order, is our Second Ward working draft of 16 priorities for 2016. I welcome you to read them and let me know what you think is missing, what's there that shouldn't be and which of them you think should be top priorities for next year.

Recycling Contract. I was delighted to learn that staff will be recommending that the Council approve contracting with Eureka Recycling for recycling processing services. On **February 2** I expect the Transportation and Public Works committee to concur with the staff recommendation and recommend that we authorize a contract with Eureka Recycling for the processing and marketing of commingled recyclables for a period of five (5) years for 100% of the City's recyclable volume. I am hopeful that Eureka will be an invaluable partner as we move forward developing and implementing a zero waste plan for Minneapolis. You can learn a little more here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-172727>

Animal Care and Control Ordinance. Following the public hearing held at the Health Environment and Community Engagement Committee in January, I expect the full Council to approve significant amendments to our Animal Care ordinance on February 12. This amendment, authored by Council Member Andrew Johnson, is a major rewrite of our Animal Care and Control ordinance that I believe will bring our policies and practices into better alignment with community expectations to be an animal friendly city, using best practices for humanely regulating animals in urban areas. The new ordinance provides more transparent protocols for use of euthanasia, transfer to rescue partners, and holding period for stray and surrendered animals that I am hopeful will help us reduce the number animals being killed by the city. The drafted ordinance is available at

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMS1Q-077545> . If passed it would, among other things, remove the requirement for neighbors to sign off on backyard chicken owners with flocks of less than six birds; allow people to keep non-toxic, non-venomous, non-poisonous reptiles and amphibians as pets; stipulate that if “nuisance” animals such as raccoons and squirrels are to be trapped, it must be done using humane methods to allow them to be released to the wild; eliminate the requirement for a rabbit license; prohibit the use of bullhooks with elephants; and, would increase the number of mature pets allowed in one home or apartment from 3 to 4 (no more that 3 of which can be dogs) unless a “multiple animal” license has been issued to the resident.

Food Trucks. An amendment I am co-authoring, with Council member Palmisano, was recommended for approval by the Community Development and Regulatory Services committee following a public hearing on January 19. We initiated the improvements in response to farmers market operators who wanted to make it easier for Food Trucks to operate at the Markets. Without this amendment, a food truck can only set up at a farmers market by getting another license - on top of their regular food truck license. If this passes the full Council on January 29, they'll just have to be welcomed by the farmers market manager and they'll be able to use their regular license. Thanks to the Food Council, the market managers and food truck operators for bringing this great change forward. We also clarified street parking to 20' away from an intersection and 30' away from a traffic sign or signal, remove food truck operations on sidewalks and eliminate the minimum number of days per year a licensed food truck must operate. The amendments improve safety, streamline permit and licensing requirements and support better business relationships between food trucks and farmers markets.

Department Head Appointments. The Executive Committee, at the Mayor's request, has recommended that the Council consider re-nominating all the remaining major department heads whose appointments officially ended at the close of last year: the City Coordinator (Spencer Cronk), the Health Commissioner (Gretchen Musicant), the Police Chief (Janee Harteau), the Fire Chief (Joh Fruetel), the City Assessor (Patrick Todd), the City Rights Director (Velma Korbel), the Community Planning and Economic Development Director (Craig Taylor) and the City Attorney (Susan Segal). Prior to committee votes on these reappointments, public hearings will be held as follows: City Coordinator and City Attorney on February 10th, 10:00am at the Committee of the Whole meeting; Health Commissioner on February 1, 1:30 pm, at the Health Environment and Community Engagement Committee; the Fire Chief, Civil Rights Director and Police Chief on February 3, 1:30pm at the Public Safety, Civil Rights & Emergency Management Committee; the Community Planning and Economic Development Director on February 2, 1:30pm at the Community Development & Regulatory Services Committee; and The City Assessor on February 8th, 1:30pm at the Ways and Means Committee. Efforts are also underway, led by the Mayor's office, to find candidates to lead the three major departments where a department head has recently resigned: Public Works, Finance and Regulatory Services.

2015 Construction Recap – City staff reported that there was a total of \$1.389 billion in construction projects started in 2015 based on the value of permits issued. This is the fourth consecutive year that we have had more than \$1 billion in construction projects approved since 2000. It is down from last year's \$2 billion high, which makes it the second highest so far this century. Hotel development proved to be a trend in 2015 with four new developments and one remodel. Three of the new hotels were located in downtown but one is located in the Second ward with the Hampton Inn & Suites located at 2812 University Avenue SE (\$9,732,000), which is under construction near the University of Minnesota. Because of these projects, a total of 926 rooms will be added to the city's hotel allotment. Housing development also played a big role in 2015 with rental housing leading the way with 17 new apartment projects located throughout the city. Other major developments over \$1 million included: a new

headquarters for Excel Energy, several mixed use commercial properties and office buildings outside of downtown, and numerous public school remodels, including Seward Montessori School. Behind the downtown wards (3, 7 and 5) which saw the most construction, Ward 2 saw the 5th most, a ways behind Ward 13's \$102.6 million. Construction projects approved in the Second Ward in 2015 are valued to be worth \$66,371,734. Development is not projected to slow in 2016. The Planning Commission has already reviewed several major projects which are anticipating permit approvals in early 2016.

Park Referendum. The Park Board has passed a resolution expressing their intent to put a referendum on the ballot seeking a defined and increased source of capital dollars for parks. This resolution has been vetoed by Mayor Hodges, but in her veto communication she notes that she is generally supportive of the goal of increasing capital dollars for parks, but does not support some of the specific terms of the Park Board's proposed referendum. I am also generally supportive of increasing and better defining capital dollars for our parks. I look forward to being able to support a final referendum proposal that has broad support among Minneapolis policymakers and the community. I should note that there is also a discussion beginning about the possibility of the City seeking a referendum to address the deferred investments in our street infrastructure, and I am also generally supportive of this idea.

Organics Recycling Goes Citywide This Spring. The City started collecting organic waste from about 12,000 residences for composting last year. Starting this spring, the rest of the city will be able to recycle organics too. The City is working on a residential delivery list to distribute more than 19,000 organics carts for the spring. To get on that list, residents must sign up by **February 1**. Those who sign up after that date will get their carts in the summer. To join the program, call 612-673-2917 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday, or email SWRcustomer@minneapolismn.gov. This is a service already provided as part of your city utility bill so there is no additional cost to participate.

Organics recycling includes:

- All food scraps including fruits, vegetables, bones, meat, breads, pasta, nut shells, eggshells and dairy products.
- Non-recyclable and food-soiled paper products including paper towels, napkins, facial tissues, waxed paper, egg cartons and pizza boxes.
- Certified compostable paper cups, plates, bowls, utensils, bags and takeout containers.
- Other compostable items including coffee grounds; tea bags; wood chopsticks, Popsicle sticks and toothpicks; hair; and houseplant trimmings.

Bottineau LRT Line. On **February 2** at 9:30am The Transportation and Public Works Committee will get a presentation, hold a public hearing and then vote on whether or not to recommend consent (or approval) to preliminary designs submitted by the Metropolitan Council for the extension of the Blue to the northwest. The METRO Blue Line Extension (Light Rail), currently ends downtown, but the plans are to extend it northwest from downtown through north Minneapolis via Olsen Memorial Highway to Golden Valley, Robbinsdale, Crystal and Brooklyn Park. The estimated \$1.5 billion proposal includes the building of 11 stations along the route including 2 new stations in Minneapolis at Penn and Van White Boulevard when the line is proposed to travel down Olsen Memorial Highway into and out of downtown and a station at either Plymouth or Golden Valley road near Minneapolis after the routes heads north in the Burlington Northern Santa Fe rail corridor on the east side of Theodore Worth Park. For more information visit: <http://www.metrocouncil.org/Transportation/Projects/Current-Projects/METRO-Blue-Line-Extension.aspx>.

Governor's Bonding Proposal. I was glad to see that the Governor's 2016 state bonding proposal of \$1.4 billion in state funding includes two of the City's three priorities. I was especially pleased to see that he is included \$31.875 million in funding for 10th Ave Bridge rehabilitation. Additionally he has set 2.4 million to go to improve our Emergency Operation Training Facility. The city's third priority, Soldiers and Pioneers Cemetery, is not slated for funding. Other projects recommended for funding in Minneapolis that may be of interest include funds for the U of M Twin Cities Campus, U of M Health Sciences Education Facility, Minneapolis Veterans Home Truss Bridge Project, Medical Examiner's Facility, South Minneapolis Workforce Center, Fort Snelling, and the Mill City Museum. You can learn more here: http://www.mn.gov/governor/images/2016_01_15_snapshot_jobs_bill_by_county.pdf

New Community Action Agency. The Minneapolis City Council is required under state law to designate a new Community Action Agency to serve Minneapolis residents, in order for us to participate in the Community Action program that was established in 1964 by federal law. The program's purpose is to assist low-income individuals and families to acquire useful skills and knowledge to become economically self-sufficient. A public hearing regarding the recommended designation of the Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin as the Community Action Agency for the City of Minneapolis was held January 27. You can review the website for Community Action Partnership of Suburban Hennepin here <http://www.capsh.org>. I expect the Council to approve their designation at our next meeting.

Enterprise Racial Equity Supplier Diversity plan. On January 27 the Council received a report on supplier diversity and approved a 5 year work plan to address racial and gender disparities in businesses we both contract with and purchase from. In 2012 we found that of the over \$6 million we spend on procurement each year, less than \$125,000 was going to minority owned businesses. I am hopeful that this targeted and coordinated citywide effort will help us "put our money where our mouth is" and contribute to closing the gender and racial income, employment and wealth disparities in Minneapolis. To see the presentation of the plan that the committee approved, visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-172307>.

Gun Violence CDC Resolution. In cooperation with colleagues from across the country as part of the [National Network to Combat Gun Violence](#), next week I will be introducing a resolution, which, if passed, will call on the Congress to pass, and the President to sign, legislation that would repeal the ban on gun violence research as a public health crisis through the Center for Disease Control. Gun violence is clearly a public health issue. Minneapolis has recognized this for a long time. Indeed it is an important element of our Youth Violence Prevention plan. As a City and a nation we need our best scientific minds and resources to help us address this major public health crisis which resulted in 12,518 deaths and 22,886 injuries in the United States in 2014. I am hopeful that this resolution will be considered and passed by our Intergovernmental Relations Committee on **February 18th**.

Green Zones. The Resolution that would create a work group to draft a Minneapolis Green Zone Policy that passed the Health Environment and Community Engagement Committee will be considered at the next Community Development and Regulatory Services Committee meeting. They will be reviewing a substitute motion I helped work on to incorporate some ideas and address some concerns brought forward by Council Member Reich. I feel confident that this compromise resolution and framework has a good potential to yield successful results and will be interested in learning how external stakeholders perceive the changes as well as hopeful they will consider this effort still worthy of their involvement, which will be critical to its success. You can find the latest version of this resolution here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/cdrs/WCMSP-172945>

Car Sharing. The Council has set a public hearing for **February 2**, at 9:30 am to take comments on a new Car Sharing policy and ordinances that would add Car Share Operators to the list of staff-approved business license and add a new Title XI authorizing the Public Works Director to regulate car share operators doing business in the City. You can find the full policy and draft ordinance here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMS1P-152019>

Future Housing Investments. The City, through our Community Planning and Economic Development department, is seeking feedback about recommendations from the recently completed report on the City's housing investments in single family and low-density rental housing from 2008-2014. This includes an online survey that people are encouraged to take through January 31. The draft report, City of Minneapolis Foreclosure Response Housing Investment Analysis: 2008-2014, can be found here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/documents/report/wcms1p-151426.pdf> Recommended strategies are: Direct a majority of resources to clearly defined target areas of 15 blocks or less; Designate Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Areas (NRSA) in target neighborhoods; Deploy a more comprehensive strategy for rental development that provides more choices for a range of income levels and promotes de-concentration of affordable housing; Allocate a portion of affordability gap financing dollars to city-owned properties in stronger market areas, where development subsidies are not required, to provide low-to-moderate income families the option to live in high opportunity neighborhoods. The final report will incorporate comments about recommended strategies received during a series of open houses in November and responses to the survey. You can take the survey here <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TFB8HCK> There will also be additional opportunities for community feedback if the City of Minneapolis moves toward implementation of the strategies recommended in the report.

Election & Voter Services Division Recognized. The Fair Elections Legal Network (FELN) has selected Minneapolis's Elections & Voter Services Division as an example of "best practices" for local initiatives designed to improve voter experiences. FELN is a national, nonpartisan voting rights, legal support, and election reform organization whose mission is focused on removing barriers to registration and increasing participation in elections, particularly among underrepresented constituencies. It is great to see our efforts on removing barriers to registration and engaging underrepresented communities recognized in this way by a prominent, national organization. The report identifies our Student Election Judge program; Voter Ambassador program; and elections-specific website (vote.minneapolismn.gov) as 3 examples of best practices. Congratulations to our dedicated and talented elections staff and city clerk's office for this well deserved recognition.

Public Safety/Civil Rights Updates. In January the Public Safety, Civil Rights & Emergency Management Committee received brief reports reviewing of 2015 and updates on "what to expect in" 2016 from the Civil Rights Department, Fire Department, Emergency Communications/911, Office of City Attorney/Criminal Division and the Police Department. Among many things we learned that last year Minneapolis police response to roughly half a million 911 calls, that there was an increase of 6.67% in violent crime; but decreases of 12% in burglaries, 25% in theft from motor vehicles and 11% in other thefts. To view the power point presentation visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-172216>

Winter Cycling Congress. The fourth annual Winter Cycling Congress is coming to Minneapolis next week. In fact, it's coming to Ward 2 – at the Commons Hotel on the East Bank. We are the first US city to host this event, which is a three-day professional development conference that offers opportunities

to learn best practices about winter-specific bicycle and pedestrian planning. It's a great way to showcase the significant improvements in biking in Minneapolis, including in the wintertime, and has also spurred the City to look even more closely at winter. For example, I know that hosting this conference helped encourage Public Works staff to start the City's first winter bike and pedestrian facility maintenance survey this winter. I'm proud that my office played a role (along with the Mayor and Council Member Bender) in applying to host this event, and have helped plan and organize it. I look forward to attending, and hearing the creative solutions that winter cities all over the world have come up with for building and maintaining infrastructure that works well for biking year-round, and encouraging people to get out and ride it.

Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance. The Council will be setting the Public Hearing for the Bring Your Own Bag ordinance for **March 21** at 1:30 pm. In the meantime Council Member Warsame and I are reaching out to interested businesses and organizations. Please contact my office if you would like more information or if your group would like a presentation about why we are proposing this and what it would mean for Minneapolis.

Perc Ordinance. On **February 1** the Health Environment and Community Engagement Committee will hold a public hearing on an ordinance amendment that would limit or prohibit the use of certain solvents including tetrachloroethylene or perchloroethylene (or "perc") at new dry cleaning establishments. You can find the draft ordinance here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/all/index.htm>

Energy Data Ordinance. Also on **February 1**, the Health Environment and Community Engagement Committee will hold a public hearing on amendment to our energy data ordinance, clarifying the standards of acceptable energy data and stating the schedule of public disclosure of the received data. For more information visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMS1P-152815>

Emergency Shelters Ordinance. My amendment to add a license to better regulate recently allowed emergency shelters in the city will come before the Health Environment and Community Engagement Committee on **March 21**. This is a follow-up to the successful ordinance to allow these new, smaller emergency shelters in more places in the city that passed last year.

CLIC Appointee needed. I am seeking a new person to represent Ward 2 on the City's Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee (CLIC). This is a very important group that helps the City plan for our long-term capital spending and bonding. Thank you to Lindsey Wollschlager for her service.

Urban Scholars. The City is once again offering the Urban Scholars program this summer and is now seeking applicants for the program. Urban Scholars is a leadership and professional development internship program providing students from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds with distinctive professional experience. Urban Scholars provide support to assigned departments within the City, State and Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board for 32 hours per week as well as participate in the Urban Scholars Leadership Institute 8 hours per week. To qualify people graduate students must be enrolled and in good standing at an accredited 2- or 4- year college, university, graduate program, or law school; or must be a recent graduate with a degree conferred between December 2015 and May 2016. Undergraduate students must have completed their first year of post-secondary education and be prepared to participate on a full-time basis (40 hours per week) for 12 weeks.

STEP-UP Summer Jobs. Eligible Minneapolis youth ages 14-21 who have until February 5, 2016, to complete an application for 2016 Step-UP summer internships at http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/metp/cped_stepup. This is a great program that serves youth who face some of the greatest barriers to employment, including youth from disadvantaged economic backgrounds, youth of color, youth from recent immigrant families, and youth with disabilities. Since the program was launched in 2004, it has provided over 21,000 internship opportunities. In addition to summer jobs with more than 230 top Twin Cities companies, nonprofits and public agencies, STEP-UP also offers work readiness training, advanced-level internships and industry-specific career opportunities that help interns integrate their career exposure with post-secondary education and career planning. Prior to being placed in their internships, youth receive work readiness training and throughout their internship, they gain valuable on-the job skills, make strong professional connections, and become exposed to careers they may have not otherwise accessed. Last year more than 1,600 Minneapolis youth were placed in jobs with over 200 businesses, public agencies, and nonprofits. Youth represented in the 2015 class were 91% youth of color, 40% youth from recent immigrant families, and 12% youth with disabilities or other significant barriers to employment. 30% spoke fluently in a language in addition to English, representing 38 different languages from around the world. Businesses, public agencies and nonprofits interested in employing interns in 2016 can find information at http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/metp/step-up_employer. STEP-UP is a City of Minneapolis program in partnership with AchieveMpls, Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and Project for Pride in Living.

Franklin Avenue Traffic Calming and Bike Lanes. On January 21 at Cabrini Church the city convened a meeting to present plans for changing the layout of Franklin Ave SE between Thornton and Emerald when Franklin is resurfaced late this summer. This segment of Franklin has generated a lot of concerns about traffic speeds and requests for traffic calming. It is also identified as a good corridor for bike lanes in the "Bridging the Gap" report that the Prospect Park neighborhood worked on with St. Anthony Park, and the Minneapolis Bicycle Master Plan. This corridor is now a gap between several existing and planned bikeways, including bike lanes on Franklin Ave in St. Paul, bike lanes on 27th Ave SE, the East River Pkwy trail, and future protected bike lanes on the Franklin Ave Bridge. Currently, on-street parking is permitted on both sides of Franklin for most of the project corridor. In order to install dedicated bicycle lanes and establish consistent, standard, and narrow travel-lane widths (which have proven successful in reducing travel speeds), the City is proposing removing parking on both sides of the street. A parking study along Franklin Ave SE found that parking utilization is at 3 percent of total capacity, except near Cabrini during church services. Public Works is proposing an alternative solution to temporarily accommodate this high demand parking. To learn more visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/bicycles/projects/WCMS1P-152870>. You may contact me or Simon Blenski (612-673-5012, simon.blenski@minneapolismn.gov) with specific questions about the design. There will be another public meeting about the resurfacing project itself and associated assessments on March 8, at 6:30 PM at the Luxton Rec Center, 112 Williams Av SE. The Project Manager for the resurfacing project is Chris Trembath (612-919-1196 or Chris.Trembath@minneapolismn.gov).

Southeast Como Small Area Plan. City staff have received and reviewed the Como Blueprint small area plan that was approved by the Southeast Como Improvement Association late last year. It is now ready to move forward through the formal city review and approval process with proposed dates as follows:

- Public review period – January 8-February 21, 2016
- Planning Commission Committee of the Whole – March 17, 2016
- Planning Commission – March 28, 2016 (public hearing)
- City Council Zoning and Planning Committee – April 21, 2016

- City Council – April 29, 2016

The draft plan is available at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/projects/ComoBlueprint>. The website will be kept updated with the review schedule as this moves forward. A copy of the plan will also be available at the SE Library for review.

Parking in Motley. I have been working for well over a year to increase parking restrictions in the critical parking area in Motley near Stadium Village in response to resident requests in the area and past action by the Prospect Park neighborhood association, then PPERRIA. I have met with staff several times and looked with them at their parking data and they are now prepared to recommend implementation of a more permanent weekend solution. In order to do so (as required in the ordinance), we need to have clear evidence that this specific change is also supported by the neighborhood. The agreed option to resolve the parking pressures expressed by the is to amend the portion of Critical Parking Area #6 defined by Oak, Fulton, Huron, & East River Road from the currently 1 hour parking, 8:00am to 6:00pm, Monday – Friday, except by permit to 1 hour parking, 8:00am to 9:00pm daily, Except by Permit.

Better Futures. I am delighted to welcome this new business into the Second Ward. They have relocated from Golden Valley to 2620 Minnehaha Ave in Seward. On Thursday, February 4 at 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM they will be celebrating the opening of their new reuse warehouse. I have long admired this organization aimed at providing assistance to men re-entering society after being imprisoned. You can learn more about them here <http://betterfuturesenterprises.com/> or here <https://www.facebook.com/BetterFuturesMinnesota>

Hi-Lo Diner, 4020 E Lake St (at the old Taco Bell location) has submitted an application for a new On-Sale Liquor license with a Class E Entertainment license. I understand that they intend to open in early March. The City will hold a public hearing on this at Brackett Park on **February 3** from 6-7pm. If approved, they intend to serve a full range of alcoholic beverages as part of a full service restaurant with 70 seats inside and 44 seats on a private outdoor patio. A Class “E” license allows the business to only have radio, TV, juke box, or taped music, and karaoke. Their business plan states that they will have no live entertainment, or outside amplified sound.

Juba Coffee Restaurant at 2927 East Lake Street has received City approval to extend their operating hours for restaurant license to 1:00 a.m. Sunday through Thursday and 2:00am Friday and Saturday. Prior to now, they were open Sunday through Thursday, 6:00 am until 10:00pm and Friday and Saturday until 11:00pm.

Friends of Christ Church Roofing Restoration. Congratulations to the Friends of Christ Church Lutheran, for winning a Minnesota Historical and Cultural Heritage grant (aka Legacy Grant) of \$200,000 to hire qualified professionals to replace the roof on Christ Church Lutheran, a National Historic Landmark listed in the National Register of Historic Places and located at 3244 34th Ave S. They were one of many 2015 winners of these awards made possible with funds raised through a statewide sales tax approved by voters in the 2008 Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment referendum. Late last years, 33 grants of \$10,001 or more were awarded to organizations in 20 counties throughout Minnesota, for a total of \$3.245 million.

Sale of City Land at Riverside and Butler. The owners of the Tesoro gas station property at 2517 Riverside Avenue have asked to purchase a small triangle of excess land at 815½ 25th Ave S that the City owns that is adjacent to their property. The transaction has been reviewed by city staff and they are

recommending the sale. Before the City can sell this land there will be a land sale public hearing on Monday, February 22 at 1:30 pm at the Ways and Means committee.

117 27th Ave SE. On January 11 the City Planning Commission approved the plans for a new 195 unit apartment building that will be located at 117 27th Ave SE. (and extends to also include 2512 Essex St SE). The project would include the demolition of all the older industrial buildings on the site and construction of a new 6 story apartment building. The full staff report can be found at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmstp-171776.pdf> I was delighted to learn that the approval was subject to conditions that include: a pedestrian/bike trail that will be maintained for year-round access (including snow and ice removal) and open to the public. In addition, a lighting plan shall be submitted prior to building permit issuance to show that the trail will be adequately lighted and in compliance city lighting standards. I expect this to be on the Zoning and Planning Committee agenda on February 4th and approved by the full Council on the 12th.

Temporary Cell Tower. There will be a Public Hearing to consider allowing Verizon an 18-month extension of their permit allowing an approximately 60-foot mobile telecommunications tower (cell-on-wheels) in a surface parking lot located at 2407 University Ave SE until June 30, 2017.

The Blue Door U. I was at the public hearing for Blue Door U at Van Cleve Park January 20. 258 notices were mailed to property owners and residents nearest to the proposed business. Approximately 25 people attended the public hearing. The discussion surrounded the problems concerning off street parking on Como Avenue, storage of garbage containers, use of bike racks, waiting lines, not using buses for events at the University, safety concerns, hours to 2 a.m. and how deliveries will be handled. Licensing staff informed me that they think that the majority of the concerns had already been addressed in their business plan but that the parking issues described in the hearing appeared to be a neighborhood issue that could not be resolved through the Blue Door U business license. I understand that staff will be recommending approval of their application on February 2 and the Community Development and Regulatory Services Committee.

Lawless Distilling Company. A public hearing was held in January about this new craft distillery that is planning to open is Seward at 2619 S 28th Ave. The operators have requested an Off-Sale Distilled Spirits and On-Sale Liquor Cocktail Room, Class C-2. A Class C-2 will allow them to provide entertainment including amplified music with up to 3 musicians and group singing participated in by patrons. I was glad to see that many nearby neighbors attended the meeting, as well as the new owners. I believe there was a productive discussion and expect some additional conditions to be added to the license to help address potential concerns with traffic and noise that were raised. The Community Development and Regulatory Services Committee will likely consider the license early next month.

New Building Proposed at Augsburg. Augsburg College's long-discussed plans for the Hagfors Center for Science, Business and Religion on the block bordered by 20th Ave S, 7th St S, 6th St S, and 21st Ave S are now entering the formal city review process. On January 20, preliminary plans for the proposed new 4 story academic building with classrooms, laboratories and offices for teaching, studying and researching science, business and religion will be shared at the City's Preliminary Development and Review committee meeting. This is an internal City meeting where the plans of a proposed development project are reviewed and assessed by the Public Works, Regulatory Services, Police, Fire, Parks and the Community Planning & Economic Development Departments for adherence with City design and

development standards. Following this review Augsburg will submit formal land use applications and the project will enter a more formal Planning review process that will likely take a month or more.

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.

Cam Gordon

Minneapolis City Council Member, Second Ward

673-2202, 296-0579

cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2>

<http://secondward.blogspot.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/camgordonward2>

<https://twitter.com/CameronAGordon>

One Minneapolis Fund.